

Location

Home-based in Kazakhstan with frequent contact by electronic means.

Context

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) presents an unprecedented opportunity to act on nature and climate. The GBF sets out an ambitious agenda through four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030, including the historic target to effectively conserve at least 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030 (30x30).

In order to support national governments to implement their priority national contributions to the GBF, the SPACES coalition mobilises financial and technical resources to help countries through developing spatial and financial plans. The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), working with partners UN Development Programme (UNEP) and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) on a new SPACES project in Kazakhstan, is seeking a Conservation Finance Specialist (National Consultant) based in the country.

The project duration is 1 year and some of the objectives are:

- In consultation with stakeholders, creating spatial prioritisation plans to increase protected and conserved area that will contribute to nature and climate goals, and support the finalisation and updating of Technical-Economical Studies (TES) for several protected areas.
- In consultation with stakeholders, creating financial plans and roadmaps to support sustainability of protected area network.

The project is a collaboration between UNEP-WCMC, the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Scope of work

The consultancy will support the following indicative activities, developing high-profile outputs in close collaboration with project partners, led by UNEP-WCMC:

- Reviewing and analysing the management plans of existing protected areas to determine financial needs and identify finance gaps;
- Supporting the development of a financial plan for the sustainable management of the protected area system, as well as the creation of new protected areas in Kazakhstan;
- Using the BIOFIN methodology to update the review of expenditures and financial requirements for Kazakhstan's biodiversity (2023-24);
- Assess options for investment through fiscal, market, grant or regulatory finance mechanisms in implementing the new measures to strengthen and expand the current protected area system, and through recognition of Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs).
- Developing a financial plan for pilot OECM areas in Kazakhstan

- Identify potential opportunities to increase private sector financial flows into conservation priorities, including protected areas and OECMs.
- Support with identifying the most appropriate donors and other sources of funding for the country's priorities related to GBF Target 3.
- Participation in meetings with project stakeholders and input into meeting agenda and preparation
- Participation in meetings with private sector actors, presentation of international practices of private sector conservation finance.
- Identifying businesses and private sector companies in Kazakhstan that have potential for cooperation on conservation and biodiversity finance goals
- Building relationships and promoting strategic meetings with the private sector companies and other relevant actors and finance institutions to make the case for the support to the national protected area system.
- Supporting the project by preparing guidance and presentation materials, as required
- Support the delivery of the project in coordination with project technical teams as required.

Reporting

The consultant will report to the SPACES Kazakhstan project lead and will need to liaise closely with national implementing partners and government (as required).

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

- Advanced degree (master's or PhD) in environmental management, finance, economics, social sciences, or a closely related field; or undergraduate degree plus equivalent relevant work experience.
- Experience working in or with protected areas in the areas of sustainable finance, resource mobilisation, business development, and/or investment in sustainable development.
- Demonstrable ability to complete analysis and design of strategies and implementation of finance mechanisms.
- Experience working with BIOFIN methodology (desirable)
- Demonstrated understanding of Kazakhstan's budget, in particular nature conservation finance (desirable)
- Experience in working with public, private and finance sectors in Kazakhstan or in the Central Asia region.
- Experience developing high-quality outputs for government ministries and/or international agencies.
- Experience in working with conservation, protected areas, restoration and other biodiversity-related topics.
- Detailed knowledge of the country's financial, political and social landscape.
- Solid understanding of the country's conservation priorities and its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (desirable)
- Working proficiency in Russian and English languages. Kazakh language proficiency is desirable.
- Experience in engagement with different types of stakeholders and partners.
- Ability to adapt communication and messages to different audiences.
- Ability to think creatively and innovatively



Duration and fees

2024 – 2025. 9 to 10 months –depending on start date. The project will complete in September 2025.

The project has an indicative budget range of USD 36,000-50,000 for this role. The role compensation fees will be determined by experience and expertise. Travel expenses pertaining to the project will be compensated separately.

How to apply

Please send the following to Isobel O'Loughlin (isobel.oloughlin@unep-wcmc.org).

1. A short covering letter, summarising your interest, availability, relevant experience, proposed fee and why you are best placed to do this work (max 2 pages).
2. CVs showing relevant experience only (max 2 pages).