

C.No.TNSWA2/415/2024

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests and Member Secretary,
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Maaligai,
Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015.

Dated 03.12.2024

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 Institutions / Research organizations/ Agencies / Firms for taking up the following work.

I. Preparation of Integrated Management Plan for the ecological restoration of the below mentioned 3 Ramsar sites under Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission.

Sl.No	Ramsar Site	Area in ha.
1	Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, The Nilgiris District	116.007
2	Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Tiruppur District	125.865
3	Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Villupuram District	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 3 Ramsar sites i.e. Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, The Nilgiris District, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Tiruppur District and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Villupuram District.** Details of this Expression of Interest is available in the Web portals www.tnswa.org and www.tnforests.nic.in

Therefore, interested experienced Institutions / Research organizations / Agencies / Firms may offer their detailed proposal along with methodology and work plan within a period of 10 days on or before 13 December, 2024 before 5 p.m.

The proposals will be examined and the outcome will be intimated along with 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 Institutions / Research organizations / Agencies / Firms who can prepare Integrated Management Plan for the ecological restoration of 3 Ramsar sites i.e. Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, The Nilgiris District, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Tiruppur District and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Villupuram District 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 of Aquatic Ecosystems.

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 policy commitments.

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 organisations 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 recognize 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"> • Provide an overview of the current institutional arrangements in the context of wetlands management; • Discuss why the current institutional arrangements are insufficient in ensuring wetlands conservation and wise use; • Propose institutional arrangement for wetland management, with specific focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Nodal Agency b) Role of various departments and agencies and coordination mechanism, and c) Role of civil society and communities. • Develop an organogram for management plan implementation. • Regulatory regime specifying activities prohibited within wetlands, activities to be regulated within wetlands and zone of influence and regulation thresholds and activities permitted
Step 5	Setting Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a statement of the overall goal that the management plan seeks to achieve; • Summarize the ecological and economic benefits that are expected from management plan implementation; • Enlist specific objectives; • Describe strategy(ies) for achieving each of the management objectives; • Provide a strategy for implementing regulatory regime – including list of activities liable to be prohibited, regulated and permitted within the wetland (wetlands complex)
Step 6	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present an overview of monitoring the wetland, and management plan implementation; • Describe monitoring parameters, the frequency of monitoring and the agency that will be responsible for monitoring; • Describe how coordination between different monitoring agencies will be achieved; • 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); • Discuss the frequency in which reporting shall be done and the responsible agency; Discuss how the monitoring outcomes will be used to adapt management
Step 7	Action Plan	<p>Listing of management components and specific activities to achieve management objectives. For each activity,</p> <p>implementation location, prioritisation, implementing agency and timeline should be specified.</p>
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 Guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation and

Management) Rules, 2017 and Annex 6 of the Guidelines for National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems.

- The Integrated Management Plans shall be placed before the Tamil Nadu State Wetlands Authority, for its concurrence.
- 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 3 Ramsar sites for 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 Institutions / Research organizations/ Agencies / Firms is expected to prepare IMP, the cost includes the designing cost with various taxes, duties and charges as may be applicable.
- This Office has 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 Institutions / Research organizations/ Agencies / Firms. Institutions / Research organizations/ Agencies / Firms shall have no objection what so ever in this regard.
- Attached is the prescribed format of qualifying details. Interested Institutions / Research organizations / Agencies / Firms may use this format & add additional information as part of annexure, if they need to.
- The offer should contain the documentary proof as an experience of the Organization with regard to preparation of Management Plans / Detailed Project Reports for wetlands / waterbodies / Environment related issues.
- Applications without required information or enclosures are liable to be rejected.
- This Office reserves the right to accept any or reject all the EOIs at their sole discretion without assigning any reason thereof.

5. ESTIMATED COST:

The Cost of the above-mentioned work i.e. preparation of Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the ecological restoration of 3 Ramsar sites **i.e. Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, The Nilgiris District, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Tiruppur District and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Villupuram District** under the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission should not be above Rs.20.00 lakhs (inclusive of GST).

6. EVALUATION OF EOI:

The selection process will be based on the evaluation of Technical and Financial Bid.

7. SUBMISSION OF EOI

The Expression of Interest (EOI) to prepare **Integrated Management Plan for the ecological restoration of 3 Ramsar sites i.e. Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, The Nilgiris District, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Tiruppur District and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Villupuram District** under the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission invited from the interested Institutions / Research organizations / Agencies / Firms should reach in the address given below on or before 13 December, 2024 before 5 p.m. **The EOI should contain brief details of the Institutions / Research organizations / Agencies / Firms profile including previous projects undertaken by the 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

QUALIFYING FORMAT

(To be submitted on the letter head of Prospective Bidder)

Date:

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority,
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Maaligai,
Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015.
Tamil Nadu, India.

Dear Sir,

Sub: Invitation for Expression of Interest from Institutions / Research organizations / Agencies / Firms for preparation of Integrated Management Plan for the ecological restoration of 3 Ramsar sites i.e. Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, The Nilgiris District, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Tiruppur District and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Villupuram District under Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission - Regarding

With reference to the above advertisement, we hereby file this “Expression of Interest (EOI)” to undertake the preparation of Integrated Management Plan for the ecological restoration of 3 Ramsar sites i.e. Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, The Nilgiris District, Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Tiruppur District and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Villupuram District either individually or as a consortium.

We undertake that this is an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) on our part and mere submission of this EOI does not entitle us to receive any documents or be invited to bid for this project.

Name and details of Applicant and its representative authorized to file this Expression of Interest (EOI)	
Full Name	
Designation	
Name of Organization	
Address	
Phone	

Fax	
Mobile	
Email	
Website	
Technical Competence along with the credentials of the Institution / Research organization / Agency / Firm	

Work done in context of conservation activities: *

Note : * The offer should contain the documentary proof as an experience of the Organization with regard to preparation of Management Plans / Detailed Project Reports for wetlands / waterbodies / Environment related issues and give more details which the Institution / Research organization / Agency / Firm feel necessary to justify profile.

I / We declare that the information stated here in above is accurate.

Signature :

Full Name :

Designation :

Designs : *

Financial Bid :

Organization :

Address :