هـيـئـة الـبـيـئـة - أبـوظـبـي
Environment Agency - ABU DHABI

Technical Guidance Document Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Permitting in Abu Dhabi Emirate 2024

Purpose of This Guidance Document

The Environment Agency–Abu Dhabi (EAD), as the Competent Authority for environmental permitting in the environmental field in Abu Dhabi Emirate, details in this guideline the permitting requirements for coastal and marine habitat restoration (planting or any other activities).

Table of Contents

Contents

Purpose of This Guidance Document 2
List of Abbreviations 4
Definitions of Terms 5
1. INTRODUCTION 7
1.1 Purpose 7
1.2 Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Permitting Requirements 8
1.3 Procedure for obtaining an NOC for coastal and marine habitat restoration 8
1.4 Key Principles of Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Permitting 11
2.1. Phase 1: Site Selection and evaluation of restoration needs. 12
2.2. Phase 2: Developing and submitting a Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Plan 13
2.3 Phase 3: Obtaining an NOC for Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration 17
2.4 Phase 4: Restoration & Monitoring 17
APPENDIX A 18

List of Abbreviations

EAD	Environment Agency Abu Dhabi
NOC	No Objection Certificate
UAE	United Arab Emirates
ADMI	Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative

Definitions of Terms

Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative: An initiative launched in 2022 by the government of Abu Dhabi, to foster and promote excellence in coastal restoration, integrate innovation and best practice, and work collaboratively to protect and restore coastal habitats.

Afforestation/Initial Afforestation: The establishment or creation of forests (coastal and marine habitats and other trees) where no forest existed previously. It is thus distinct from restoration.

Area of Probable Impact: The extent of a physical area occupied by an environmental component that is likely to be impacted by at least one of the phases of the proposed restoration project. The boundary of the area of probable impact is determined by measurements, previous studies, models, or best professional judgment and may vary by environmental component.

Assessment Area: The physical area that the consultant and proponent have identified for assessment of potential environmental impacts.

Change in ecological character: The human-induced adverse alteration of any ecosystem component, process, and/or ecosystem benefit/service.

Competent Authority: Shall mean the Competent Authority in the concerned Emirate, which is the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, in Abu Dhabi Emirate.

Contractor: Any individual, commercial entity, agency, group or department contracted by the Project Proponent to carry out any aspect of a coastal and marine habitat restoration project.

EAD: Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi.

Environmental Component: Attribute or constituent of the environment (i.e. Marine Water; Waste Management; Geology, Seismicity, Soil, and Groundwater; Marine Ecology; Terrestrial Ecology; Noise; Traffic) that may be impacted by the proposed restoration project.

Environmental Hazard: Any substance, physical effect, or condition with potential to harm people, property, or the environment.

Environmental Impact: Positive or negative impact that occurs to an environmental component as a result of the proposed project. This impact can be directly or indirectly caused by the project's different phases (e.g., construction and operation).

Hazardous Waste: Waste that poses potential harm to human health and the environment.

Coastal and marine habitats: In the context of Abu Dhabi Emirate and this guideline, these include coral reefs, seagrass, mangroves, saltmarsh, mudflats, intertidal flats, algal mats, coastal sabkha, coastal sand sheets and dunes, oyster beds, coastal lagoons, rocky shores and any other coastal or marine habitat as defined by the Abu Dhabi Habitat Classification Scheme and the Abu Dhabi Red List of Ecosystems issued by EAD.

Habitat Restoration NOC: The permission issued by EAD to the Proponent which allows him or her to restore habitats in the specified area of Abu Dhabi Emirate during the specified period. All activities relating to coastal and marine habitat restoration, including seed collection, specimen collection, planting, relocation, translocation, land or substrate enhancement, hydrological modification or other will require an NOC as part of the approval process. The NOC constitutes an approval for habitat restoration that includes or excludes planting and is issued after an assessment of the Habitat Restoration Plan. NOCs are issued by EAD on a case-by-case basis.

Habitat Restoration: Habitat Restoration refers to all operations required to restore habitats, that may or may not include planting. EAD issue NOCs for activities that are part of an evidence based ecological restoration project with justified ecological/climate mitigation benefits.

Habitat Restoration Site: The area allocated or selected in which habitats are restored through direct human intervention.

Mitigation: Mitigating ecological impacts refers to actions that minimise, reduce or offset project impacts (compensatory mitigation).

Restoration Site: The physical area within which all processes and activities of the proposed restoration will take place.

Proponent: Any individual, commercial entity, agency, group or department responsible for the planning, funding and implementation of coastal and marine habitat restoration projects.

Residual Impact: A potential environmental impact that is associated with the proposed project that is not addressed as part of the recommended mitigation measures (i.e., is not mitigated as part of the proposed project).

Reforestation: The natural or intentional restocking of existing coastal mangrove forests that have been depleted or removed by human activity, i.e., planting in areas where they already occur, following their intentional or natural removal.

Restoration: Actions or projects that promote a return to or toward original conditions and projects that improve the ecological character of the site without necessarily promoting a return to original/reference conditions. The term “restoration” applies to locations where natural habitat previously existed or where an existing habitat is degraded**.**

Solid Waste: Rubbish, debris, garbage, and other discarded solid materials resulting from the project that are not classified as hazardous waste.

1. INTRODUCTION

A No Objection Certificate (NOC) for habitat restoration is required for any habitat restoration project in Abu Dhabi Emirate, that may or may not include planting. NOCs for habitat restoration are issued by the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD) on a case-by-case basis, following the review and assessment of a Habitat Restoration Plan.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of requiring a permit for habitat restoration in Abu Dhabi Emirate is to ensure that these initiatives will have higher chances of success and ensure that any restoration activity including or excluding planting, seed collection, specimen collection or translocation takes place according to science-based principles and in suitable sites where it will provide ecological and climate mitigation benefits without adversely affecting other habitat types.

Natural coastal ecosystems in Abu Dhabi including coral, mangroves, seagrass and saltmarsh provide several key ecosystem services including creating shelters for wildlife, providing food and habitat that support fisheries and protecting from coastal erosion and sequestering carbon. EAD's goal, in line with the targets outlined in national and local environmental strategies and policies and in line with the Abu Dhabi Climate Change Strategy, aims to protect existing coastal and marine habitat ecosystems and their associated biodiversity, adopt a holistic integrated seascape approach, enhance nature-based solutions, ensure that environmental impacts due to human activities are avoided, minimised, and adequately mitigated and implement evidence-based restoration of key coastal ecosystems.

EAD's objective from issuing this guideline is to ensure that all coastal and marine habitat restoration activities, either stand-alone or as part of a development project, are implemented in a manner that is consistent with an ecosystem-based approach where the function and interconnectivity of all natural coastal ecosystems is considered. Coastal and marine habitat restoration, while it has clear benefits in some cases, should not adversely affect existing natural habitat nor should it impact the natural regeneration of existing coastal and marine habitats. Habitat types such as saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats provide important ecosystem services including carbon sequestration which in some sites may be higher than that provided by mangroves, as well as serving as key areas for wading bird species (e.g., stints, plovers, sandpipers and godwits), and thus other natural coastal habitats found in Abu Dhabi should not be converted to plantations. The objective of any coastal and marine habitat restoration program should be to enhance and remove any pressures as opposed to creating habitat or plantations in areas where they did not previously occur or where they do not have any proven short or long-term benefits to people, climate or nature. Coastal and marine habitat restoration need not always include planting or translocation as in many cases, these activities may fail or may not be necessary or beneficial.

To facilitate the achievement of this objective, EAD requires proponents obtain a NOC for all types of coastal and marine habitat restoration activities (that may or may not include planting) through the submission of an NOC request and a Habitat Restoration Plan for any such activities in Abu Dhabi Emirate.

1.2 Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Permitting Requirements

A No Objection Certificate (NOC) for restoration of coastal and marine habitats through planting or other is required for any coastal and marine habitat restoration/ restoration associated activities in Abu Dhabi Emirate. To obtain an NOC, a seed/specimen collection and planting form (where applicable) must be completed and submitted along with a coastal and marine habitat restoration plan. A coastal and marine habitat restoration plan is required for any coastal and marine habitat restoration project and should clearly state the current environmental conditions of the site, providing details of the proposed restoration activities, an assessment of the potential restoration sites and probable environmental impacts associated with the restoration project and the measures to mitigate any possible negative impact and includes a monitoring and reporting plan. If the level of detail provided is not sufficient, or if the restoration program is anticipated to not provide sufficient ecological benefits, then EAD may require further details, request that the proponent propose alternate projects, or reject the request.

1.3 Procedure for obtaining an NOC for coastal and marine habitat restoration

To apply for and obtain an approval to restore coastal and marine habitats in Abu Dhabi that may or may not include planting, project proponents should first join the **Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative Program** and align with the ADMI principles through signing the ADMI partnership pledge. This ensures that all coastal and marine habitat restoration projects in Abu Dhabi are coordinated under one umbrella and are aligned with global best practice. Thereafter the objectives and approach to the restoration program can be discussed and agreed with EAD.

Following this important step, the below phases are undertaken by the proponent and, where applicable, the selected subcontracted entity/technical partner to implement the project, with oversight by EAD throughout all phases of the project.

Phase 1 - Site Selection: Select a site based on physical and biological features, land use and ownership and carry out a rapid site assessment to determine site suitability. Please refer to **Appendix A** for more information on site selection and assessment.

Phase 2 - Submit a coastal and marine habitat restoration management plan: Complete and submit a seed/specimen collection and planting/restoration form where applicable **(Appendix A) and** submit a coastal and marine habitat restoration management plan describing the restoration project and the site and submit these documents to admi@ead.gov.ae with all associated documentation **including landowner permissions and maps. Area names must be in both English and Arabic and coordinates of the site access point must be provided in the form.** If landowner permissions are not yet available, EAD's NOC will be conditional, and the subsequent landowner endorsement or permission letter must be shared with EAD at a later stage and prior to commencing any seed collection, planting or other restoration activities.

Phase 3 - Obtain an NOC: Upon revision and approval of a completed seed/specimen collection and planting/restoration form **(Appendix A)** and a complete coastal and marine habitat restoration plan, EAD may issue, at its discretion, an NOC for coastal and marine habitat restoration for the specified restoration site and period. EAD would issue a response within 15 working days if the information provided is accurate and complete. When the complete application and plan have been reviewed and approved, EAD may issue the NOC with general and specific conditions– or if the proposed site is not accepted, the project proponent will be requested to re-apply and propose alternate sites or alternate projects or

cancel the restoration project. After receiving a response from EAD, a project proponent may request a meeting with EAD for clarification purposes. Details on the required contents of coastal and marine habitat restoration plans are provided below.

Phase 4 - Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration: During the project implementation phase, habitat restoration should be carried out as per the plan and methods outlined in the coastal and marine habitat restoration plan and comply with the conditions of the NOC.

Phase 5 – **Monitoring and Reporting:** Project proponents should monitor and assess the Restoration site as frequently as possible and at minimum every 6 months for a minimum of 2 years, or more frequently, as agreed and advised by EAD upon issuance of the NOC. A minimum area of each restored site should be monitored, no less than 10% of each restored area with a sampling design and frequency that ensure statistical representation and provides a publishable peer-reviewed assessment of the restoration project results. The monitoring reports must be submitted to EAD as per the agreed schedule. Additionally, long term ecological monitoring reports should be submitted to EAD at the 5th and 10th year of the restoration project. Monitoring reports should include details of the survival rate, growth, canopy cover (where applicable) and health of the restoration site, in addition to an assessment of the biodiversity (flora and fauna) present at the site and an analysis of the benefits provided by the project including any needed measures in case there are signs of stress or mortality. If one of the key objectives of the restoration program is carbon sequestration, then below ground and above ground carbon storage needs, and carbon sequestration rate, need to be measured before and after commencing the restoration activity.

Figure 1.1 below outlines the steps for obtaining a NOC for coastal and marine habitat restoration projects, while Table 1.1 providing further information on each phase and requirements.

Figure 1.1: Steps for Obtaining Approval for Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration after project proponent (i.e. Funding entity) has formally joined the ADMI partnership program

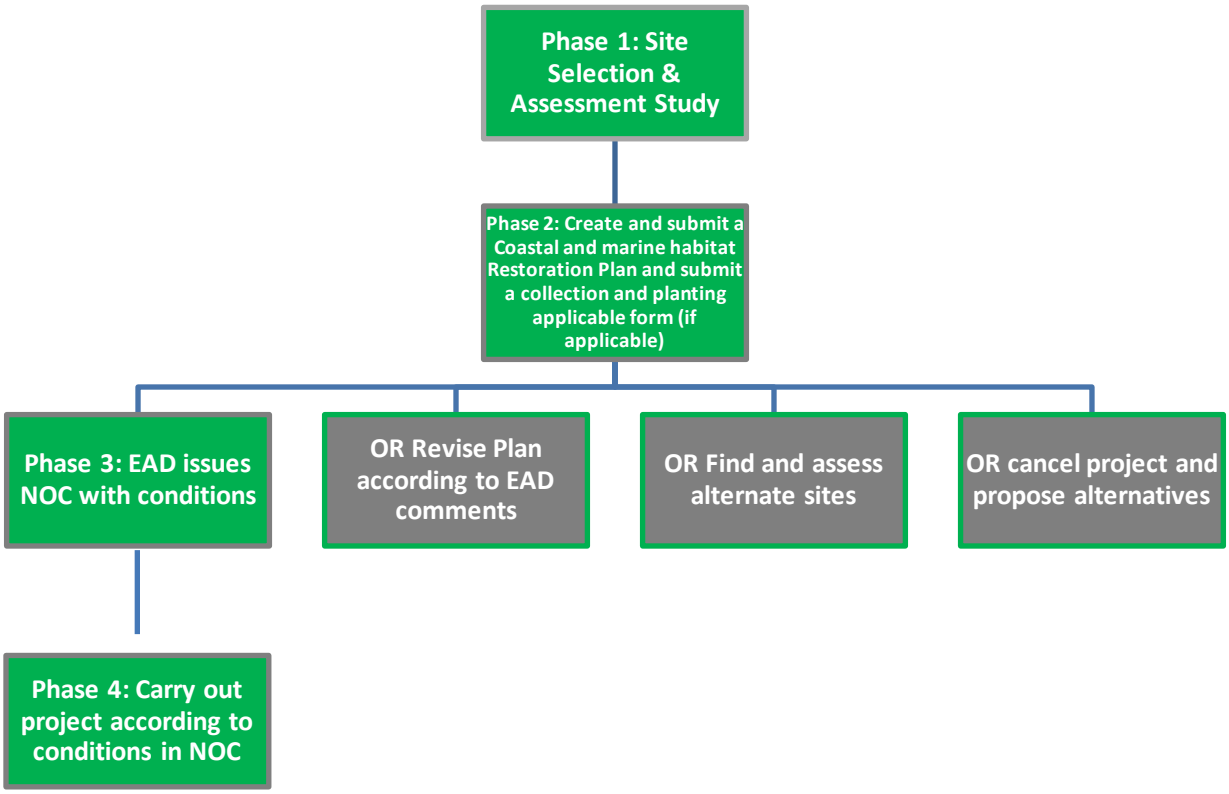
Phase 1: Site Selection & Assessment Study
Phase 2: Create and submit a Coastal and marine habitat Restoration Plan and submit a collection and planting applicable form (if applicable)
Phase 3: EAD issues NOC with conditions
OR Revise Plan according to EAD comments
OR Find and assess alternate sites
OR cancel project and propose alternatives
Phase 4: Carry out project according to conditions in NOC

Table 1.1 Requirements for Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Projects

Phase 1: Site Selection and Assessment Study
➢ Select and assess the proposed site based on project purpose, land use (historical, current and planned and ecological criteria (spatial analysis and field surveys to technically evaluate and justify the site selected) – This requires ecological expertise, with both field surveys and remote sensing activities to be carried out to identify site suitability. ➢ Obtain permission from landowner (if applicable)
Phase 2: Creation and submission of a coastal and marine habitat restoration management plan
➢ Submit the restoration plan and completed application form to admi@ead.gov.ae ➢ The submitted restoration plan should outline site baseline features, land use, land ownership information, restoration methods, seed collection areas and methods if applicable, and monitoring plan. Present the assessment of the restoration site, restoration site map and justification for site selection and design
Phase 3: Obtaining an NOC
➢ NOCs are issued after a review and assessment of the Restoration Plan and Planting and seed collection application form. Each NOC issued will specify the conditions of approval. Project proponents are required to abide by the conditions of the NOC and the commitments stated in the Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Plan.
Phase 4: Coastal and marine habitat restoration carried out according to conditions in NOC
➢ Restoration should be carried out as per the area; plan and methods outlined in the coastal and marine habitat restoration plan and comply with the conditions of the NOC. The Restoration site should be monitored as frequently as possible and at minimum every 6 months for a minimum of 2 years, with a monitored area not less than 10% of each site or more depending on the percentage monitored area that would ensure statistical representation of the restored sites. Prior to undertaking any coastal and marine habitat restoration activity, the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative Pledge should be signed by the entity funding the restoration program, to ensure alignment with ADMI principles and ensure verified holistic actions towards sustainability and climate change action.

1.4 Key Principles of Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Permitting

The following key criteria will be taken into account when assessing NOC applications:

- **Habitat encroachment** – Restoration programs should not adversely affect existing natural coastal habitats. As an example, mudflats act as resting and feeding habitat to many shorebirds. The function and provisioning role of this habitat would be severely compromised or lost if transformed into other types of habitat areas such as mangrove plantations. Several existing habitats might provide more value than artificially created habitats in some sites, including high carbon sequestration rates in some areas. The objective should be to preserve and restore natural habitat connectivity and variety.
- **Land tenure and ownership** - the onus is on the proponent to find available suitable land for coastal and marine habitat restoration projects. Coastal and marine habitats restoration programs should not impede land/water access or overlap with approved existing or planned development or be carried out in sites that are undergoing land use change or where coastal and marine habitat restoration has already been undertaken or is ongoing. Consultation with local municipal and urban planning authorities is recommended to facilitate obtaining land tenure information.
- **Coastal and marine habitat species** – EAD requires that only *local naturally occurring species be restored in all restoration projects* due to lack of scientific evidence of the survival and environment benefit of introducing other species in the UAE.

- **Restoration methodology** - Restoration should be carried out with a good understanding of the ecological requirements of coastal and marine habitats, and the processes which lead to their establishment and early growth. A published coastal / marine ecologist with experience in the region/the country should be part of any coastal and marine habitat restoration project. Agronomy, geology, botany, landscaping or environmental consultancy experience alone is insufficient to conduct successful coastal and marine habitat restoration.
- **Land preparation** – Restoration that require extensive coastal engineering should be avoided. A coastal and marine habitat restoration project should not have significant environmental impacts and should evaluate the costs/carbon footprint that might outweigh any potential benefits provided by the coastal and marine habitat restoration; and
- **Seed or Specimen collection -** seed collection or species collection, where required as part of a restoration project, should be carried out sustainably (taking a minimal quantity from each area and as per any stated conditions of the NOC) and as per the quantity and sites approved by EAD in the restoration NOC. Seeds/specimens should be sourced from nearby healthy coastal and marine habitats in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Seed/specimen collection should not be carried out intensively at a single site so as to not affect the natural regeneration/natural habitats present at that site. The Project Proponent must hold the Restoration NOC when collecting as it also constitutes a permission to collect seeds or specimens according to the specified conditions.

2. COASTAL AND MARINE HABITAT RESTORATION NOC – PROJECT PHASES

This section presents detail on how to obtain a coastal and marine habitat restoration NOC.

2.1. Phase 1: Site Selection and evaluation of restoration needs.

Site selection is the first step for proposing coastal and marine habitat restoration in Abu Dhabi Emirate. It is vital to consider the prevailing physical conditions and past, present, and future land use at the restoration site to accomplish restoration activities efficiently and successfully. Coastal and marine habitats should be restored only when necessary and in areas where they have the highest chance of survival, success, and growth in the long term, and where their presence has a positive impact on biodiversity, supports carbon sequestration where applicable and promotes community engagement. Restoration projects must consider and evaluate whether planting or translocation is necessary or beneficial, as in most cases restoring biophysical conditions (e.g. restoring hydrological flows, limiting erosion, and removing or limiting existing stressors etc..) would provide the best ecological outcome and facilitate natural recovery. Project proponents are highly encouraged to consult with EAD from the very start of the project, during the inception phase and even before the site selection phase, to become familiar with the legal and technical requirements for undertaking coastal restoration programs in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and to abide by the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative key principles through a commitment expressed by signing the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative pledge document.

Criteria for site selection

Key criteria for restoration site selection:

1. **Accessibility.** The site should be readily accessible for restoration and monitoring, with permissions received by the project proponent from the landowners if the restoration program is to be carried out on private land or areas under specific jurisdiction.
2. **Existing biophysical conditions** (site health, tidal coverage, topography or bathymetry, hydrological and hydrodynamic regime, soil elevation, soil/substrate type, water quality, depth, temperature, pH, salinity etc.)
3. **Pressures and land use:** The site should be assessed in terms of past, ongoing, and planned land use change and should be free of ongoing pressures, such as contamination, dredging within or nearby the site, or any other activities that would impact the site ecology.

Restoration projects that require extensive dredging, land reclamation or other forms of coastal engineering and land preparation will have a low probability of being approved due to the potential associated significant impacts on existing and surrounding coastal habitats and biotic communities.

Delineation of Restoration Site and Scale

The restoration site should be clearly delineated. The delineation will help to measure and calculate the area (hectares) of the site, organize operations efficiently, and plan for the interventions required. For projects involving planting, spacing often allows room for natural seedlings to establish themselves over time.
It is important to note that the success of the project is not determined by the density of planted or translocated coastal and marine habitats or the size and scale of the restored site, but by how well these coastal and marine habitats survive and support biodiversity in the long term and return to a health status that supports a functioning ecosystem.

Key technical considerations to consider to successfully design a beneficial coastal and marine habitat restoration program are:

- Specific site selection that looks at the history of changes in the coverage of coastal and marine habitats and changes in hydrology/ecology at specific potential restoration sites, and enables natural recovery where possible,
- Establishing quantitative and measurable success criteria; and
- Monitoring and reporting of progress toward achieving these success criteria, including reporting on lessons learned from both successes and failures.

2.2. Phase 2: Developing and submitting a Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Plan

After approaching EAD and the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative, committing to the principles through signing the ADMI pledge the project proponent and selected project contractors or partners can begin assessing and selecting a site and obtaining the required land permissions and developing a preliminary plan for the restoration project. The project proponent and/or associated contractors/partners should prepare and submit the restoration plan and planting/seed or specimen collection application form. EAD will issue its response after receiving a complete application and restoration plan. The objective of the restoration plan is to provide EAD with a sufficient description of the methods, location and long-term

plan for the coastal and marine habitat rehabilitation, enhancement, or afforestation project. The Plan should include a description of environmental baseline conditions, the predicted benefits and impacts of the proposed project, and the associated monitoring efforts for the proposed site.

The findings and recommendations of the Restoration Plan should be documented clearly and concisely in the report and include necessary technical details. The usefulness of this plan is measured by how well the proposed project is described and justified to provide evidence of net ecological benefits from the proposed restoration project.

Checklist for Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Plans

Table 2.1 Checklist for Chapter-by-Chapter Review of a Coastal and marine habitat Restoration Plan

Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Management Plan - Checklist	
Chapter 1—Executive Summary	
☐	Adequate summary of the proposed project
Chapter 2—Introduction	
☐	The project title, general project description, and project rationale
☐	Contact details and information about the project proponent and consultants
☐	Evidence of prior experience and technical qualifications specializing in restoration *and* ecological monitoring
☐	Description, including justification and project timeframe
Chapter 3—Project Description	
☐	Description of the need for the proposed project (environmental benefits)
☐	Assessment of project consistency with key principles of the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative
☐	Maps and descriptions of the location and scale of the proposed project, Restoration site ownership and existing and surrounding land use, habitats presently at the proposed site and habitats surrounding the site (up to 0.5 or 1 km away from the center of the planned site). Justification of site selection and evidence of permission to plant/restore if the site is in a private area
☐	Description of the history of changes of the restoration site and description of the proposed project (method, stakeholders, objectives, timeframe)
☐	Ecological description of the restoration site (basis for site selection, ground height level, ground slope, soil type, currents, grazing pressure, biodiversity, hydrology, depth, water quality, substrate, temperature, pH, salinity, verification of absence of trash, rubble or other pollution etc.)
☐	Description of the restoration methods and work procedures (e.g. sourcing of seeds/specimens and saplings, transportation of seedlings, spacing, restoration/working time, site demarcation, etc.)
☐	Identification of project activities during all phases (e.g. land preparation, planting, translocation, post plantation monitoring, hydrological restoration…) that are likely to cause disturbance to biotic communities at and around the site, and significant impacts to the environment. This should include a detailed description of raw materials, equipment/machinery used, pollution anticipated, and wastes and emissions generated at all phases of the project.
☐	The project status and schedule and project organizational chart

Chapter 4—Environment, Impacts and Monitoring	
☐	Description of the current environmental conditions (baseline conditions) including land use, habitat type, soil type, flora and fauna, substrate, soil chemistry, pH, temperature, depth, salinity, water quality, existing hydrological conditions etc.
☐	Base maps and spatial analysis
☐	Description of the potential environmental impacts associated with all phases of the proposed project (negative or positive)
☐	Detailed descriptions of both the short term and long-term monitoring programs, including information on sampling design (frequency, intensity), who is responsible for the monitoring program, and reporting and documentation requirements. It must include details of the full monitoring program objectives, monitored area (to be statistically representative of the site restored, with a minimum of 10% of each restored site monitored), attributes, conditions, and indicators that will be measured as part of the monitoring program.
☐	Schedule of the submission of the short-term restoration monitoring program (monitoring report submitted to EAD every 6 months at minimum for 2 years and the long-term restoration and ecological monitoring program (5^{th} year and 10^{th} year of Restoration)
Chapter 5—Project Alternatives	
☐	Presentation of at least two acceptable restoration species/site alternatives to the current proposed Restoration project
☐	Discussion of “no restoration” and “alternative location” options
☐	Objective comparison of the alternatives and reasons for the selection of the proposed restoration project
Chapter 6—Statement of Commitments	
☐	Commitment to maximizing the benefit and minimizing the environmental impact(s) of a proposed Restoration project
☐	Commitments to implement a restoration monitoring plan which is statistically representative and a long-term ecological monitoring plan
☐	Adherence to EAD permitting regulations and procedures
Annexes	
☐	Annex 1- References
☐	Annex 2- Site map (kmz and shape files) indicating project boundary, existing and surrounding land use
☐	Annex 3- Site photos, imagery
☐	Annex 4- Letters of permission from private landowner (if applicable)
☐	Annex 5- Evidence of prior experience and technical qualifications specializing in ecological restoration
☐	Annex 6- Information on the current condition of the environment (methodology, data, and results)
General Criteria	
☐	Logical organization of integrated and easy-to-review components, including annexes
☐	Include a list of abbreviations, definition of terms, and references

☐	Include a full suite of detailed maps describing the project site baseline and future projected habitat cover
☐	Clarity (i.e., minimal technical terms, the adequate and appropriate use of graphics, text could be understood by non- specialists)
☐	Include expected positive and negative impacts of the proposed project (carbon footprint of the restoration activities)
☐	Ensure that complete information is provided, so that EAD can gain a clear and complete understanding of the restoration site, the purpose of the project, the negative or positive potential environmental impacts and the monitoring program(s) associated with the proposed restoration project

2.2.1.2 Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Plan Format and Contents

This section provides guidelines on the format and content of the Restoration Plan to be submitted by the proponent to EAD. The coastal and marine habitat restoration plan should have a title page and a Table of Contents, with the Table of Contents adhering as closely as possible to the framework and layout outlined in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Standard Table of Contents for the Coastal and marine habitat Restoration Management Plan

Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Management Plan Table of Contents		
Table of Contents		
List of Abbreviations		
Definitions of Terms		
List of Tables		
List of Figures		
Chapter 1	Executive Summary	1.1 Project Description 1.2 Summary
Chapter 2	Introduction	2.1 Project Title and Proponent 2.2 Consultants and Stakeholders involved 2.3 Restoration Plan Description, Location and Purpose 2.4 Justification and Project Timeframe 2.5 Project communication and media plan (if applicable) 2.6 Community engagement plan (if applicable)
Chapter 3	Project Description	3.1 Statement of Need (ecological benefits) 3.2 Project Location and Scale 3.3 Evaluation of Project and ADMI Restoration Principles 3.4 Methods 3.5 Status and Schedule
Chapter 4	Environment, Impacts and Monitoring	4.1 Site description and baseline 4.2 Ecological suitability and existing habitats 4.3 Soil & hydrological parameters 4.4 Fauna and Flora 4.5 Environmental Benefit & Impact Prediction 4.6 Monitoring and Reporting

Chapter 5	Project Alternatives	Options for alternative sites for Restoration and/or alternative actions for restoration and/or alternative species for restoration
Chapter 6	Statement of Commitments	Commitment to ADMI coastal and marine habitat science-based restoration principles including long term monitoring, community engagement and education and transparency.
Annexes		
Annex 1	References	
Annex 2	Restoration Site map (Jpeg and shape files) indicating project boundary, existing and surrounding land use	
Annex 3	Site photos	
Annex 4	If applicable, letters of permission from private landowner	
Annex 5	Evidence of prior experience and technical qualifications specializing in ecological restoration	

2.3 Phase 3: Obtaining an NOC for Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration

Once EAD confirms receipt of all required documents and confirms that all information has been provided, the review of the Restoration Plan will begin. EAD officials will review the submitted Plan to verify that all chapters are complete, and the report meets all the stipulated requirements.

A decision on whether to issue an NOC will be made within 15 business days of receiving a complete application and plan. The project proponent will be notified by email of this decision and will be sent an NOC. The NOC is issued with conditions that must be adhered to throughout the project.

2.4 Phase 4: Restoration & Monitoring

After obtaining an NOC, project proponents should proceed with the restoration plan implementation in close coordination with EAD for all phases, and regularly communicate the progress.

Monitoring reports should be submitted to EAD as per the schedule specified in the conditions of the NOC. The monitoring protocol should be submitted to EAD prior to commencing the project to ensure the methods proposed provide accurate information on the success of the restoration program and are statistically representative.

APPENDIX A

Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration: Planting and/or Seed/Specimen Collection Application Form

Propagule/Seed/Specimen collection & Planting Form

استمارة طلب جمع بذور أو عينات أو وزراعة

Entity conducting the plantation and seed/specimen collection	[	**المؤسسة التي تقوم بجمع البذور أو العينات و/أو الزراعة**
Entity requesting/funding the plantation and/or seed /specimen collection		**المؤسسة التي تطلب جمع البذور و/أو العينات و/او الزراعة**
Purpose of initiative/project	[Large scale plantation, Compensation, Coastal and marine habitat event e.g. staff planting event, high level delegate, high level visit, community event] [زراعة واسعة النطاق ، زراعة تعويض، فعالية القرم، على سبيل المثال: فعالية زرعة لموظفين المؤسسة، زيارة رفيعة المستوى، فعالية مجتمعية، ضيوف دولة]	**هدف المبادرة/ المشروع**
Dates of collection		**تواريخ الجمع في كل منطقة**
Dates of coastal and marine habitat planting/restoration/translocation		**تواريخ الزرع / إعادة التأهيل في كل منطقة**
Date, Time, location of media event (if applicable)		**تاريخ وتوقيت جميع الفعاليات**
Location of seed /specimen collection (coordinates and area names, please also attach maps as GIS or kmz files)	[Name of location, gps coordinate] [اسم الموقع و الأحداثيات]	**مواقع الجمع (إحداثيات واسم كل منطقة، كما يرجى إرفاق الخرائط (kmz/GIS**
Planting/translocation site (please specify number to be planted in each area) (coordinates and area names, please also attach maps as GIS or kmz files)		**موقع الزراعة / إعادة التأهيل (يرجى تحديد العدد الذي سيتم زرعه في كل منطقة) (الإحداثيات وأسماء المناطق، يرجى إرفاق الخرائط كملفات GIS أو ملفات kmz)**
Level of Attendees for public event (if applicable)	[Level of attendees, e.g. Minister, Executives, Diplomatic, Staff] [مستوى الحضور ، على سبيل المثال وزير ، تنفيذيون ، دبلوماسيون ، موظفون]	**مستوى الحضور للفعاليات**
Number of Attendees expected for public or media event (if applicable)	[Number of expected Attendees] [عدد المشاركين]	**عدد الحضور للفعاليات**
Number of seeds/specimens collected from each area (please specify area and number)		**عدد البذور أو العينات التي سيتم جمعها من كل منطقة (يرجى تحديد المنطقة والعدد)**
Number of specimens/saplings/ planted or translocated in each area	[Number of coastal and marine habitat saplings to be planted] [عدد شتلات القرم]	**عدد الشتلات/ البذور / العينات التي سيتم زرعها أو نقلها لكل منطقة**
Source of Seeds/Saplings/specimens (if applicable)	[Where coastal and marine habitats will be sourced from] [مصدر شتلات القرم]	**مصدر الشتلات/ البذور / العينات**
Method of planting / translocation		**طريقة الزرع/ إعادة التأهيل**
Frequency of post planting /post restoration monitoring (please attach coastal habitat restoration plan)		**جدول مراقبة ما بعد الزراعة أو /ا بعد إعادة التأهيل (يرجى إرفاق تردد الرصد ومنهجيته المراقبة)**
Applicant entity Focal Point Details	Name: [Name of event coordinator] Position: [Position of event coordinator] Number: [Direct number of event coordinator] Email: [direct email of event coordinator]	الاسم: [اسم منسق الحدث] المنصب: [منصب منسق الحدث] الرقم: [الرقم المباشر لمنسق الحدث] البريد الإلكتروني: [البريد الإلكتروني المباشر لمنسق الحدث] **تفاصيل المنسق**

Any subcontractor or supplier focal point details involved in the project			**تفاصيل المنسق من الشركة المتعاقدة المختصة**
PR and media focal point details			**تفاصيل منسق العلاقات العامة والإعلام**
Application Date			**تاريخ التقديم**

All application to be submitted at least two weeks prior to any collection or restoration activities

يرجى تقديم جميع الطلبات قبل أسبوعين على الأقل من بداية جميع أنشطة الجمع وإعادة التأهيل

Required Documents

- Attach GIS or KMZ files with maps of location of both planting and collection.
- Attach approval from landowner for both seed or specimen collection sites and coastal and marine habitat planting sites
- Attach pre-planting/pre-restoration site visit report, confirming site is ecologically suitable for planting
- Attach post-planting/post restoration monitoring methodology and frequency
- Attach location, date and list of high-level attendees with position for media event, if applicable
- Attach approval from Ministry of Foreign Affairs for plantations from embassies and foreign parties.

المستندات المطلوبة

- إرفاق ملفات GIS أو KMZ مع خرائط مواقع الزراعة وجمع البذور أو العينات
- إرفاق موافقة من مالك الأرض لكل من مواقع الجمع والزراعة /إعادة التأهيل
- إرفاق تقرير زيارة موقع ما قبل الزراعة/ما قبل إعادة التأهيل والتأكد من أن الموقع مناسب بيئيًا
- إرفاق منهجية المتابعة والتردد
- إرفاق الموقع والتاريخ وقائمة الحاضرين رفيعي المستوى مع منصب للحدث الإعلامي
- إرفاق موافقة وزارة الخارجية للزراعة من السفارات والجهات الأجنبية.