



Call for Applications ADAPT Project Advisory Group (PAG)



Positions title: ADAPT Project Advisory Group (PAG) independent expert

Duration: April 2020 – October 2022

Duty station: home country of the member. Travel to PAG meeting locations may be required by the assignment. Online meetings are also possible.

Type of appointment: voluntary independent expert; approximately 5-7 days per year.

Closing Date for applications: 27 April 2020, 23:59 CET

IUCN Contact :

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1. Background

The Western Balkan economies are among the most vulnerable with respect to climate change impacts affecting numerous sectors and domains. Yet, the value derived from employing [Nature-based solutions](#) in response to societal challenges remains underexplored and the benefits compared to conventional engineered solutions are often not recognised. The application of approaches that integrate ecosystems and nature more broadly into climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures are still insufficient and fragmented. Beyond the positive impact on societies and improved management of disaster risks, Nature-based solutions benefit habitats and biodiversity as well as support climate change mitigation and adaptation.

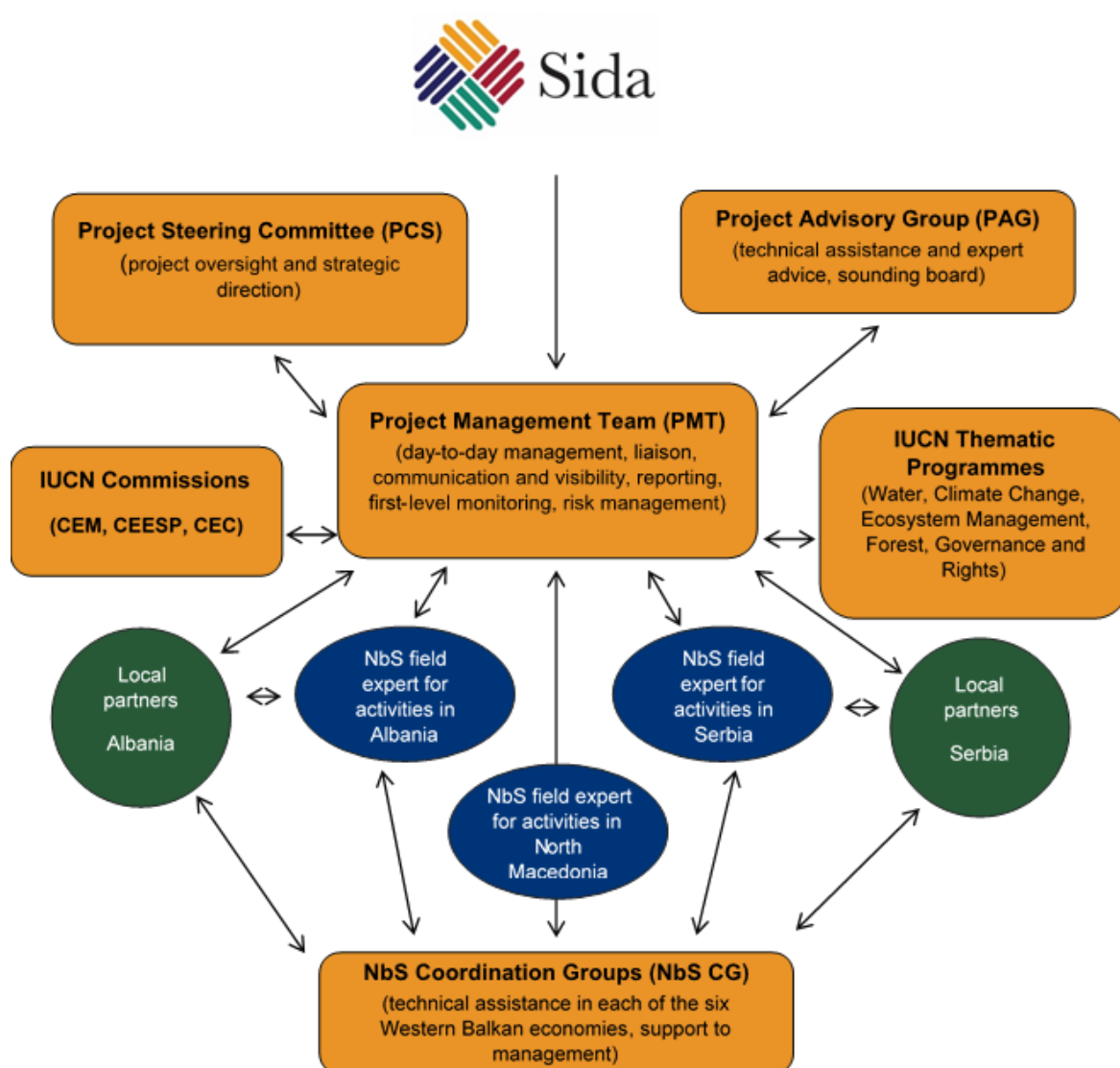
[ADAPT: Nature-based solutions for resilient societies in the Western Balkans](#) addresses these challenges. The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and implemented by IUCN. It will run for three years (November 2019–October 2022) and aims to increase ecosystem and community resilience to climate change and environmental degradation in the Western Balkans. This regional umbrella initiative works with the six Western Balkan economies, regional and local partners.

The goals of the project are:

1. Increasing the knowledge and awareness of nature-based disaster risk reduction solutions among decision makers, natural resource managers and local communities;
2. Integration of Nature-based solutions and equitable climate-smart planning into adaptation and disaster reduction policy; and
3. Implementation of Nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction and their scale-up.

2. Governance structure of the project

To achieve project objectives, ADAPT is establishing a robust interface between science, policy, planning and action at all levels. The various levels of the governance and management structure of the project are created to ensure multiple levels of oversight, effective coordination between different project components and units as well as full transparency of actions and accountability of partners.



Picture 1: Overview of project governance; structure, roles, responsibilities and relationships

3. The role of the Project Advisory Group

The Project Advisory Group serves as a regional expert body comprised of national and international experts with expertise in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Its main purpose is to serve as a principal regional expert platform on Nature-based solutions to support knowledge generation and sharing, coordination and capacity development, providing expert advice to the Project Management Team and national partners involved in ADAPT. In particular, the Project Advisory Group will provide strategic direction and guidance on pilot projects, tools, such as on Nature-based solutions and gender mainstreaming, oversee their implementation and advise on the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework and methodological guide as well as a follow-up Nature-based Solutions project. It will further ensure a common approach to the application of the IUCN Global Nature-based solutions Standard currently under development and Nature-based solutions principles across the Western Balkans. The Project Advisory Group will closely cooperate and coordinate with the Project Management Team and IUCN thematic programmes involved in project implementation.

Main functions of the Project Advisory Group:

- Serve as a regional network and knowledge hub on Nature-based solutions, providing advice on priority areas and topics, including recommendations pertaining to ADAPT objectives and activities
- Promote the uptake and implementation of the IUCN Nature-based solutions Standard in the Western Balkans
- Provide strategic direction and technical input to Nature-based solutions knowledge products (e.g. on gender mainstreaming, policy analysis and guidance) and standards developed in the frame of the ADAPT project
- Source of advice on technical issues and priorities in employing Nature-based solutions in the Western Balkans, especially with regards to priorities at economy level
- Provide expert advice and oversight over key activities of the project, including the implementation of pilot projects and the development of a follow-up large-scale Nature-based solutions project
- Source of advice on policy mainstreaming as well as on climate financing opportunities
- Serve as a broker to identify priorities and opportunities for advancing research, advocacy efforts and generating scientific and other knowledge products to support the promotion of Nature-based solutions in and beyond the Western Balkans
- Source of expert advice on day-to-day business

4. Tentative schedule of PAG meetings

A total of six two-day meetings are foreseen (two per year) during the three-year project implementation period, including three field trips. They are planned as follows:

Meeting	Tentative meeting date
1	April 2020
2	September 2020
3	April 2021
4	September 2021
5	April 2022
6	September 2022

5. Membership

Membership in the Project Advisory Group is voluntary and should reflect the breadth of issues to be addressed in the ADAPT project. It will be made up of a maximum of 10 members, one from each of the participating economies (6) nominated by the respective Nature-based solutions Coordination Group at its first meeting, two international experts selected through an open call as well as two IUCN Project Team Members. The Project Advisory Group will be comprised of renowned national and international experts in respective fields of expertise. Additionally, the Project Advisory Group will be set up in a manner to ensure diversity and balanced representation in terms of gender, age, sectors, experience and organisational backgrounds. Selected members will serve on the Project Advisory Group for the duration of the project.

In terms of background, the following expertise should be represented:

- At least one member with expertise in climate finance
- At least one member with expertise in monitoring and evaluation
- At least one member with expertise in the design and implementation of Nature-based Solutions
- At least one member with expertise in gender-responsive climate change adaptation planning
- At least two members with international experience or based outside the Western Balkans

At its first meeting in April 2020, selected members will elect a Chair.

6. Experience and qualifications

- Technical expertise on Nature-based solutions, climate change, disaster risk reduction, climate finance and/or gender mainstreaming
- Ability to work in partnership, including proven ability to work well as part of a diverse, multi-cultural and geographically dispersed team
- Capacity to generate and transform knowledge into meaningful action
- Experience working with stakeholders at the local, national and regional level in the Western Balkan region
- Willingness to serve as a Nature-based solutions knowledge hub and future resource centre
- Track record of relevant publications is a significant advantage
- Membership in relevant scientific and technical networks is an advantage

7. Appointment and applications

Nominated experts from the six participating economies

All experts nominated by the respective Nature-based Solutions Coordination Groups should submit their credentials (see application form below) and a letter of nomination. Appointed experts are not required to submit references and a letter of motivation.

International expert positions

All interested and qualified persons are encouraged to submit their credentials and a supporting Letter of Motivation in English addressing and providing evidence for the specific experience and qualifications relevant to the specific expert position along with the Application Form (see below).

All applications for international expert positions should be submitted by email before **27 April 2020**, to Kristin Meyer, kristin.meyer@iucn.org.

The application should be sent with the subject line: Application PAG expert ADAPT

Any application received by IUCN later than the stipulated closing date and time, and any application that is incomplete, will not be considered.

8. Eligibility, selection criteria and process

The eligible candidates must be:

- available to allocate sufficient time for PAG work;
- independent from, and free from any conflict of interest (whether actual, potential or reasonably perceived). The selected experts will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest.
- able and willing to serve in an individual expert capacity and provide the best scientific and technical advice, irrespective of views that may be held by any organisation s/he may be affiliated with;
- not impose any additional conditions on his/her participation.

The selection criteria for *international expert* positions are:

- Specific knowledge of Nature-based solutions, climate change, disaster risk reduction, climate finance and/or gender mainstreaming and relevant field experience (reference of activities and projects should be provided)
- Proven experience in multi-sector analysis of relevant policies, strategies and programmes and formulation of sound recommendations for priority setting and their improvement.
- General good understanding of the region's climate change and biodiversity policies and targets.
- General good understanding of the region's societal challenges related to climate change and disaster risk.

The eligible candidates will be evaluated based on the information and evidence provided in the application as well as the experience and qualification requirements outlined above and in accordance with relevant IUCN Policies and Procedures. Additional considerations will be given to ensure a balanced selection of the final PAG team, again in line with relevant IUCN Policies and Procedures.

The expert applications will be analysed by the ADAPT Project Management Team in collaboration with IUCN Global Programmes. The results of the call for interest and the most suitable applications will be shared with Sida and key project partners. The selected PAG experts will be asked to sign a PAG member agreement.

Working with IUCN means joining a dedicated and diverse team of experts based all over the world.

9. Conditions

Working language

The working language in the context of the Action component's implementation is English.

Time commitment

The time commitment of individual members can range between 5-7 days per year.

Compensation

PAG members serve on a voluntary basis. All travel and subsistence costs to participate in physical PAG meetings are covered by IUCN.

Independence and conflict of interest

PAG experts should be independent from, and free from any conflict of interest (whether actual, potential or reasonably perceived). The selected experts will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest before taking part in the PAG.

Contractual conditions

IUCN is not bound in any way to enter into any contractual or other arrangement with any candidate as a result of issuing this call for applications. IUCN reserves the right to terminate the selection process at any time prior to contract award. By participating in this call for applications, candidates accept the conditions set out in this Call for Applications.

About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and some 15,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

www.iucn.org

<https://twitter.com/IUCN>

APPLICATION TO SERVE AS A PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP EXPERT FOR THE ADAPT PROJECT

Fill in the form in English and attach supporting materials

Mr/Mrs/Ms	
Full name	
Affiliation	
Nationality	
Work address	
Country	
E-mail	
Phone	

ELIGIBILITY

Mark acceptance of each with an 'X'

I agree/declare that:	Use 'X'
I am available to allocate sufficient time for PAG work (see note on the call for applications)	
I am independent from, and free from any conflict of interest (whether actual, potential or reasonably perceived)	
I have read and signed the declaration of no conflict of interest	
I am able and willing to serve and provide the best scientific and technical advice, irrespective of views that may be held by any organisation I may be affiliated with	
I will not impose any additional conditions on my participation	

REFERENCES

Please provide 3 references (names, positions, relationship to your work and contact information), including one recent employer/client.

Referee 1	
Name	
Position	
Affiliation	
Relationship to your work	
Contact information (email, phone)	
Referee 2	
Name	
Position	
Affiliation	
Relationship to your work	
Contact information (email, phone)	
Referee 3	
Name	
Position	
Affiliation	
Relationship to your work	
Contact information (email, phone)	

Please submit this form along with your:

- **CREDENTIALS**, which include but is not limited to short CV focusing on your recent (last 10 years) experience, education, achievements, any awards, membership to relevant professional networks/organisations/bodies or any other supporting materials, as well as a short list of your key publications *relevant to this application*.
- **LETTER OF MOTIVATION**, which must specifically address and provide information and evidence for the technical requirements *related to the expert position*, as well as the experience and qualifications, as detailed in the Call for Applications (in terms of examples of a relevant situation, task, action, result).
- **SIGNED DECLARATION OF NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST (Annex 1)**

Annex 1:

Declaration of Impartiality

I, the undersigned, **[insert name]**, express my willingness to participate and provide my expertise to the ADAPT Project Advisory Group.

I hereby declare that:

- I have not granted, sought, attempted to obtain or accepted and will not grant, seek, attempt to obtain, or accept any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, constituting an illegal or corrupt practice, either directly or indirectly, as an incentive or reward relating to the ADAPT project;
- To my knowledge, I have no conflict of interest in relation to the organisations and actors involved in the ADAPT project. A conflict of interest may arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest;
- I confirm that if I discover during my membership in the ADAPT PAG that such a conflict exists or might exist, I shall declare it immediately to the Project Management Team at IUCN ECARO. In the case that such a conflict is confirmed by the Project Management Team, I agree that this may result in being released from participating in the Project Advisory Group;
- I shall execute my responsibilities impartially and objectively. I further declare that, to the best of my knowledge, I am not in a situation that could cast doubt on my ability to contribute to the ADAPT PAG;
- I shall act honestly, truthfully and with integrity in all dealings, examine the accuracy and sources of all relevant information before allowing it to be used in ADAPT products and advice and comply with all applicable laws and regulations in all dealings relevant to IUCN and ADAPT activities and objectives;
- I shall respect the confidentiality of sensitive information obtained through my membership in the ADAPT PAG and not disclose such information to third parties.

Signed:

Name:

Date: