



## Terms of References

### Country: Jordan

<b>Post Title:</b>	National Consultant to support development of a nomination file to include Aqaba Marine Reserve in IUCN Green List
<b>Starting Date:</b>	Immediately
<b>Duration:</b>	20 days over the period of 4 months <i>5 May</i>
<b>Location:</b>	Aqaba, Jordan
<b>Project:</b>	Supporting Aqaba Marine Reserve by Enhanced Management Effectiveness

### 1. Background

The Gulf of Aqaba is the only maritime area in Jordan, with a limited shoreline that extends for almost 27 Km and provides access to the sea for activities such as ship transport, fishing, and industrial development that requires large amounts of cooling water. The coral reef ecosystems of the Gulf of Aqaba are the most significant feature of the marine environment in Jordan. These coral reefs are unique in that they are the northern-most tropical reef systems worldwide, have a high diversity of marine taxa, and provide habitat for endemic and rare marine species.

Following directions of His Majesty King Abdulla II to officially establish Aqaba Marine Reserve (AMR) to contribute in achieving sustainable conservation of Aqaba's globally and nationally significant marine and coastal habitats as well as socioeconomic values, ASEZA Board of Commissioners started the process immediately and collaborated with UNDP for preparing and submitting the nomination file in accordance with the national regulations and global practices for inclusion of AMR in the Jordan National Protected Areas Network. The site was officially declared by the cabinet of Jordan as a Marine Reserve in December 2020. Establishing AMR replaced the former arrangement of Aqaba Marine Park as conservation instrument officially initiated in 1997, and provided further momentum to different efforts aiming at conserving and sustaining the marine and coastal resources of Aqaba.

The area of the marine reserve is around 2.45 square kilometers, with a beach extending for about 7 km out of 27 km the total stretch of Jordan's coastal line. The coral reefs being the most significant feature of Jordan's marine environment, cover a small area, estimated at 4 km<sup>2</sup> in total (including vertical and horizontal faces) and occur along about half of the country's short coastline but have remarkably high diversity. These coral reefs have proven resilience against climate change and coral bleaching as according to research they suffered very little to no damage from coral bleaching and ocean acidification.

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IUCN Green List is a global campaign for successful nature conservation that offers locally relevant expert guidance to help achieve fair and effective nature conservation results in protected and conserved areas. It can help guarantee that wildlife and ecosystems can survive, thrive and bring value to communities everywhere. Objective of the global IUCN Green List Standard is to provide a global benchmark for protected and conserved areas to assess whether they are achieving successful conservation outcomes through effective and equitable governance and management. The IUCN Green List Standard includes globally consistent Components and Criteria, which are supported by indicators, to measure site performance.

UNDP Jordan Environment, Climate Change, and DRR pillar has been supporting the Government of Jordan to fulfill its commitments towards International Environmental Conventions including the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and has launched several interventions in the Gulf of Aqaba to conserve Jordan's unique biodiversity in landscapes and marine ecosystems. Support is primarily focused on enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the newly established Aqaba Marine Reserve and addressing direct drivers to protect habitats and species. Among these initiatives, UNDP with the support from ASEZA initiated a programme to Enhance the conservation of the Aqaba Marine Reserve by improving capacity for effective management with the aim to improve the management and operation of the Aqaba marine reserve through applying the best practices for the management of marine protected areas and contribute to conserve unique and globally significant marine biodiversity in Aqaba.

UNDP Jordan is seeking recruitment of an Individual Consultant to support development of a nomination file/dossier for including Aqaba Marine Reserve in IUCN Green List.

## **2. Objectives**

The Individual Consultant is expected to develop the nomination file/dossier for including Aqaba Marine Reserve in IUCN Green List and to provide the necessary guidance and support to the local team for achieving the Green List standards

## **3. Scope of Work**

The IUCN Green List Standard contains a set of 17 criteria categorized under four main components which are linked to 50 indicators. The four main components and their criterions are categorized as follows:

- Good governance:
  - o Guarantee legitimacy and voice.
  - o Achieve transparency and accountability.
  - o Enable governance vitality and capacity to respond adaptively.
- Sound design and planning:
  - o Identify and understand major sites values.
  - o Design for long-term conservation of major site values.
  - o Understand threats and challenges to major site values.
  - o Understand social and economic context.
- Effective management:
  - o Develop and implement a long-term management strategy.
  - o Manage ecological condition.

- Manage within social and economic context of the area.
- Manage threats.
- Effectively and fairly enforce laws and regulations.
- Manage access, resource uses, and visitation.
- Measure success.
- Successful conservation outcomes:
  - Demonstrate conservation of major natural values.
  - Demonstrate conservation of major associated ecosystem services.
  - Demonstrate conservation of cultural values.

To start the Green List application process, the site needs to meet the 5 indicators of the Application Phase.

- The site's governance structure is clearly defined and documented and in accordance with relevant national or regional government, jurisdiction or recognized authority specifications.
- The site meets the IUCN definition of a Protected Area and/or is recognized as a 'Conserved Area'.
- The site has been listed and correctly assigned one of the six IUCN Protected Area management categories or has been listed as an 'Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure' and been assigned one of the four IUCN governance types in the United Nations Environment Program / World Conservation Monitoring Centre World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).
- The site has a current management plan or equivalent that is used to guide management priorities and activities.
- Laws and regulations regarding the use of the site are publicly accessible to civil society, stakeholders and rights-holders.

The Individual Consultant will collect available data and evidence against all indicators and address any identified shortcomings. Stakeholders' consultations are also necessary to complete this phase. The Consultant will take the site information and consultation forward to the Green List nomination file.

#### **4. Detailed Tasks and Responsibilities**

With support of the site's local team, the consultant is expected to perform the following tasks:

- Compile all data, reports, and maps that are required as means of verification for the Green List application.
- Conduct meetings with relevant stakeholders as needed,
- Ensure that the site implements the full set of IUCN Green List Standard criteria, by providing evidence against all indicators and addressing identified shortcomings over a specified period
- Handle filling in the Green List application using the compass portal platform including the general information, site's justification and uploading the supporting document.
- Draft and submit a case study on the Aqaba Marine Reserve on the Panorama solutions platform as a requirement for the Green List application.
- Respond to the comments of the site's evaluators and develop action plans for realising targets of the indicators that are not currently met by the site.
- Assist in planning the evaluators site visit.
- Support the site's local team to navigate on compass portal to support maintain the site's information in the future.

NA

## 5. Expected Outputs & Deliverables Timeframe

	Deliverable	Duration/Deadline
1	D1- Synthesis report including a general preliminary self-assessment of site compared to the IUCN GL criteria, identifying main gaps and including all compiled data that is required as means of verification for the Green List application.	Two weeks from contract signing
2	D2- Completion of the Green List applicant phase self-assessment and uploading all related supporting documents	Three weeks from contract signing
3	D3- Submission of the full Green List Application form. (Completion of the candidate phase self-assessment indicators and means of verification) including case study on the Aqaba Marine Reserve	Twelve weeks from contract signing
4	D4- respond to the comments of the site's evaluators, and expert assessment group and develop action plans for the indicators that are not currently met by the site	Fifteen weeks from contract signing
5	D5- A comprehensive plan for the evaluators' site visit with provisional agenda	Seventeen weeks from contract signing

## 6. Required Qualifications and Skills

### Education:

- Postgraduate degree in marine science, environmental management, natural resources management or similar development-related fields
- Advanced education/training in marine protected areas management is an asset

### Experience:

- Ten years in the fields of marine, biodiversity, and ecosystem management
- Extensive knowledge of the IUCN green list program procedures
- Experience in marine ecosystem management
- Previous experience in developing successful nomination applications for IUCN Green List is a strong asset

## 7. Skills and Competencies

- Language requirement: Proficient in both written and oral English and Arabic.
- Computer skills: demonstrable skills in computer applications for editing and presentation purposes - word processing, spread sheets, presentations, etc.
- Excellent technical and analytical writing skills.
- Strong facilitation and moderation, communication and inter-personal skills
- Excellent networking and partnering competencies and negotiating skills.
- Ability to use information technology as a tool and resource.
- Excellent data analysis and reporting skills


**8. Compensation and special conditions**

Compensation will be through lump sum modality. All payments are subject to deliverable approval by UNDP. Payments are transferred in the following manner:

- 1<sup>st</sup> payment (20 % of the total) after delivery and approval of Deliverable 1.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> payment (25 % of the total) after delivery and approval of Deliverables 2 and 3.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> payment (25 % of the total) after delivery and approval of Deliverables 4.
- 4<sup>th</sup> payment (30 % of the total) after delivery and approval of Deliverables 5.

**9. Assignment management.**

The National Consultant will work under the direct supervision of the UNDP Team Leader of the Environment, Climate Change and DRR pillar and the focal points in ASEZA.

UNDP Signature	IC Signature
	

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