

TOR – Request for consultant or consultancy firm

Subject of Research: The Interaction between Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Human Mobility in Iraq

1. Project Context and Scope:

Climate migration is already a reality in Iraq. Climate change and slow-onset environmental degradation are contributing to the displacement of Iraqi nationals in the central and southern regions of the country. In response to reports of drought-induced displacement in June 2018, the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) launched the Climate Displacement Tracking Tool to monitor movements of families in response to climatic and environmental factors. While 475 locations of displacement have been recorded as of March 2024,¹ displacement flows are nevertheless concentrated in a small number of districts in Thi-Qar, Missan and Al Najaf Governorates. To have better information for policy and programming, IOM dedicates efforts for climate and mobility research to understand the drivers of human mobility, the climate-driven risks on human security, and the multisectoral intersectionality of climate change, climate security and human mobility. However, more data, research and analysis are needed to understand variations in flows and the environmental push and pull factors influencing this migration, specifically in Iraq.

In 2021, IOM joined with other United Nations entities in launching the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. IOM is committed to building knowledge and expanding partnerships that incorporate human mobility into climate action and collaborative interventions that consider the impacts of environmental degradation and conservation measures on migration dynamics, as well as the potential impacts of migration on environmental degradation. In 2024, IOM has collaborated with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to highlight the relationship between conservation, migration, environmental change and conflict² and show the benefit of biodiversity protection to promote peace and prevent forced movement of people and non-human species, while also noting the potential for conservation to exacerbate pre-existing tensions between communities, particularly related to natural resource management.

¹ International Organization for Migration, [Climate-Induced Displacement in Central and Southern Iraq \(March 2025\)](#) (Baghdad, 2025).

² IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, [Planet on the move: reimagining conservation at the intersection of migration, environmental change, and conflict](#) (Gland, 2024).

Accordingly, IOM in Iraq is seeking an expert, a group of experts, or a research firm to conduct and validate desk-based research on the relationship between biodiversity loss and human mobility within the context of climate change impacts in Iraq. This research aims to understand the status of biodiversity in Iraq, identify key priorities for biodiversity protection and overlay these with current climate-induced human mobility trends, vulnerabilities, and risks. It will also involve mapping relevant stakeholders engaged in biodiversity protection and migration management within Iraq and examining the historic relationship between biodiversity loss and human mobility to draw similarities and lessons for preventative action. The research will provide recommendations and solutions from both biodiversity and human mobility perspectives, and highlight gaps, limitations, and additional areas of research. Key lines of enquiry include the bidirectional relationship between human mobility and biodiversity loss, reflections on various types of climate-induced human mobility in Iraq (such as internal displacement, labour migration, pastoralism, trapped populations, and planned relocation), and case studies focused on ecosystems in specific geographical areas.

2. **Organizational Divisions / Units to which the applicant is contributing:** Transition and Recovery Division; Displacement Tracking Matrix Unit, and Climate Action Unit

3. **Key Objectives:**

- Understand the current status of biodiversity in Iraq.
- Map Biodiversity and Human Mobility actors in Iraq.
- Conduct Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) under each line of enquiry with relevant stakeholders
- Present priority areas for biodiversity protection in Iraq and overlay with current climate-induced human mobility trends, vulnerabilities or risks.
- Understand the historic relationship between biodiversity loss and human mobility in Iraq. What similarities and lessons can be drawn for preventative action?
- Present the relationship between biodiversity loss and human mobility in Iraq.
- Overlay priority biodiversity locations with current climate-induced human mobility trends, vulnerabilities, and risks.
- Indicate information gaps, limitations and additional areas of research
- Provide recommendations and solutions, from a biodiversity lens, and from a human mobility perspective.

4. **Potential lines of enquiry (To be agreed upon during inception period):**

- How does pollution and contamination of air, water and soil quality contribute to biodiversity loss in Iraq?
- How is biodiversity loss impacting the viability of agricultural livelihoods in Iraq?

- Reflections on climate induced human mobility types in Iraq (Internal displacement, Labour migration, pastoralism, trapped populations, planned relocation)
- How does human mobility contribute to biodiversity loss and vice versa

5. **Tangible and measurable outputs of the work assignment:**

Duration: 2 months

Timeline: To start as soon as possible, depending on the contract's signature date.

- **First deliverable (20% contract value)**

- Inception report: Research methodology, workplan, outline, key references, data analysis plan

- **Second deliverable**

- First draft of the research, including preliminary findings

- **Third deliverable (80% contract value)**

- Final research including executive summary, discussion of findings, analysis and recommendations.

6. **Selection criteria**

- **Expertise and Experience**

- Proven expertise in environmental science, climate change, biodiversity, and human mobility.
- Demonstrated experience in conducting desk-based research and validation.
- Previous work on similar projects, particularly in the context of Iraq or similar regions.

- **Research Methodology and workplan**

- Clear and robust research methodology that aligns with the objectives of the project.
- Ability to integrate multidisciplinary approaches, including environmental science, social science, and policy analysis.
- Experience in mapping and analyzing data related to biodiversity and human mobility.
- Comprehensive project timeline with key milestones and deliverables.
- Flexibility to accommodate changes and adjustments as needed.

- **Technical Skills**

- Proficiency in using research tools and software for data collection, analysis, and visualization.
- Ability to handle large datasets and perform complex data analysis.Strong report writing and presentation skills.
- Experience in developing relevant questionnaires and conducting Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

- **Knowledge of Local Context**

- Understanding of the environmental, social, and political context of Iraq.
- Familiarity with the key areas of biodiversity and climate-induced human mobility trends in Iraq.
- Knowledge of local stakeholders, including government agencies, academics, NGOs, and community organizations.
- **Collaboration and Communication**
 - Ability to work collaboratively with IOM and other stakeholders.
 - Strong communication skills to effectively convey research findings and recommendations.
 - Experience in engaging with diverse groups, including policymakers, researchers, and community members.
- **Budget proposal and cost efficiency**
 - Detailed budget breakdown, including costs for personnel, research activities, data collection, analysis, and reporting.
 - Competitive pricing that reflects the scope and complexity of the research.
 - Strategies for cost-saving without compromising the quality and integrity of the research.
 - Flexibility to adjust the budget based on project needs and unforeseen circumstances.

7. Submission of Application

The submission of proposals and/or related questions should be directed via procurement email to: iraqtenders@iom.int or on WAVE system.

The submission should include the following:

- Technical proposal, including a brief context analysis on environmental degradation; biodiversity loss and climate mobility in Iraq, proposed methodological approach and workplan;
- Financial proposal, including any travel to Iraq (if applicable), meetings, workshops and related costs;
- CV(s) and biography(s) of the researcher(s);
- 2 references for similar previously completed projects;
- An example of a recent, relevant study

Important Note: When evaluating the competing applicants, IOM will consider the written qualifications/capability, financial offer, the information provided by the applicants, and any other information obtained by IOM through its research.

IOM reserves the right to change the calendar of events or revise any part of the requirements of the research at any time.