



Multi-stakeholder Platform for Protecting Biodiversity

Working Group Members

Roles, Responsibilities and Eligibility Criteria

The current document outlines the roles, responsibilities and eligibility criteria to serve as of a working group member in one or more of the three working groups being established under the multi-stakeholder biodiversity platform on: (a) nature-based solutions for climate resilience; (b) land degradation in arid agricultural ecosystems; and (c) renewable energy and biodiversity. The platform is coordinated by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) with the support of the Government of Sweden.

Member Roles and Responsibilities

A working group member is an institution that is selected to serve in a working group and is committed to supporting the activities of the working from the time of selection through October 2025. The member is responsible for the following:

- Designating one expert and one alternate expert to represent the institution in working group meetings;
- Ensuring the active participation of the designated representative in all working group meetings;
- Allowing time for the designated expert and/or alternative expert to participate in platform-related consultations and training activities organized by ESCWA;
- Substantively contributing to the identification of project ideas and the elaboration of concept notes, which could draw upon other expertise available in the institution;
- Substantively contributing to the preparation of at least one project proposal based on the concept notes selected for elaboration by the working group, including the provision of technical advice, written inputs and reviews by drawing upon the knowledge of the designated representatives and other expertise available in the institution;
- Peer reviewing at least one other project proposal selected for elaboration by the working group;
- Representing the working group in meetings and relevant events, as may be requested by the working group convener or ESCWA;
- Disseminating information about the platform and working group.

Working group member institutions that are actively involved in the formulation of a project proposal become part of the institutional consortium proposing that project. Any member of a consortium can serve as the lead agency responsible for the proposal; the lead agency would be responsible for ensuring consolidation of the final draft of the proposal before it is reviewed by the working group convener and ESCWA.

Working group members serve on a voluntary basis and the representatives of institutional members will not receive monetary compensation for their participation in working group meetings. However, travel to in-person meetings of the working group and other in-person consultations and training activities organized by ESCWA would be provided on an invitation basis, including roundtrip travel and a daily subsistence allowance.

Eligibility

A member institution is expected to possess in-house expertise and at least three years of demonstrated knowledge and experience in the thematic area of the working group that they would like to join.

The application to become a working group member is open to the following types of institutions with demonstrated experience in formulating biodiversity projects in one or more Arab State:

- Civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations;
- International and regional institutions;
- Academic institutions;
- Research centers;
- Not-for-profit private sector organizations, foundations and associations;
- Relevant government agencies from the region responsible for environmental management and conservation;
- Financial institutions.

There will be no more than fifteen (15) member institutions in each working group.

Institutions may submit separate applications to petition for membership in more than one working group.

Preference is given to institutions with demonstrated experience working on biodiversity conservation and climate resilience in one or more of the following Arab States: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen.

Applicants interested to serve as a member of a working group must be prepared to submit to ESCWA the following documentation to be eligible for consideration:

- Institutional description demonstrating at least five years of work and experience in the thematic areas of the working group they petition to oversee in line with the eligibility criteria above;
- Official documentation demonstrating independent legal standing as a not-for-profit organization or entity;
- Name, contact information and curriculum vitae of the designated expert and alternate expert, both of whom must have demonstrated oral and written fluency in the Arabic and English languages;
- Institutional website and social media handles.

Applicant institutions are encouraged to consider gender and youth dimensions when nominating experts to serve as their representatives on a working group. An expert cannot serve in more than one working group.

ESCWA retains the right to review and select working group members based on United Nations rules, regulations and procedures.