

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN E-LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR PROTECTED AREA PROFESSIONALS IN WEST AFRICA

1 - CONTEXT

With the socioeconomic and demographic transformations of recent decades, we are noticing a spectacular increase in humanity's carbon footprint, leading to unprecedented erosion of biodiversity, and therefore of the existence and quality of life on earth. This is particularly true in West Africa where, in spite of numerous initiatives for the conservation of natural resources, there is a general loss of biodiversity, particularly within protected areas which are the last bastions of the region's considerable biodiversity.

Improving Protected Area (PA) management is therefore one of the main political, socioeconomic and ecological challenges for West African countries.

This is why the "protected areas" programme of IUCN Regional Programme for West and Central Africa has developed a training programme for protected area professionals further to a review of the know-how and capacities required for PA management and the region's needs in capacity building.

Undertaken as part of a partnership programme with the Senghor University of Alexandria (International French-speaking University at the service of African development), this training programme includes two different types of training course, depending on the target audience and objectives.

(1) A modular training course in Capacity Building in Protected Area Management (CB-PAM). Designed for PA managers and their partners (NGOs, institutions...). This course aims at strengthening stakeholders' capacities in modern PA management tools (assessing management effectiveness, planning, monitoring and evaluation, consultation, legal or technical norms...). At the end of this training, a University Diploma (UD) is delivered by the partner University and IUCN.

(2) A postgraduate training course on PA management, designed for PA young professionals and non-professionals who wish to undertake a scientific career or become environmental specialists, in connection with Protected Areas. This course leads to a Master in Development, majoring in the environment with a minor in Protected Area Management from the Senghor University of Alexandria, in partnership with IUCN.

The plan to create an e-learning programme, as a complement to the above-mentioned courses, aims at ensuring **"the sustainability of training courses in protected area management already provided by IUCN (mentioned above) and mostly, to open these training programmes to a wider audience"**. Indeed, education in general, and specialized training in particular, have been experiencing profound changes over the past two decades, particularly with the emergence of e-learning. The globalization of learning meets the requirements of the today's society perfectly, particularly for professionals, enabling them to have a better access and more flexibility regarding time management (training duration and period).

The general objective of this project is to prepare an e-learning programme for West-African Protected Area professionals. Specifically, the study consists in taking stock of the existing e-learning programmes on Protected Areas from around the world, and in West Africa in particular, in order to identify what exists and what the needs are. This will be used to develop proposals for the creation of a specialized e-learning master programme (M2 level) on Protected Area Management in West Africa.

2 – OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

The objectives of this consultation are the following:

- i. To take an inventory of credible e-learning in Protected Area Management or any other themes in connection with Protected Areas (biodiversity, sustainable management, natural resources...) existing worldwide, particularly in West Africa;
- ii. To make a summary report on what exists and what the needs are in the field, in order to identify e-learning supply and demand in Protected Area Management in West Africa (feasibility study);
- iii. To identify the types of training (modules) specific to Papaco and those already delivered by other e-learning programmes that could be included in Papaco's e-learning proposal;
- iv. On the basis of the summary report (feasibility study) and the training already delivered by Papaco (UD and master), to propose at least three e-learning formulas which are suited to the region and complementary to the Papaco training Programme and website. These various proposals should also take into account the possibility of integrating or not a short internship period in West Africa that would enable interns to come together and strengthen their e-learning through case studies and practical cases on the ground;
- v. To target potential trainers who will deliver the e-learning modules;
- vi. To contact the relevant e-learning providers and the potential trainers in view of determining the collaborative conditions for implementing the Papaco e-learning programme;
- vii. To identify potential universities which will recognize the diploma to be delivered;
- viii. To draw up the specifications of the training module (rationale or interest of each module, target audience, educational objectives, main points regarding content, the cost per module and the cost per student);
- ix. To propose an action plan and timetable of the various steps for implementing the Papaco's PAM e-learning programme.

3- OUTPUTS EXPECTED FROM THE CONSULTANT

The consultation should achieve the following outputs:

- i. The totality of credible e-learning offers in PAM, as well as the needs in the field are known for West Africa;
- ii. The specificity (niche) and interest of the Papaco e-learning is highlighted and the objectives clearly defined;
- iii. A motivated list of interesting modules from other e-learning programmes as well as the conditions for collaboration with the Papaco PAM e-learning programme is established;
- iv. A list of possible trainers for the different modules is proposed and the conditions of their participation are known;
- v. The technical and logistical needs for the implementation of the different e-learning proposals, as well as their costs are formally identified;
- vi. An estimate of the accessibility to the training and the target audience size is available;
- vii. A realistic schedule of the different steps to be taken prior to effective implementation of the e-learning is provided;
- viii. Potential universities are identified for the recognition of the diploma to be delivered;

- ix. At least three different finalized e-learning proposals, meeting the needs of the region and perfectly complementary to the conventional Papaco training courses are provided;

Hard copies of all these results, as well as CDs should be provided.

4- TERMS OF EXECUTION

Venue and methodology

The mission will partly take place in Ouagadougou at Papaco. It will be carried out via modern communication means (research on the Internet, email...) and will be based on the exploitation of relevant documentation. The consultant will also conduct a study among a representative sample of countries of the sub-region (French-speaking and English-speaking), consult with resource persons and seek information from experts in the sub-region. The Papaco Coordination team will provide support by providing information on its training and information programme, its experts and database, and any useful documentation they have. They will also be closely involved in the consultation process.

Period and duration

The study is planned for the period of April to July 2012 for a maximal duration of 4 working months. The electronic version of the consultant's report will be sent no later than 15 August 2012.

Profile of the consultant

The study will be conducted by a specialized consulting company or a team of (national and/or international) experts specialized in e-learning engineering and having a sound knowledge of the issue of building the capacities of stakeholders in protected area management in the Sub-Saharan region.

Financial cost of the study

The cost of this study will be proposed according to the services provided with regard to the outputs expected (see 3) and on the basis of the financial proposals made by the consultant.

Technical and financial proposals for this consultancy should be sent in French at the following address: souleymane.konate@iucn.org. Deadline: January 31th, 2012.