

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

Position: National Consultant for the Development of Land Use Guidelines, Standards, and Protocols for Climate-Resilient Integrated Watershed Management in the Jordan Valley.

Project: Jordan Integrated Landscape Management Initiative (JILMI)

Duration: Up to 6 months

Beneficiary: Ministry of Environment / Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

1. Background and Context

Jordan is among the most water-scarce countries globally and is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, declining precipitation, land degradation, and more frequent extreme events such as droughts and flash floods. These pressures are particularly acute in the Jordan Valley, a critical socio-ecological system that supports agriculture, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

The JILMI Project aims to enhance climate resilience through integrated landscape and water resources management (ILWRM). Under Output 1.1: Strengthened governance and capacity for climate-resilient ILWRM, Activity 1.1.1 focuses on reinforcing the institutional mandates and technical capacity of key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), and its subsidiaries.

Within this framework, there is a critical need to develop comprehensive, science-based land-use guidelines, standards, and protocols to guide climate-resilient, integrated watershed management in the Jordan Valley. These tools will support sustainable land and water management, reduce climate risks, and ensure coordinated decision-making across sectors.

2. Objective of the Assignment

The overall objective of the assignment is to support the development of a framework comprising land-use guidelines, technical standards, and operational protocols for climate-resilient integrated watershed management in the Jordan Valley, taking into consideration national priorities, existing regulatory frameworks, and relevant international good practices.

The assignment is expected to contribute to:

- Supporting climate-resilient land-use planning approaches for watershed management.
- Developing practical technical guidance for sustainable land and water management.
- Preparing operational protocols that may facilitate implementation and monitoring.
- Promoting institutional coordination among relevant government entities.
- Providing recommendations that may support future integration into national planning and regulatory frameworks.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant will undertake the following activities, as appropriate:

Task 1: Inception and Review

- Review available national policies, legislation, strategies and relevant studies related to land use, water resources, climate change and agriculture.
- Review existing watershed management initiatives and institutional arrangements.
- Identify key findings, opportunities and areas where further harmonization may be beneficial.
- Prepare an inception report outlining the proposed methodology and work plan.

Task 2: Baseline Assessment and Spatial Analysis

- Compile and review available environmental and socio-economic information relevant to the Jordan Valley.
- Assess available information related to:
 - Land use and land cover;
 - Soil erosion;
 - Water resources;
 - Climate risks and vulnerability.
- Utilize available GIS information, where appropriate, to support the analysis and identify broad priority areas for consideration.

Task 3: Development of Land Use Guidelines

Develop practical guidance covering, as relevant:

- Climate-resilient land-use planning.
- Sustainable agricultural land management.
- Soil and water conservation.
- Flood and drought risk reduction measures.
- Ecosystem-based approaches, including nature-based solutions where appropriate.
- Urban and peri-urban land-use considerations.
- Protection of environmentally sensitive areas and ecosystem services.

Task 4: Development of Technical Standards

Prepare technical guidance addressing, where applicable:

- Land suitability considerations.
- Efficient water use and irrigation practices.
- Soil conservation approaches.
- Watershed rehabilitation measures.
- Environmental considerations for infrastructure planning.
- Environmental safeguard principles.

Task 5: Development of Operational Protocols

Prepare practical operational guidance covering, as appropriate:

- Integrated watershed planning.
- Institutional coordination arrangements.
- Data collection and monitoring approaches.
- Compliance and reporting procedures.
- Climate risk screening considerations.

Task 6: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

- Review institutional capacities relevant to implementation.
- Identify opportunities for strengthening coordination and technical capacities.
- Prepare training materials.
- Facilitate one or more capacity-building workshops.

Task 7: Consultation and Validation

- Conduct consultations with relevant governmental institutions and technical stakeholders, as needed, to obtain technical inputs on the draft outputs.
- Organize validation workshop(s) to discuss and refine the draft framework.

Task 8: Finalization

- Revise the draft deliverables based on technical comments received.
- Prepare recommendations that may support future implementation.
- Provide recommendations, where appropriate, for alignment with existing national frameworks.

4. Expected Deliverables

Deliverable	Description	Timeline
Inception Report	Methodology and detailed work plan	Month 1
Baseline Assessment Report	Environmental, spatial and institutional assessment	Month 2
Draft Guidelines, Standards and Operational Protocols	Draft integrated framework	Month 4
Capacity Building Package	Training materials and workshop summary	Month 5
Final Integrated Framework, including Recommendations for Future Integration	Final guidelines, standards, operational protocols, and recommendations for implementation and alignment with existing national frameworks	Month 6

5. Duration of the Assignment

The assignment is expected to be completed within 6 months from the date of contract signature.

6. Institutional Arrangements

- The assignment will be managed by the Ministry of Environment
- Close coordination with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and its subsidiaries
- Oversight by the JILMI Project Management Unit
- Technical consultations may be organized when needed.

7. Required Qualifications (Revised)

The consultant must demonstrate:

- Advanced degree (Master's or PhD) in a related field
- Minimum of 10–15 years of relevant professional experience in integrated watershed management, biodiversity conservation, land-use planning, or climate change adaptation
- Demonstrated experience in developing guidelines, standards, or policy frameworks

- Expertise in GIS and spatial analysis is recommended
- Proven experience in stakeholder analysis, participatory approaches, and multi-stakeholder facilitation
- Experience working with government institutions and policy integration processes
- Excellent analytical, writing, and communication skills in English (Arabic is an asset)

8. Reporting Requirements

- Monthly progress reports
- Submission of all deliverables for review and approval
- Regular coordination meetings with MoEnv and stakeholders

9. Payment Schedule

Payments will be linked to deliverables as follows:

- 40% – Upon submission and approval of the Inception Report and Baseline Assessment Report
- 30% – Upon submission and approval of the Draft Guidelines, Standards, and Protocols
- 30% – Upon submission and approval of the Final Integrated Framework, Capacity Building Package, and Policy Integration Roadmap

10. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Technical approach, methodology and work plan (35%)
- Academic qualifications and relevant professional experience of the proposed consultant (25%)
- Relevant experience in delivering comparable assignments, including development of technical guidelines, standards, or policy frameworks (15%)
- Financial proposal (25%)

11. Application Requirements

Interested firms shall submit:

- Technical proposal
- Financial proposal
- CV highlighting relevant experience
- At least three professional references