

**DK-Copenhagen: call for expressions of interest to support
the development of biodiversity indicators and assessments**

2009/S 172-247515

No EEA/NSV/09/003

Notice to be published in the Official Journal, S series

1. **Contracting authority:**

European Environment Agency, Kongens Nytorv 6, 1050 Copenhagen K, DENMARK. Tel. +45 33367100. Fax +45 33367199. E-mail: procurement@eea.europa.eu Internet: <http://www.eea.europa.eu>

2. **Type:**

Notice of a call for expressions of interest (CEI) to support the development of biodiversity indicators and assessments.

Natural or legal persons interested are invited to submit an application in accordance with the provisions stated in this notice. The contracting authority will draw up a list of candidates meeting the criteria in point 8 below. This list will comprise sub-lists corresponding to each of the 11 fields described in point 5.

These sub-lists will be updated as necessary throughout the validity period of this notice.

Each time the contracting authority intends to conclude a contract relating to one or more of the fields described in point 5, a selection, based on objective and non-discriminatory criteria, of all or some of the candidates on the relevant sub-list(s) will be made, followed by an invitation to the selected candidates to submit a tender in accordance with the tender documentation. Should the contracting authority have to set a maximum number of candidates who will be invited to submit a tender for a given contract, the number is 15.

Inclusion on the list entails no obligation on the part of the contracting authority to send an invitation to tender to candidates on the sub-list(s), or to award them a contract.

3. **The list resulting from this notice will be used exclusively for public contracts of the following type(s):**

— service contracts under Annex IIA to Directive 2004/18/EC, except for research and development contracts in category 8 in that Annex, worth less than an estimated 133 000 EUR,

— research and development service contracts in category 8 of Annex IIA to Directive 2004/18/EC worth less than an estimated 206 000 EUR.

4. **Background for this CEI:**

With the signature of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992, concern for biodiversity was awarded a higher political profile. Based on the widespread recognition of biodiversity loss and its significance to society, the international community committed itself to addressing biodiversity loss. The year 2010 and beyond was chosen by the Heads of State, both at European and global level, to formally set a target to halt the biodiversity decline.

Biodiversity encompasses not only the conservation/restoration paradigm but is at the frontline as provider of ecosystems services — the natural production capacity and regulating processes that are essential for the sustainable use of earth's resources and human health. This new paradigm, that emerged during the last decade, shifted and complemented the motivation to protect biodiversity. Nowadays, increasing levels of human activities lead to biodiversity loss all over the world. With this changing paradigm, reducing biodiversity loss is therefore important not just for the environment but also for our social and economic well-being.

The EEA carries out activities to develop biodiversity indicators and biodiversity assessments primarily under the auspices of the SEBI 2010 process ('Streamlining European biodiversity indicators for 2010'). SEBI 2010 was established in 2005 as a process to select and streamline a set of biodiversity indicators to monitor progress towards the 2010 target of halting biodiversity loss in Europe and help achieve progress towards this target. The following documents provide more details about the SEBI 2010 process:

— EEA, 2007. 'Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010: proposal for a first set of indicators to monitor progress in Europe'. EEA Technical report No 11/2007. European Environment Agency, Copenhagen, DENMARK.

Available at: http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/technical_report_2007_11

— EEA, 2009. 'Progress towards the European 2010 biodiversity target'. EEA Report 04/2009. Available at <http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/publications/progress-towards-the-european-2010-biodiversity-target/>

— EEA, 2009. 'Progress towards the European 2010 biodiversity target' — indicator fact sheets. EEA technical report No 05/2009. European Environment Agency, Copenhagen, DENMARK. Available at <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/progress-towards-the-european-2010-biodiversity-target-indicator-fact-sheets/>

Other EEA processes and reporting initiatives where biodiversity acts as a cross-cutting theme in environmental assessments, include:

— Eureka (the European ecosystem assessment) (http://eureca.ew.eea.europa.eu/index_html),

— SOER 2010 (State of the Environment Report 2010) (<http://soer2010.ew.eea.europa.eu/>),

— Environment for Europe process — next report to be produced for the ministerial conference in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2011,

— regional reports (e.g. Mediterranean, Arctic),

as well as EU biodiversity reporting (e.g. Natura 2000, Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, biodiversity action plans).

Biodiversity indicators are also a core element of other sectoral assessment initiatives, in particular in agriculture, via the agri-environmental indicators (former Irena project), and forestry.

With regard to all of the abovementioned processes and reporting initiatives, the main aims of this CEI are:

1) to support an evaluation of progress towards the European 2010 biodiversity target as well as in the frame of targets to be set post 2010;

2) to support mapping out of different ecosystems services and other functions provided by biodiversity to allow for an integrated ecosystem approach in the planned assessments.

With regard to indicator developments, the main objectives of this CEI are:

1) updating current methodologies or extending data coverage, both spatial and temporal, for the indicators currently in use;

2) identifying new, potentially policy-relevant and scientifically sound indicators and providing a conceptual background for their inclusion into the existing sets, taking into account pertinent existing monitoring initiatives and state-of-the-art methods.

For biodiversity assessment reporting based on the SEBI 2010 process, the aim is also to support the requirements of establishing the reference values for the indicators (targets and baselines) as expected from the discussions with the SEBI 2010 stakeholders and following recommendations e.g. of CBD on a post-2010 target regime.

5. **Description of fields covered by this CEI:**

This call for expressions of interest covers major working areas of the biodiversity group at the EEA as supported by the European Topic Centres (ETC), in particular the ETC on Biological Diversity.

Sub-lists 1–6 (as listed in the table below) relate directly to the SEBI 2010 process and involve, for example, developing or updating indicators. Sub-lists 7–11 relate to biodiversity and ecosystem (terrestrial, marine and

other aquatic) assessments and involve, for example, assessment of sectoral policies. It is not necessary for a partner to have expertise in all of the 'specific areas' of a sub-list.

Sub-list; thematic field; sample specific area:

1; Status and trends of biodiversity:

- trends in abundance and distribution of species (e.g., birds, butterflies, plants, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, pollinators, temperature-sensitive species, other),
- status of threatened and/or protected species,
- extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats,
- genetic diversity (e.g., livestock, crops, wild crops relatives, fish, trees),
- identification of other relevant indicators.

2; Specific threats to biodiversity:

- pollution,
- invasive alien species,
- climate change,
- habitat loss and fragmentation,
- identification of other relevant indicators.

3; Responses to biodiversity loss:

- protected areas,
- funding of biodiversity management,
- access and benefits sharing,
- public awareness,
- identification of other relevant indicators.

4; Biodiversity and agriculture:

- mainstreaming biodiversity in agricultural policy (incl. the common monitoring and evaluation framework of the EU rural development programmes),
- agriculture responses to biodiversity loss,
- identification of other relevant indicators.

5; Biodiversity and fisheries:

- status of fish stocks,
- fisheries policy,
- marine trophic index,
- identification of other relevant indicators (in connection with major marine and maritime assessments).

6; Biodiversity and forestry:

- growing stock and fellings,
- deadwood,
- forest management,
- identification of other relevant indicators (in connection with major forestry assessments).

7; Ecosystem assessment:

- biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services,
- ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change,
- vulnerability and risk assessment,
- ecosystem accounting,
- payments for ecosystem services,
- identification of other relevant indicators.

8; Biodiversity and ecosystem policy:

- effectiveness evaluation,
- mainstreaming,
- identification of other relevant indicators.

9; Biodiversity and sustainable consumption and production:

- housing,
- food,
- transport,
- tourism/recreation,
- waste management,
- trade (incl. importation of raw materials and plants and animals),
- emissions by sector (manufacturing, services, public, agriculture),
- identification of other relevant indicators.

10; Biodiversity and health:

- bioprospecting,
- emergence and spread of infectious diseases,
- invasives as vectors of diseases,
- identification of other relevant indicators.

11; Biodiversity and territorial planning:

- landscape fragmentation,
- infrastructure development,
- urban sprawl,
- biodiversity in the territorial agenda of the EU,
- identification of other relevant indicators.

Activities to be carried out under sub-lists 1–11 and thematic areas include:

- data mining and analysis,
- producing maps, as relevant,
- documenting indicators,
- preparing fact sheets,
- preparing assessments based on indicators,
- drafting reports or preparing other text products,
- editorial support (e.g. edit of draft reports).

6. **Validity:**

The compiled list/sub-lists will remain valid for 3 years from the date of dispatch of this CEI to the Publications Office of the European Union (see point 11). Applications may be submitted at any time during this period with the exception of the last 3 months (as per post mark, courier and hand deliveries at 16:00). Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applications must be sent by post or hand delivery: applications sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

Please note that it is the responsibility of the candidate to inform the European Environment Agency (EEA) immediately of any changes to their administrative, technical or financial details which would result in a change to their original application.

7. **Legal form for groups of economic operators/consortia:**

Applications may be submitted by groups of economic operators/consortia which, if included in the list/sub-lists and invited to tender, may tender as a group/consortium. If a group/consortium is awarded a contract, it may be required to adopt a legal form by incorporation or partnership enabling it to contract as a single entity if such change is necessary for the proper performance of the contract. Consortia must identify 1 of their members

as coordinator which will interface with the Agency. Each consortium member must fulfil the conditions for participation mentioned under point 8.

8. Criteria for inclusion on the list and sub-lists:

8.1 Exclusion criteria (see application form for further details):

To be eligible for participation in this contract award procedure, candidates must not be in any of the exclusion situations referred to in Articles 93 and 94 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25.6.2002, OJ L 248 of 16.9.2002 as last modified by (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 of 13.12.2006, OJ L 390/1 of 30.12.2006. To that effect candidates are required to submit a declaration of honour (see sheet B of the application form) in accordance with Article 134 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23.12.2002, OJ L 357/1 as last modified by (EC, Euratom) No 478/2007 of 23.4.2007, OJ L 111/13. Under the same provision, the applicant to whom the contract is to be awarded will be required to produce evidence confirming the prior declaration unless this obligation is waived by the contracting authority.

8.2 Selection criteria:

Legal capacity:

Applicants shall provide an identification sheet (sheet A of the application form) duly filled out and signed, a copy of inscription in a trade register, where applicable, and a copy of inscription in VAT registers.

Economic and financial capacity:

Any candidate is requested to provide proof of economic and financial capacity by one or more of the following documents:

- appropriate statements from banks or evidence of professional risk indemnity insurance,
- balance sheets or extracts from balance sheets for at least the last 2 years for which accounts have been closed, where publication of the balance sheet is required under the company law of the country in which the candidate is established,
- a statement of overall turnover during the last 3 financial years.

If, for some exceptional reason, which the contracting authority considers justified, the candidate is unable to provide the references requested by the contracting authority, he may prove his economic and financial capacity by any other means which the contracting authority considers appropriate.

Technical and professional capacity:

Evidence of the technical and professional capacity of candidates shall be furnished on the basis of the following documents:

- proven track record of developing and producing indicators and of producing assessments based on indicators, as well as substantive experience relevant to the chosen sub-lists, 1–11 described under point 5, as demonstrated by the educational and professional qualifications of the service provider and, in particular, those of the lead person(s) responsible for providing the services, through CVs of key expert(s)/researcher(s) per field documenting a minimum of 5 years of professional experience each in that field (up to a maximum of 5 CVs per field),
- a list of peer-reviewed publications,
- a list of services provided at least for the past 3 years relevant to the selected fields described in the call, with the sums, dates and recipients, public or private,
- information on the candidate's working languages (please note that the working language of the EEA is English),
- an indication of the candidate's environmental management measures/system as implemented by the candidate.

Candidates may apply to more than 1 sub-list, in which case a sheet C of the application form must be filled in for each sub-list. Relevant experience must be documented for each sub-list selected.

9. **Further information:**

The full list of information, formalities and documents to be supplied by persons interested can be found in the application form which can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/tenders/calls-for-expression-of-interest>

10. **Submission of applications:**

a. Address: Applications should be sent to the European Environment Agency, Kongens Nytorv 6, 1050 Copenhagen K, DENMARK. Envelopes must be clearly marked: 'Call for Expression of Interest (CEI): Biodiversity indicators and assessments — EEA/NSV/09/003'.

b. The original and 2 copies of the application must be placed together inside 1 sealed envelope, which is to be marked: 'Not to be opened by the EEA's internal mail service'. This sealed envelope is then to be placed inside another sealed envelope and to be sent to the address mentioned above.

c. Candidates must specify in which sub-list(s) they are interested. Candidates may, with 1 application, apply for inclusion in more than 1 sub-list, as long as they address the selection criteria for each of the sub-lists.

11. **Date of dispatch of notice:**

27.8.2009.

12. **Date of receipt of notice by the Publications Office:**

27.8.2009.