

Dated 20.02.2024

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

As part of the implementation of Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission, the request for Expression of Interest is invited from the interested Expert Institutions / Non Profit Organization / Field experts / Non profit society / Government Organization / Non Government Organization / Agency / Firms for taking up the following work and to provide technical support to the Mission.

**I. Preparation of Integrated Management Plan for the ecological restoration of the below mention 2 Ramsar sites and 2 wetlands under Tamil Nadu wetlands Mission.**

S.No	Ramsar Site / Wetland	Area in ha.
1	Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Ariyalur	453.7
2	Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, The Nilgris	116.007
3	Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Thiruppur	125.865
4	Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Villupuram	5151.6

Under the Tamil Nadu wetlands Mission, the Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited for preparation of **Integrated Management Plan for the ecological restoration of 2 Ramsar sites and 2 wetlands i.e. Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary** and to provide technical support to the Mission. The Expert Institutions / Non Profit Organization / Field experts / Non profit society / Government Organization / Non Government Organization / Agency / Firms willing to offer their technical support without any financial implication to the State Government shall be given priority. Details of this Expression of Interest is available in the Web portals [www.tnswa.org](http://www.tnswa.org) and [www.tnforests.nic.in](http://www.tnforests.nic.in)

Therefore, interested experienced Expert Institutions / Non Profit Organization / Field experts / Non profit society / Government Organization / Non Government Organization / Agency / Firms may offer their detailed proposal along with methodology and work plan within a period of 10 days before on 01.03.2024.

The proposals will be examined and the outcome will be intimated about the terms and conditions of the work, after the approval of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority.

## **1. PROJECT AREA:**

Expression of Interest is invited from the consultants who can to prepare Integrated Management Plan for the ecological restoration of 2 Ramsar sites and 2 wetlands i.e. Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary under the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission. The Integrated Management Plan shall be prepared as per the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, Guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and Guidelines for National Plan for Conservation for Aquatic Ecosystem.

## **2. SCOPE OF WORK:**

### **2.1 Background**

Wetlands are one of the most embedded and interlinked ecosystems with human livelihoods and well-being. A balanced management approach, addressing biodiversity conservation values while providing for sustainable utilization in a way compatible with the maintenance of natural properties of the ecosystem, needs to be adopted for these ecosystems. It is, therefore, recommended that management of each wetland is guided by an “Integrated Management Plan”. The plan refers to a document which describes strategies and actions for achieving ‘wise use’ of the wetland and includes objectives of site management; management actions required to achieve the objectives; factors that affect, or may affect, various site features; monitoring requirements for detecting changes in ecological character and for measuring the effectiveness of management; and resources for management implementation. Besides identifying resources, a management plan serves several important functions including generating baseline information, communication with stakeholders and ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks and

### **2.2 Broad planning principles for formulating integrated management plans**

While it is recognized that each wetland has its own distinctive ecological and hydrological features and thereby distinctive management needs, the following broad planning principles need to be kept in mind while formulating integrated management plans:



- **Integrated planning:**

Aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems are intimately linked by the process of the water flowing through them. Every land use decision has a consequence on water availability. Delineating a basin or a coastal zone enables demarcation of a distinct hydrological unit which is the natural integration of all hydrological processes within its boundary and therefore an ideal and rational unit for soil, water and bio-resources conservation and management. Thus, management planning for wetlands should not be restricted to a defined administrative boundary, but rather take into account the wider planning and management context of the basin or coastal zone within which the site is located.

The process of development and implementation of management plans for wetlands often needs to be accompanied by governance improvements at basin and coastal zone level. Such an approach underpins Integrated Lake Basin Management framework that calls for achieving 'sustainable management of wetlands through gradual, continuous and holistic improvement of basin governance, including sustained efforts for integration of institutional responsibilities, policy directions, stakeholder participation, scientific and traditional knowledge, technological possibilities, and funding prospects and constraints.

Achieving close relationship between planning and governance is critical, considering multiple stakeholder and sectoral interests which underlie and, to a large extent, structure wetland biodiversity and ecosystem service values, and the need to secure people's involvement and participation in basin-scale management for considerably long periods of time.

Reflection upon the following six pillars of basin-scale governance may thus be useful:

- Institutions: Development of effective organizations and governance frameworks
- Policies: Setting broad directions and specific rules
- Participation: Expanding the circle of involvement
- Technology: Possibilities and limitations
- Information: Pursuing sources of knowledge and wisdom, and
- Finance: Seeking sustainable sources at the appropriate level

- **Use of diagnostic approaches for defining management approach and actions:**

Given the uniqueness associated with each wetland, it is important that 'one size fit all' approach is replaced with a diagnostic approach, wherein the ecological, hydrological, socioeconomic and institutional features are comprehensively assessed and trends therein determined to be able to spell out management objectives and actions clearly.

- **Adaptable management:**

Wetlands are influenced by a range of drivers and pressures that act at multiple spatial, temporal and political scales. Their management plan, therefore, needs to be accommodative of uncertainties and challenges. This can be achieved by using an adaptable management approach that allows for suitable modification of management based on continuous site monitoring and assessment of new information.

- **Stakeholder participation:**

The condition of any wetland is an outcome of actions by a range of stakeholders, which are linked to the ecosystem in a number of ways. Management planning, therefore, needs to recognise these linkages, and build a mechanism for participation of stakeholders in design, review and implementation processes.

- **Governance:**

Being located at the interface of land and water, wetlands are influenced by a range of developmental activities that take place within their direct and indirect basins and coastal zones. Institutional arrangements for managing wetlands need to be such that they are capable of integrating activities across multiple sectors (such as agriculture, water resources, forests, rural development, urban development, forests and wildlife and others), and balancing the needs of a group of diverse stakeholders while ensuring that ecological integrity of these fragile ecosystems is not adversely affected. In the above context, association of entities or individuals as 'Wetland Mitras' can encourage stakeholder participation and overall governance.

**2.3. An integrated wetlands management plan is required to be formulated based on the following steps,** thus enabling a systematic diagnosis of wetlands features and their governing factors to arrive at management objectives and activities.

Step 1	Preamble	Concise policy statement describing the rationale for the application of human, technical and financial resources for the wetland management
Step 2	Description of wetland features	Collation and synthesis of data to describe: wetland location and extent, catchment, hydrological regimes, biodiversity, ecosystem services, socioeconomic and livelihoods
Step 3	Evaluation of wetland features	Based on the description of features, identification of priority wetland features that need to be maintained, and key threats that adversely affect these features
Step 4	Institutional arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an overview of the current institutional arrangements in the context of wetlands management;</li> <li>• Discuss why the current institutional arrangements are insufficient in ensuring wetlands conservation and wise use;</li> <li>• Propose institutional arrangement for wetland management, with specific focus on:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Nodal Agency</li> <li>b) Role of various departments and agencies and coordination mechanism, and</li> <li>c) Role of civil society and communities.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Develop an organogram for management plan implementation.</li> <li>• Regulatory regime specifying activities prohibited within wetlands, activities to be regulated within wetlands and zone of influence and regulation thresholds and activities permitted</li> </ul>
Step 5	Setting Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a statement of the overall goal that the management plan seeks to achieve;</li> <li>• Summarize the ecological and economic benefits that are expected from management plan implementation;</li> <li>• Enlist specific objectives;</li> <li>• Describe strategy(ies) for achieving each of the management objectives;</li> <li>• Provide a strategy for implementing regulatory regime – including list of activities liable to be prohibited, regulated and permitted within the wetland (wetlands complex)</li> </ul>
Step 6	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present an overview of monitoring the wetland, and management plan implementation;</li> <li>• Describe monitoring parameters, the frequency of monitoring and the agency that will be responsible for monitoring;</li> <li>• Describe how coordination between different monitoring agencies will be achieved;</li> <li>• Discuss the infrastructure and human resource requirement for implementing the management plan. (As far as possible, include local universities, research organizations and NGOs in wetlands monitoring);</li> <li>• Discuss the frequency in which reporting shall be done and the responsible agency; Discuss how the monitoring outcomes will be used to adapt management</li> </ul>
Step 7	Action Plan	Listing of management components and specific activities to achieve management objectives. For each activity,
		implementation location, prioritisation, implementing agency and timeline should be specified.
Step 8	Budget	Assessment of financial resources required for implementing the management plan and sources of funds.



A description of each step and format for the compilation of Integrated Management Plan is at Annex 4 of the COMPENDIUM of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, Guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and Guidelines for National Plan for Conservation for Aquatic Ecosystem.

- The Integrated Management Plans should be presented to the Tamil Nadu State Wetlands Authority.
- The diagnostic management planning process, as described above, may also be used to guide management of wetlands excluded from notification under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

### **3. DURATION OF WORK**

The entire work should be completed and Submitted for the above mention 2 Ramsar sites and 2 wetlands with the approval of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority within 3 months from the date of issue of Work Order.

### **4. GENERAL INSTRUCTION FOR EOI**

- The consultancy firm is expected to prepare Integrated Management Plan.
- Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority have the right to call for clarification / original copies of the supporting documents for verification, as deemed fit and also to cross check for any details as furnished by consultancy firms. Consultancy firm shall have no objection what so ever in this regard.
- Attached is the prescribed format of qualifying details. Interested parties may use this format & add additional information as part of annexure, if they need to.
- The offer shall contain hard copy of IMP, complete documents & proposed planning, presentation document in various Government / Public sector companies.
- Applications without required information or enclosures are liable to be rejected.
- Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority reserves the right to accept any or reject all the EOIs at their sole discretion without assigning any reason thereof.
- There will be no financial commitment / obligation to the exchequer of Tamil Nadu / Government of Tamil Nadu.

## 5. SUBMISSION OF EOI

The EOI to prepare **Integrated Management Plan for the ecological restoration of 2 Ramsar sites and 2 wetlands i.e. Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and Kazhuveli Bird** under Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission the Expression of Interest is invited from the interested experienced Expert Institutions / Non Profit Organization / Field experts / Non profit society / Government Organization / Non Government Organization / Agency / Firms should reach in the address given below on or before 01 March, 2024 before 5 p.m. **The EOI should contain brief details of the Expert Institutions / Non Profit Organization / Field experts / Non profit society / Government Organization / Non Government Organization / Agency / Firms including previous projects undertaken by them.**

**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary,  
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority  
Panagal Maaligai,  
Saidapet, Chennai – 15.**

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Member Secretary  
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority

 