



Terms of Reference

Guidance for drafting ambitious Nature Restoration Plans

WWF is looking for a consultant to provide guidance to national NGOs and policy makers on a crucial step for the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law (NRL): the drafting of National Restoration Plans (NRPs).

The budget available is 10.000 euro, VAT included.

The work would be done mainly in February-March 2024

More information on the content and timing of the project can be found below.

How to apply

Interested consultants are invited to prepare the following documents:

- Quote, indicating the estimated number of days of work and daily rate
- A one-page CV with description of the expertise of the consultant(s) on the subject
- A two-page outline of the work, describing how he/she/they would approach it

These documents, and any request for further information, should be sent **by 31 January** to: Sabien Leemans, WWF European Policy Office, sleemans@wwf.eu, Tel: +32 486 80 04 37

Background and description of the project

On 9 November 2023, EU institutions came to a [political agreement on the EU Nature Restoration Law](#) (NRL). This political agreement was subsequently endorsed by the EU Member States during the Coreper meeting on 22 November, and by the Environment Committee of the European Parliament on 29 November.

The next steps in the political process are the adoption by the full house of the European Parliament (plenary vote planned for end of February 2024), followed by the official adoption by the EU Member States in the Council.

Although the political process is not completely finalised yet, WWF European Policy Office, together with its partners (Birdlife ECA, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Client Earth), wants to prepare already for the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law.

An important first part of the implementation will be the preparation and drafting of the National Restoration Plans, in line with the requirements set forth by the law and the Aarhus Convention. The

text of the political agreement foresees that the EC will need to provide a uniform format for those plans, 3 months after the entry into force of the legislation. Preparations to develop such a template are already ongoing. The EU Member States will need to submit their draft NRPs to the European Commission two years after the entry into force.

The consultant would be tasked to translate the relevant provisions of the NRL into a guidance document that could facilitate the launch of the NRL implementation process, explaining what the minimum content and format of National Restoration Plans should be, a walkthrough of the different steps to be taken for the preparation of the plans (including on stakeholder engagement), etc. The aim is to explain the above in a comprehensive, actionable, structured, non-judicial way, easily understandable for national NGOs and competent environmental authorities, reflecting the legal requirements set in the law.

In addition, the consultant(s) should also formulate recommendations, drafted with input of WWF EPO and the NGO partners, on how to maximise the impact/effectiveness of NRPs in order to properly implement the legal text. This needs to address potential gaps or unclarities in the legal text, and possible ways to address them. Examples of topics that could be covered include the nature of the non-deterioration requirements and the derogations related to renewable energy. These recommendations will be used in a second step to develop a checklist-type tool against which the NRPs are to be assessed.

Deliverables and timing

The main **expected deliverables** are:

1. A comprehensive report, with an executive summary included, i) explaining the process to be followed for the preparation, drafting and development of the NRPs, ii) setting out their contents, and iii) providing recommendations on how to maximize the effectiveness and ambition of NRPs. The report must be fully edited, and either written or revised by native-level English speakers. WWF may format the document (or parts of it) for print and online publication. The final document would preferably be branded as an NGO coalition document.
2. Participation as speaker or panellist member at 2 events to present the report. One event for external audiences (mainly policy makers) and one workshop for national members and partners of WWF EPO and its Brussels-based NGO partners. Dates to be confirmed, end of March - end of June.

The approximate **timing** foreseen for the project is:

- Beginning of February 2024: selection of consultant and signature of the contract
- February-March 2024: writing of the report
 - kick-off meeting with NGO partners to agree on exact content
 - Initial Outline/Table of Contents, followed by NGO partners' recommendations
 - 1st draft by end of February
 - final product by end of March
- NGO workshop and event (end of March - end of June)