

Terms of References (TORs)

Short term consultancy

Development of Migratory Soaring Birds EIA guidelines and monitoring protocols for use in the powerline's development along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway

Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway

Under the auspices of the UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Birds project, the Migratory Soaring Birds Project, National component - Egypt seeks a consultant /firm with extensive experience in the field of Environmental Impact Assessments, birds, biodiversity monitoring and the energy sector to undertake a regional short term consultancy on the development of Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines and standard monitoring protocols suitable for use in assessing the impact of powerlines development along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway on the conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds.

The consultancy is needed develop EIA guidelines that can be adopted across the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway and beyond and that take into consideration pre powerlines development and monitoring guidelines/protocols to assess the impact during the post development period on migratory soaring birds. These guidelines will be useful in collecting data as an essential part of the EIA process prior to and during the planning phase of powerlines development and the increasing need to monitor regularly MSB mortalities associated with collision with powerlines and decline in population as a result of habitat loss. The monitoring protocols will significantly contribute to monitoring the impact of powerlines of MSBs and the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimize impacts and safeguard migratory soaring birds.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
INTRODUCTION	1
PROJECT BRIEF DESCRIPTION	1
CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION	1
CONSULTANCY OBJECTIVES, SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES	2
OVERALL OBJECTIVE	2
SCOPE OF WORK	2
DELIVERABLES	3
IMPLEMENTATION AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE	3
TERMS OF PAYMENT	4
CONSULTANCY MANAGEMENT	4
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	4
REPORTING	5
QUALIFICATIONS	5
SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST	6

Introduction

Project brief description

The Rift Valley/Red Sea flyway is the second most important flyway for migratory soaring birds (raptors, storks, pelicans and some ibis) in the world, with over 1.5 million birds of 37 species, including 5 globally threatened species, using this corridor between their breeding grounds in Europe and West Asia and wintering areas in Africa each year. The aim of this project is to mainstream migratory soaring bird considerations into the productive sectors along the flyway that pose the greatest risk to the safe migration of these birds – principally hunting, energy, agriculture and waste management – while promoting activities in sectors which could benefit from these birds, such as ecotourism. The project seeks to integrate flyway issues into existing national or donor-funded "vehicles" of reform or change management in the key sectors through the provision of technical tools, content, services and support.

Context and background information

It is recognized that the switch from fossil fuels to renewable energies is necessary but must be done in a way that avoids harm to ecosystems and biodiversity and must be subject to appropriate environmental planning.

Energy is one of the sectors that pose the greatest risk to migratory soaring birds. Energy demands are increasing rapidly, and countries worldwide are rapidly developing strategies on how to meet this demand. Concerns over the need to reduce green house gas emissions originating from the use of fossil fuel and the need embrace alternative energy options is driving most countries to harness wind energy and hence investments aimed at increasing wind energy production is set to increase exponentially. For example, many countries in the region have set targets for harnessing wind energy in order to achieve energy sufficiency.

Electricity is generated at power plants and moves through a complex system, sometimes called the grid, of electricity substations, transformers, and power lines that connect electricity producers and consumers. Most local grids are interconnected for reliability and commercial purposes, forming larger, more dependable networks that enhance the coordination and planning of electricity supply.

In Egypt, the entire electricity grid consists of thousands of miles of high. Medium and Low-voltage power lines of low-voltage power lines with distribution transformers that connect thousands of power plants to hundreds of millions of electricity customers all across the country.

The electricity grid is a complex and incredibly important system, and one of the most impressive engineering feats of the modern era. It transmits power generated at a variety of facilities and distributes it to end users, often over long distances. It provides electricity to buildings, industrial facilities, schools, and homes. And it does so every minute of every day, year-round.

Poorly sited powerlines infrastructure which associated with wind energy can damage habitats and fauna, particularly birds. Migratory birds, especially large soaring birds, can be vulnerable to powerlines, disruption of ranging and migration strategies and disturbance leading to displacement or exclusion. Such species are dependent on updrafts to sustain their migration flight, which funnel them along narrow 'corridors' and through bottle-necks, however, these sites are often favourable for power lines structures.

There have been concerns about the impact of powerlines development on nature particularly the adverse effect on habitat loss and species mortality arising from collisions. As such, scientific studies and monitoring work undertaken in relation to current and future powerlines developments can provide invaluable information for scientists and the sectors as such information is critical in making decisions during planning stage (location), construction stage (installation), operation and maintenance and post-construction stage. The monitoring is also imperative as it will measure the importance of site during both pre and post construction period that would warrant mitigation measures against collisions and loss of foraging habitat.

Many EIA studies are usually poorly defined and do not take into considerations migratory soaring bird concerns. In most cases, considering that this is a new area there is normally no plan for assessing the impact of powerlines installations on migratory birds. In cases where this monitoring is done, there is a likelihood of failure to adopt standard monitoring protocols and hence the data and information generated may be spurious or misleading.

In the context of mainstreaming conservation management objectives and actions for MSBs into the wind energy sector and to effectively maintain globally threatened, the project will as a principle promote sustainable energy development practices in the region alongside the complete protection of migratory soaring birds. As part of assessing the impact of the powerlines developments and the success or failure of mitigation measures undertaken, monitoring will endeavour to provide reliable, standardised data on status and change in distribution, relative frequency and level of habitat use (temporally and spatially) and by migratory soaring birds.

To advance this component of the project, the Migratory Soaring Birds Project, National component - Egypt is seeking to hire a national consultant with extensive experience in EIA legislation and practice and relationship between powerlines development and bird conservation. This consultancy service is in line with approved project work plan for 2020.

Consultancy objectives, scope of work and deliverables

Overall objective

The overall objective of the consultancy is to develop EIA guidelines on how migratory soaring birds should be considered in the planning and environmental impact assessment (pre-construction) and monitoring procedures and protocols (post-construction) to assess the impact of power lines on birds, as well as, evaluate the effectiveness of any applied mitigation measures.

The consultant will examine the existing international and national experience with regards to the management of risks to birds from power lines, identifying the most appropriate components that can be applicable to the Egyptian conditions and environment. Based on this, the consultant will develop tools and recommendations that can be applied locally to manage risks to birds from the existing and future power line network in Egypt. Specifically, these tools should address new and planned power line routes, providing comprehensive information required to assess the full impacts of powerlines on migratory bird species and should easily be adopted by and applied in all relevant sectors and by relevant practitioners.

Scope of work

The Consultant is expected to execute the following assignments in his/her own premises, using his/her own property and technology, and his/her own and/or contracted expertise, and hold direct

responsibility for the quality of delivered outputs. The detailed activity outputs expected from the Consultant for each required activity are intended as guidelines; the Consultant is expected to provide input based on his own knowledge and experience.

Activities and deliverables

Activity 1: Review current national and international EIA guidelines for power line with regards to potential impacts on birds.

Activity 2: Provide a preliminary assessment of the known and anticipated risks to birds from power lines in Egypt, identifying likely zones of highest risk for birds.

Activity 3: Develop a proposal for EIA procedures for power line development with regards to risks to birds, which take into account specific Egyptian circumstances (e.g. existing laws and regulations, local environment, nature of risks to birds, available technical capacity, etc.).

Activity 4: Develop appropriate, cost-effective monitoring protocols and survey methods to evaluate the impacts of existing power lines on birds. This should include detailed techniques, equipment, logistics and required technical expertise.

Activity 5: Recommend steps to strengthen or expand national capacity to carry out power line monitoring. Link this with the strategic approaches for wind energy and powerlines planning in relation to bird migration that have been developed

Deliverables

All deliverables listed above shall be delivered on time and in one original hard copy and one electronic soft copy, preferably in Microsoft Word format, where applicable. Each deliverable shall include all the required supporting documentation in English language.

Implementation and delivery schedule

The Consultant is expected to complete and submit the deliverables specified in the above section based on the following schedule. The duration of the assignment shall not exceed 6 calendar months.

ID	Activity	Deliverable
1	Review of current national and international EIA guidelines for power line with regards to potential impacts on birds	<i>Review Report on extend EIA address MSB needs and existing gaps produced</i>
2	Preliminary assessment of the known and anticipated risks to birds from power lines in Egypt, identifying likely zones of highest risk for birds.	<i>Review report of power line risks to birds in Egypt</i>
3	EIA procedures for power line development with regards to risks to birds, which take into account specific Egyptian circumstances	<i>EIA Guidelines relevant to Power lines and MSBs</i>
4	Monitoring protocols and survey methods	<i>monitoring protocols describing survey</i>

	to evaluate the impacts of existing power lines on birds.	<i>methods</i>
5	Report on steps to strengthen or expand national capacity to carry out power line monitoring.	<i>Recommendations on way forward</i>
	Finalizing consultancy deliverables	final drafts of all above deliverables

Terms of payment

- 20% of contract value to be paid upon submission and approval of the table of contents and work plan.
- 40% of contract value upon delivery and acceptance of first draft of the report.
- 40% of payment upon completion and acceptance of the final approved version.

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Consultancy management

Roles and responsibilities

The selected consultant /firm will be contracted by the Migratory Soaring Bird Project – Egypt National Component, in close coordination with the RFF & UNDP-Egypt. The roles of each party are:

Migratory Soaring Birds – National component - Egypt

The National Project Manager will supervise and coordinate the work of the Consultant, in close consultation and with the close involvement of the Regional Flyway Officers in the Middle East and Africa, and will be responsible for:

- Direct contract management for the consultancy.
- Facilitating data provision, collection and communication with project partners for the Consultant.
- Coordinate technical delivery of the contract and provide technical assistance when needed.
- Supervision and regular follow up on consultancy progress and contract implementation.
- Revision and approval of consultancy deliverables and reporting.
- Manage payments based on approved deliverables and payment arrangement below.

Consultant

The Consultant will hold the overall accountability to fulfil the timely delivery of the activities and deliverables specified in this TOR, and will be responsible of:

- Overall implementation of the contract and delivery of all requirements specified in this document.
- Submit regular reports and implementation work plan to the Migratory Soaring Birds Project, National component - Egypt on the below reporting plan.
- Notify the **Migratory Soaring Birds Project, National component - Egypt** in writing, upon the successful completion of each deliverable and provide all required supporting documentation.

Reporting

Upon contract award, the Consultant shall provide **Migratory Soaring Birds – National component - Egypt** with a proposed consultancy work plan covering all the activities described in this document, detailed list of tasks, and implementation schedule. **Migratory Soaring Birds – National component - Egypt** will revise the above and comment if necessary, within 5 days, once agreed upon, the new plan shall be adopted and shall form the basis for project supervision and monitoring.

Throughout the assignment, the Consultant shall present bi-weekly written summary progress reports to the Migratory Soaring Birds Project, National component - Egypt (content to be agreed on start of implementation). Any proposed amendments or deviation from the implementation plan and / or time extension is subject to approval by the Migratory Soaring Birds Project, National component – Egypt, RFF and BirdLife International

All deliverables should be reported in appropriate format with all supporting documentation to the Migratory Soaring Birds Project, National component - Egypt. Upon submission, the deliverables will be reviewed by **Migratory Soaring Birds – National component - Egypt** and the RFF subject to contract terms and the Consultant will be given the approval on submitted deliverables or recommendation for amendments within 10 days from the date of receiving the deliverables and reports.

Qualifications

Consultant / firm (staff) applying for the services described herein should have the following minimum qualifications:

- Advanced university degree in biology, ecology, natural resources management, renewable energy development, or other directly related fields.
- Proven relevant experience in field of wildlife conservation and energy issues.
- Proven extensive experience in environmental sector at the regional level.
- High level coordination skills.
- Good organizational and planning skills and ability to adhere to deadlines.
- Excellent writing skills
- Fluency in written and spoken English (and preferably also Arabic).

Submission of expressions of interest

Interested parties are requested to submit a detailed expression of interest setting out how the TOR would be implemented and further details concerning the deliverables that will result from this work.

Expressions of interest should be sent to the followings emails: (oss.elgebaly@yahoo.com) no later than 15 August 2020