



Request for Proposals to create the IASNR Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Date: Wednesday, 1st May, 2024

Deadline for submissions: May 17, 2024, 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Submit proposals to: info@iasnr.org

Overview

This is a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking submissions for a firm, group or individual consultant to assist the International Association for Society and Natural Resources Executive Officers with developing the Association's strategic plan for 2025-2030. The length of this consultancy is from August 2024 to December 2024. The RFP contains background information, expectations for this consultancy engagement, and submission guidelines. The contract will be offered to the contractor that best meets the requirements of this RFP.

Introduction

The International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) is an interdisciplinary professional association open to individuals who bring a variety of social science and natural science backgrounds to bear on research and application strategies pertaining to the environment and natural resource issues.

IASNR was founded in 2001 to provide a professional association to support the integration of social and natural sciences to develop research and application strategies pertaining to environmental and natural resource issues. It was preceded by its ISSRM conference, started in 1986 at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, USA and its journal, *Society & Natural Resources*, first published by Taylor & Francis in 1988. IASNR has approximately 600 members representing 45 countries around the world. As an association, IASNR follows unique governing policies with the Executive Officers as leadership.

IASNR seeks to act in ways that embody our vision, mission and commitment to diversity and ethics.

Vision: The International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) strives to be the premier international association of social scientists, policy makers, and practitioners studying and managing human relationships with the environment and natural resources.

Mission: IASNR's mission is to foster better scientific understandings of society-natural resource relationships; assist in the professional development of social scientists, policy makers, practitioners, and students from around the world studying these issues; and provide opportunities for them to meet and share their work with each other.

For more information on IASNR's governing policies, mission, vision, and values, click [here](#).

Commitment to Diversity and Ethics: The International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) is committed to fostering a welcoming and vibrant community with members of all races and ethnicities, genders, religions, political affiliations, nationalities, language groups, ages, experience, education levels, and abilities. IASNR has a [Code of Ethics](#) in place to ensure mutual respect and trust for all members.

Background

In March 2024, IASNR Council agreed to the creation of the Association's inaugural strategic plan. Council discussed the critical importance of a strategic plan in not only defining its strategies (e.g., goals and objectives) over the coming five years, but also helping with the prioritization of concrete actions to guide core activities including further development of conferences, publication and internationalisation initiatives. Key areas that the Council seek covered in the strategic plan include strategies and priority actions linked to:

- Conferences: nature, timing, intended audience
- Journal: strategic focus and processing of papers
- Membership: Building and retaining
- Internationalisation: hubs, hybrid engagements, partnerships

While the IASNR Council is responsible for endorsing the strategic plan to cover the next 5 years, it is a document that is dynamic and adaptable and is to be adjusted based on new information and changing circumstances. Hence, the Council is committed to reviewing, and if needed, revising it annually.

Expectations for this Engagement

The consultant awarded this contract is expected to support IASNR Council in developing a strategic plan that will help the Council meet the goals of the association. As part of this consultancy, the following activities are considered essential:

- Desk review and analysis of IASNR's core documents and data.
- Identify and compare strategic plans for professional organizations of similar focus and/or size to develop structural ideas
- Facilitate sessions with the Council, in virtual environments.
- Lead a consultation process with IASNR members and other key stakeholders, and seek quantitative and qualitative feedback on the first draft of the strategic plan.
- Work closely with a subset of board members over the course of the engagement.

The deliverable for this engagement is a strategic plan that links directly to IASNR's mission, vision, and values and includes actions and measures of success that can be acted upon by Council and association members over the coming 5 years. We expect the deliverable to take the form of up to a 20 page strategic plan accompanied by a slide deck that gives an overview of the process and includes the key takeaways from the strategic plan. The strategic plan is to include an overview of the strategic planning process, a description of the core elements of the strategic plan outlined in this paragraph and their importance to IASNR's immediate and future direction, and considerations for the board when finalizing the strategic plan. Membership feedback is important. We expect the consultant to propose an approach to seek feedback from the membership on the draft strategic plan that strikes a balance between the budget and the ask.

The consultant will report directly to the IASNR's Executive Officers and work with IASNR staff and appropriately manage communications and relationships with each of these key partners. The IASNR Executive Officers and IASNR Staff have approximately 15 hours to work with the consultant on their tasks.

Expertise of the Consultant

- *Expertise in facilitation:* Prospective consultants should be experts in inquiry, problem-solving, and facilitation. Those who will be effective will have experience managing group dynamics to best facilitate discourse between board members and encourage communication and teamwork.
- *Expertise in translating research to practice:* Prospective consultants should have ample experience with interpreting findings from existing studies that have been conducted both inside and outside of the organization and applying these findings practice. An ideal consultant would find opportunities to align findings from prior analysis, the strategic objectives of the organization, and emerging recommendations toward the organization's vitality.

- *Expertise in organizational change management:* Prospective consultants should understand change management principles that will inform how IASNR implements the strategic plan. Those who will be effective will have experience in leading strategic development in large and diverse non-profit membership organizations.
- *Expertise in working with diverse populations:* Prospective consultants should have expertise working with a diverse composition of identities (i.e., people of color, various disciplines, and lived experiences). Consultants should have the capacity to employ non-traditional approaches to strategic planning that challenge IASNR from a critical perspective. This learning process includes the acknowledging and unlearning of biases as well as implementing approaches that responsively work with minoritized communities to equitable ends.
- *Expertise in society and natural resource issues:* Prospective consultants should have expertise in the environmental and/or social sciences and be able to apply this to contemporary natural resource management research or applied challenges.

Proposal

The proposal should be clearly structured into the following sections:

Organizational Overview: A summary description of your organization's experience according to the listed expertise and content specialties. Include a cover page with a primary point of contact information.

Qualifications: A short profile of the lead consultant, and if applicable, any team members that will be supporting you. We will assume that the team members you propose will be available for the assignment if your organization is selected. Please include a resume for the lead and team members.

Approach: A narrative that shares ideas of how you would approach this project. The goal of this section is not to provide a full project plan but to help us understand how you would think about approaching this engagement.

Budget: A general proposed budget for this effort, including all fees and expenses.

Legal Status: Your organization's legal status (a public charity, for-profit organization, sole proprietorship, individual, etc.).

Work Samples: Please provide no more than three work samples. These can include a combination of internal work products, interim findings, and public/published reports (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefs, articles, etc.).

Insurance: A copy of professional indemnity insurance.

The IASNR will keep confidential any materials sent to us and will not use these in any way other than for our consultant selection process. Please limit your application to no more than eight pages excluding cover page, budget, work samples, and any resumes/cv. Also, please include the name, title, phone number and e-mail address or the primary point of contact on your cover page.

Budget

IASNR expects to enter into a contract with a facilitator/contractor. The amount of the contract is 'not to exceed' amount of USD \$28,000. IASNR is not liable for the costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFP.

RFP Process

This RFP includes the following phases.

Activity	Date(s)
Proposals are due	May 17
Interview with short-listed consultants	June 13
Select consultant	June 30

If you are a firm, group or individual with expertise in the above areas and are interested in being considered for this contract, please submit a *proposal* by May 17, 2024 by 5:00 PM based on the local time.

You may also send any questions about the RFP or process to christopher.raymond@helsinki.fi

Project Timeline

This is a 6 month contract, starting in mid-August 2024 and ending in mid-January 2025. This engagement includes virtual meetings. Virtual meeting meetings occur on Zoom. IASNR Council will provide the applicant that is awarded the contract with the meeting dates and times.

Activity	Date(s)
Contract starts	August 19, 2024
Kickoff meeting with smaller board group (virtual)	August 19-23, 2024
Outline strategic plan approach and process (virtual)	September 6, 2024
Finalize strategic plan approach/process (virtual)	September 13, 2024
Strategic objectives and actions workshop with Council	September 26, 2024
First Draft of Strategic Plan	November 3, 2024
Consultation with IASNR members and other key stakeholders	November 6-25, 2024
Presentation of member feedback to Council	November 26, 2024
Second Draft of Strategic Plan	December 19, 2024
Final Draft of Strategic Plan	January 14, 2025
Contract Ends	January 15, 2025

Terms and Conditions

IASNR reserves the right to reject any or all applications and to waive informalities and minor irregularities in applications received, as well as to accept any portion of an application or all items proposed if deemed in the best interest of the Partnership.

Modification or Withdrawal of Applications. Applications may be modified or withdrawn prior to the established deadline.

Additional questions? Contact: christopher.raymond@helsinki.fi, Executive Director of IASNR