

Request for proposal

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Technical assistance to the Med Trails Network in analyzing climate change impact, and adaptation for Mediterranean trails and community-based tourism

For the AFD project:

Emergence of the first trails network from the Mediterranean

Deadline for submission of application: April 12, 2024, 12am CET

1. Project details

1.1. Project presentation

Project	Emergence of the first trails network from the Mediterranean
Project location	France, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon Mediterranean region
Project partners	AFRAT Tétraktys Palestinian Heritage Trail (PHT) Jordan Trail Association (JTA) Lebanon Mountain Trail Association (LMTA)
Project duration	36 months: from June 1 st , 2023, to May 31 st , 2026
Project budget	2 769 231€

AFRAT is part of a consortium of associations implementing the project *Emergence of the first trails network from the Mediterranean*. The project was born in view of creating a common tool at Euro-Mediterranean Regional level to address the challenges of managing, structuring, promoting and animating long-distance hiking trails. It aims to promote the economic development of rural areas through hiking tourism.

Supported by Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the network brings together a consortium of 5 partners, representing 4 countries on the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.

1.2. Presentation of the consortium

AFRAT has been active for almost 60 years in the fields of training, regional development, and tourism, working with local authorities, institutions, and entrepreneurs, mainly in France but also internationally. A pioneering organization in the Vercors region for the development of rural tourism, the projects supported by AFRAT mainly affect rural and mountain areas and their inhabitants. Located at the heart of the Vercors Regional Nature Park, AFRAT provides expertise in capacity building, heritage enhancement and governance, itinerance and outdoor activities. The association has been able to export its know-how internationally by developing projects since 2004, in particular by participating in the creation of Tétraktys nearly 30 years ago. In 2023, AFRAT also supported projects in Palestine, Armenia, and Burkina Faso.

Tétraktys is a French NGO based in Grenoble, capital of the French Alps. It was founded in 1994 with the ambition of sharing the Alpine experience internationally in terms of heritage preservation and enhancement, sustainable tourism development and shared governance. The supported actions aim at improving the livelihoods of rural and mountain communities around the world.

With almost 30 years' experience, Tétraktys has developed a wide range of skills and a network of experienced Alpine stakeholders. It is thanks to this base, established both in the Alps and abroad, that the association today offers its know-how to local authorities and civil society stakeholders. Tétraktys supports new local projects to emerge, combining local development, innovation, and transition.

Palestinian Heritage Trail is a long-distance cultural hiking route in Palestine. The trail is about 500 km long and extends from the village of Rummana northwest of Jenin to Beit Mirsim southwest of Hebron back to Artas in Bethlehem, in addition to the newly developed Jerusalem segment that starts in Eizariya through the Old City of Jerusalem towards the villages in the Northwest (Beit Suriq to Beit Duqo). The trail passes through more than 60 Palestinian cities, villages, and local communities where travelers can experience and enjoy the authentic Palestinian Hospitality.

The Palestinian Heritage Trail is more than just a hiking trail. It is a means of meeting and making connections with local Palestinians and hikers from all over the world. You can explore Bedouin communities and experience the traditional Palestinian dishes, which is one of Palestine's most fundamental traditions. The Trail does not only invite hikers to experience nature but also to change their perspectives by recognizing shared common values and creating friendships along the way.

The Jordan Trail Association (JTA) is a long-distance hiking trail in Jordan linking Um Qais in the north to Aqaba in the south. It provides 40 days of hiking over 675 kilometers of trails and passes through 75 villages. The trail crosses a large variety of landscapes: from the forested hills of the north, through the rugged wadis, the cliffs overlooking the Jordan Valley, the pink rock of Petra, the sandy deserts, and mountains of Wadi Rum, to the crystal-clear waters of the Red Sea. The Jordan Trail also runs through Jordan's history and culture. The JTA model allows you to taste Jordan's varied cuisines, meet the locals, and sleep in local homes. The trail also passes through the main historical sites of the region such as Um Qais, Jerash and Petra.

Established in 2007, the Lebanon Mountain Trail Association (LMTA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to:

- Maintaining and protecting the Lebanon Mountain Trail (LMT) and its side trails
- Promote the LMT as a destination for rural tourism and well-being
- Conserve the natural resources and protect the cultural heritage on the LMT
- Advance economic opportunities on the LMT through responsible tourism
- Encourage responsible behavior through targeted education, community mobilization & outreach

The Lebanon Mountain Trail is Lebanon's first long-distance hiking trail. It stretches from Andqet Akkar in northern Lebanon to Marjeyoun in the south, a 600 km long trail (covering the main linear trail along with the side trails and network trails) that crosses more than 76 towns and villages at an altitude ranging from 570 meters to 2,073 meters above sea level.

2. Consultancy

2.1. Objective

On behalf of the consortium, AFRAT is looking for a consultant to provide a technical assistance to the Med Trails Network technical team to analyze climate change impact and adaptation for trails and community-based tourism in Mediterranean countries. The focus of the consultancy is to identify the threats, the risk, resilience capacities and the most sustainable adaptation practices for communities along trails and tourism stakeholders: DMOs, service providers, local communities' businesses, trails associations, institutions etc.

The consultant should help the trail management organizations to be more relevant in designing and implementing awareness raising activities. He/She will also help defining trainings program to support the communities along the trails and to adapt the capacities of tourism service providers and local authorities to the challenges of climate change, based on local communities' vulnerability assessment.

2.2. Scope of work

The consultancy shall include three sub-objectives:

- The first sub-objective is to draw up an inventory of studies related to climate change impact at the community level for the four partner countries, and at mediterranean scale for community based and tourism sector.

The consultant will be tasked with:

- Identifying the most relevant sources of information to analyze impact of climate change at community level in the 4 partners countries
 - Identifying the most relevant sources of information to analyze impact of climate change and adaptations for tourism sector in the Mediterranean area
 - Create a databased of information
 - Provide a summary of impact and adaptation measure identified
 - Present the result to the Med Trails Network technical team and partners
- The second sub-objective is to implement a vulnerability assessment, trail tourism oriented, on 3 selected communities along the Jordan Trail, Lebanon Mountain trail and Palestinian heritage trail.

The consultant will be tasked with:

- Identify and implement a relevant methodology to assess the communities vulnerability (DIVA, VCA, CRISTAL, ...)
- Identify socio-economic and environmental impact of climate change
- Facilitate the integration of gender equality, ecosystems and inclusive governance
- Identifying threats and risks for the community based and trails tourism sectors and stakeholders
- Identify good practice and adaptation mechanisms at community level

- Provide recommendation for trails organizations to support the communities in facing climate change challenges
- The third objective is to support to the Med Trails Network technical team to implement trainings for service providers and local authorities and awareness raising activities.

The consultant will be tasked with:

- Assess the knowledge and capacity of the technical team regarding of climate change challenges
- Build up the capacities of the Med Trails Network technical team to face climate change challenges
- Support the technical team in designing an intensive awareness campaign aimed at tourism providers, local authorities and the communities crossed by the hiking routes
- Support the technical team in designing awareness raising tools
- Support the technical team in setting up a common training program to adapt the capacities of tourism service providers and local authorities to the challenges of climate change
- Facilitate the integration of gender equality, ecosystems and inclusive governance in the Med Trails Network activities
- Support the Med Trails Network technical team in writing a common charter of good environmental practices for the members of the consortium and the partners of the three trails

2.3. Methodology

For the three sub-objectives, the consultant will be asked to do:

- Desk research
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis.
- Interviews
- Field visits, if possible.
- Provide synthesis
- Participate in technical meeting online
- Provide online presentation of the results for Med Trails Networks teams and partners

Phasing and traveling:

- The technical assistant should attempt the Med Trails Network Annual events in June 2024 in France and in 2025 in Jordan.
- The consultant is expected to provide a first analyses of his mission challenges and perspectives during the 2024 annual event.
- Additional missions should be organized for the realization of the second sub-objective (vulnerability and capacity analysis)
- The consultant should be available to support and advise the MTN technical team
- An action plan and a calendar should be proposed in the offer

Capacity building:

Capacity building session on specific topic will be organized with the members of the consortium

Gender and youth approach:

Analysis should include gender indicators.

Case studies should disaggregate all quantitative indicators by sex, age, and community. The interviews and investigations should also engage with gender equality mechanisms.

2.4. Outputs

The following outputs are expected:

- Thematic online presentation of the result of the studies to the consortium and during annual event in English.
- A synthesis in French, English, and Arabic (maximum 10 pages) including recommendation for trail tourism adaptation.

Please note that the study is all designed in a visual, practical way, in an attempt to deliver as much practical information to communicate at different level: technical, institutional, broad audience.

2.5. Scope of price proposal

Time-based contract

Missions costs are paid on actual costs.

Maximum budget for the action is 30 000€ including staff cost and missions cost.

2.6. Consultancy timeframe

The consultancy is expected to start in Mai 2024 up to November 2025.

3. Applicant

Interested and eligible candidates should meet the following requirements:

Education:

- Master's degree in tourism, sustainable development or economics or related field
- PHD in tourism, sustainable development, or economic development is a plus.

Experience:

- At least 5 years of experience in the field of climate change impact and adaptation, as a practitioner, academic or related functions.
- Strong knowledge of the tourism sector, with a focus on sustainable tourism and hiking trails.
- Excellent knowledge of sustainable development and local development in the mediterranean area
- Demonstrated capacity in capacity building.
- At least 1 relevant experience in vulnerability assessment. A consultant familiar with gender equality in impact assessment will be an asset.
- Demonstrated reporting skills and ability in synthetizing and presenting analysis.

Language:

- Fluency in French and English (oral and writing skills).
- Fluency in Arabic is an asset.

4. Tender documents

The call for tender is composed as follows:

- Terms of reference
- Annex 1 – Tender procedures
- Annex 2 – Technical application form
- Annex 3 – Financial application form

Annex are available on request by contacting:

Camille Marconnet, International Project Manager, Afrat : camille.marconnet@aftrat.com

5. Contact details

Applications must be submitted in English exclusively and sent, by email, to:

Camille Marconnet, International Project Manager, Afrat: camille.marconnet@aftrat.com

The subject line of the email should read: "Request for Proposal – Technical Assistance Climate Change".

The deadline for the submission of the application is on April 12,2024, 12am (CET).

Any question about the call for proposal should be addressed to the email above before April 10.