

**CLARIFICATION No 1****Reference:** EEA/NSV/13/001/ETC-BD**Title:** Open call for proposals for the award of a framework partnership agreement concerning the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity 2014-2018 (ETC-BD)**Question 1**

With reference to the budget indicated under section 1.1 of the Terms of Reference could you please specify what is meant by 'spending in the topic area'; is it from the point of view of the EEA budget dedicated to this topic or is it the overall budget under which the current ETC is running?

Answer 1

By 'Topic area' is meant what is covered by the current ETC/BD. Spending for the new ETCs will be subject to available funds and should be seen in conjunction with the level of the national subvention, bearing in mind the provisions of the Framework Partnership Agreement which foresees a minimum of 10% co-financing by the consortium concerned.

Question 2

With reference to Annex 2 to the Terms of Reference (Declaration on exclusion criteria), could you please confirm whether the word 'sworn' referred to in the penultimate paragraph is the equivalent to 'Déclaration sur l'honneur' in French?

Answer 2

Please refer to Article 143(3) second paragraph of the Rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJEU L 362 of 31.12.2012, page 53, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:362:FULL:FR:PDF#page=3>) which reads as follows:

'Lorsque le document ou le certificat visé au paragraphe 1 du présent article n'est pas délivré par le pays concerné, et pour les autres cas d'exclusion visé à l'article 106 du règlement financier, il peut être remplacé par une déclaration sous serment ou, à défaut, solennelle faite par l'intéressé devant une autorité judiciaire ou administrative, un notaire ou un organisme professionnel qualifié du pays d'origine ou de provenance'.