

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden

TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

Individual Consultant to update the National Spill Contingency Plan for Egypt addressing oil and HNS spills incidents and deliver a national training workshop on OPRC specifically Contingency Planning and HNS

Under the Project

Sustainable Fishery Development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH)

Program/Project Number:	P178143
Activity Code:	PERSGA-2105-4-CS-INDV
Expected duration/period	6 months through the period of June-Nov 2025
Type of contract and payment	Lump-sum, installments versus deliverables

1. Background and Justification

The Regional Organization for Conservation of the Marine Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) is an intergovernmental organization established since 1995. PERSGA institutional framework is based on the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment (Jeddah Convention 1982), which joins seven member states, including Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Rational use of marine resources and the protection of coastal marine environment from pollution and overexploitation are central objectives of Jeddah Convention (1982) and its derived Regional Protocols and Action Plan. PERSGA runs regional programs and projects that support regional capacities and coordination to achieve these objectives.

The announced consultancy is needed for implementation of the regional project “Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden”, referred to hereafter as the Project or SFISH, which is supported by the World Bank and executed by PERSGA in the region. The project development objectives (PDOs) are to strengthen capacities and regional collaboration in management of marine fisheries and aquaculture in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region. The project component objectives focus specifically on: i) developing PERSGA regional data center and integrated information and knowledge management systems for monitoring and assessment, and sharing knowledge to support science-based policy and management of sustainable fisheries and marine resources in PERSGA region; ii) strengthening PERSGA platforms for capacity development and regional coordination mechanisms for sustainable marine fisheries and aquaculture; iii) enhancing citizens, private sector and development partners engagements in sustainable fishery through effective communication and awareness strategies.

The need for the current consultancy arises from both the midterm review findings of the SFISH project and the priorities outlined in the 2025–2026 Work Plan. It is aligned with the implementation of the Regional Contingency Plan for Oil and HNS Spills, which are considered major threats to living marine resources and fisheries in the region. The Regional Plan developed under SFISH outlines an effective regional response framework to marine oil pollution incidents in the region, including those caused by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) transported by sea.

Annual reports from the Suez Canal Authority show that around 15,000 deep sea vessels totaling 520 million Net tonnage pass through the Canal each year, trading between the Mediterranean, Red Sea, Indian Ocean and the Far East. It is estimated that around 20,000 passages a year are made through the Suez Canal, a significant number of them are oil and chemical tankers.

In recent years, Egypt has experienced an increase in oil pollution incidents, including serious cases along the coastline near Quseir in the Red Sea. These events have revealed gaps in the current National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP), particularly in responding effectively to spills incidents including to chemical and HNS-related incidents. Given Egypt’s extensive coastlines on the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, and its critical marine biodiversity and fisheries, the need for a revised and updated national contingency plan addressing both oil and HNS pollution has become a national priority. Egypt has ratified several international conventions such as MARPOL 73/78 and the OPRC (1990) and has enacted national laws (e.g., Environmental Law No. 4 of 1994 and its amendments) to support environmental protection.

In light of this, this consultancy will support Egypt in revising and expanding the national plan to integrate HNS incident preparedness and response mechanisms, in alignment with international and regional protocols, and national regulations. The consultancy will deliver a revised, operational, and actionable “National Spill Contingency Plan (NSCP)”, supported by training and stakeholder engagement activity. In this context, the recruited consultant will be assigned to develop the plan (referred to hereafter as a “national Spill Contingency Plan for Egypt”), drawing upon existing national and regional oil and HNS plans and guidelines available. The consultant will also develop training modules and deliver training to national specialists on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response Cooperation (OPRC), particularly Contingency Planning and HNS, and to exercise the revised National spill Contingency Plan (NSCP).

2. Purpose of the consultancy

The primary objective is to support Egypt in revising and expanding its existing NOSCP to include preparedness and response measures for chemical and HNS spills. The consultant will ensure that the revised NSCP meets national operational needs and aligns with regional Spills contingency plan and international best practices, such as those of IMO, IPIECA, and OPRC-HNS Protocol.

The plan to be developed by the consultant referred to hereafter “**national spill contingency Plan for Egypt**” shall include at least the following information:

- Qualitative HNS risks assessment, including prevention and mitigation measures, to identify potential impacts and priority protection areas through use of available modeling resources and data and sensitivity mapping

- Decision making for planning and selection of adequate responses measures – to provide list of appropriate tactical responses sheets
- Update of key elements of a national policy for the uses of dispersants at sea
- Sound legislative basis for implementing OPRC Convention/OPRC HNS protocol and Jeddah Convention and related Protocols
- Flow diagrams for required notifications, callout procedures and decisions diagrams
- guidance information on post spill management that includes liability and compensation for a ship source HNS incident
- Assessment and/or identification of places of refuge;
- updated inventory of responses resources (nationally, regionally, internationally; Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3, including manpower, and technical expertise appropriate to the HNS spills hazards and ranges of environmental operating conditions.
- Effective training and exercise program for capacity building in order to meet OPRC compliance requirements
- Clearly define roles/responsibilities in the context of spills emergency preparedness, having considered the existing arrangements with the existing National plan with regard to broader disaster, emergency or civil protection frameworks
- National funding mechanisms with contribution from regional and international partnerships and initiatives
- Procedures and protocols, including spills notification and reporting to obtain and provide mutual assistance for spills response and for managing international offers of assistance
- Sustain Preparedness by way of establishing a schedule for review and updates of the national contingency plan; this can be linked to national exercises with a review at least every 3 years, but preferably annually;

3. Tasks to be performed and Responsibilities of the national Consultant

The work will be carried out by a consultant assisted by a national coordinator (assistant) from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). The consultant will, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, the Egyptian environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and PERSGA, undertake the following tasks:

3.1 Task.1 Lead Review, assess and revise the national contingency plan (Deliverable 1).

- a) Cooperate closely with EEAA, PERSGA, Ministry of Environment and Maritime Affairs Authority. Direct contacts of the consultant will be Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed and Dr Ahmed from PERSGA and the National Coordinator (assistant).
- b) Participate in a kick-off meeting with PERSGA and the National coordinator to discuss methodology, timetable and overall direction as an inception report, noting that the proposed methodology by the consultant should be based on established regional contingency plan and guidelines from International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers.
- c) The work plan and the project's timeframe will be discussed and presented in an inception workshop for introduction to the different stakeholders and a technical report

- which includes detailing workshop outputs, findings, conclusions and recommendations (deliverable 1)
- d) Review the existing Egypt Oil Spill Contingency Plan and other relevant materials and identify and assess HNS threats related to HNS pollution with a view to propose adequate solutions.
 - e) Interview relevant key stakeholders concerned with Egypt Oil Spill Contingency Plan

3.2 Task2: Develop a NSCP to addressing both oil and HNS spills (Deliverable 2)

Based on the results of above indicated task, two separate phases of work would be conducted. These would be:

- a) Draft an HNS National Contingency Plan in English and Arabic supported with figures, graphs and illustrations; and submit it to PERSGA, the Ministry of Environment and EEAA (deliverable 2a). The Plan should addresses only Hazardous Noxious Substance (HNS) pollution whether it originates from ships, harbours, offshore units, Oil/HNS handling facilities or land-based sources and covers waters in Egyptian territorial waters and in the Egyptian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on both seafronts in the Red Sea and Mediterranean areas. The plan should also add available sensitivity maps and introducing a table of tasks and responsibilities of key stakeholders both during the time of preparedness (focusing on continuous training and regular meetings of people concerned) and during the time of response/crisis, in addition to chemical modeling aspects and the existing international compensation schemes for marine chemical spills.
- b) Provide a guide on Search and Recovery of Packaged Goods lost at Sea along the lines with Egyptian existing institutional arrangements, including parts including Place of Refuge protocols, Incident Response Forms and collate a suite of relevant Guidance Manuals.
- a) PERSGA, the Ministry of Environment and EEAA will send the draft unified and revised National Contingency Plan counting HNS for revision by key stakeholders. The consultant will then receive remarks, comments and inputs from the EEAA, the Ministry of Environment for Environment Affairs and PERSGA and incorporate them in a revised final draft document (deliverable2b). The final draft of the Contingency Plan will be presented by the national consultant/expert in a workshop for validation and approval by key stakeholders. This will take place in association with a bespoke IMO HNS operational level contingency training workshop. The final version of the National Contingency Plan will be presented by the consultant in a three days national workshop that would introduce and roll out the contingency Plan to the stakeholders and to be formally endorsed.

3.3 Task.3 Preparation, design and delivery of national workshop (Deliverable 3)

The training modules and workshop would be focused particularly on the revised NSCP; the developed training modules will be based on both the IMO oil and HNS Model Course and the objectives outlined in the workshop fact sheet to be developed by the national consultant. Specific duties of the consultant under Task 3 include:

- a) Develop, deliver training modules and lead a table top exercise if appropriate in order to explain and exercise the revised national contingency Plan
- b) Facilitate 1 national training workshops (3 days) on OPRC specifically Contingency Planning and HNS for 25-30 national specialists based on the revised national contingency plan indicated in 3.2 above; facilitate discussion on the completion and approval of the revised NSCP. The main provisions of the NSCP can be briefly tested during a table top exercise carried out during half a day during the workshop.
- c) provide recommendations for improved response capacity based on the analysis on information provided in the NSCP regarding existing Plans and response policy and available response equipment in the country.
- d) provide feedback to the participants throughout the workshop to enhance learning and to facilitate the learning process; and
- e) At the conclusion of the contract, the Consultant shall consolidate the final national Contingency Plan after incorporating all comments national workshop report and Final Consultancy Report including summary of all consultancy outputs and recommendation and submit this to PERSGA secretariat.

The tentative program of the workshop can be outlined as below:

- Day 1: presentation of the updated NSCP, and IMO level 3 training on oil and chemical spill response
- Day 2: testing of the plan through a table top exercise, debriefing and discussion
- Day 3: recommendations for the finalization and implementation of the NSCP in Egypt.

4. Timeframe and schedule for key deliverables

The consultant will work with PERSGA on a lumpsum contractual basis. The contract comes into effect upon signature and ends upon satisfactory delivery of the tasks identified in the Table below.

Milestone/ Deliverables	Timelines
1) Inception report which includes a detailed work plan indicating key milestones and timeline, outlines of methodology 1/Deliverable1)	Within 2 weeks of signature of the Contract
2) Draft NSCP Plan to addressing both oil and HNS spills	No later than 8 weeks (2 months) after signature of the Contract
3) Review of the revised Draft Plan	No later than 12 weeks (3 months) after signature of the Contract
4) Revised NSCP including HNS component (Draft Final Plan)	No later than 16 weeks (4months) after signature of the Contract
5) Training program and delivery of the national workshop	No later than 20 weeks (5 months) after signature of the Contract
6) Final Consultancy Report including summary of all consultancy outputs and recommendations	No later than 24 weeks (6 months) after signature of the Contract

5. Duty station and duration

Duty station: Home based (Egypt) including interviews and consultations with relevant national stakeholders in collaboration and close cooperation with EEAA and provision of training. The consultancy will be completed over 6 months

6. Qualifications

- University degree (preferable postgraduate) in maritime pollution, marine ecology or related disciplines.
- Rich experience in similar consultancies on contingency planning, preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills with international organizations, including three similar assignments in volume and complexity during the last seven years.
- Familiar with shipping operations in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and have a good knowledge of the various port terminals in Egypt, including also legal and administrative matters in the region.
- Strong proficiency in writing and speaking in English and Arabic languages.
- Ability to prepare documents and reporting at international standards.

7. Application procedure and closing date

Interested applicant should submit Expression of Interest (EoI) letter and CV to the following email address: sourcing@persga.org

- Applications should be received no later than 15th June 2025 (23:59 Riyadh Time Zone)
- EoI letter should indicate the vacancy title and Activity Code mentioned above.