



Terms of references

Local consultant – Protected areas assessment and information gap analysis

Job Title: Protected areas assessment and information gap analysis consultant (on SSA contract basis)

Duty Station: Chisinau, Moldova

Project Reference: “Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System of Moldova”

Duration of Employment: December 2009 – February 2010

Background

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), acting as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is providing assistance to the Moldovan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in the implementation of the GEF Medium Size Project (MSP) “Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova”. The protected area system of Moldova is not uniformly distributed in the landscape and there are substantial gaps, particularly in terms of steppe habitats, that need to be addressed to ensure the adequate representation of the main types of ecosystems. Protected areas are also highly fragmented in the landscape and are not achieving the conservation objectives for landscape-scale ecological processes. The project aim to enhance the coverage and management effectiveness of the protected area system of Moldova by piloting - within the broader framework of the National Environmental Network - the establishment of the first National Park in Moldova, and by strengthening the capacities at the systemic, institutional and individual levels to establish and manage a representative protected area system. Thus, the GEF-funded developmental interventions will lead to creation of an enabling framework for the expansion of the protected area system to include under-represented ecosystems in Moldova. The project is structured into two **outcomes**:

Outcome 1 Improving representativity and coverage of the protected area system

Outcome 2 Strengthening the capacity of PA institutions to effectively manage the protected area system.

Scope of the assignment:

The consultant will be responsible for preparing a report on the current knowledge and information gaps of the biodiversity of protected areas in Moldova.

He/she will cooperate with the forestry and administrative authorities, with other agencies involved in the project implementation, as well as with representatives from academia, environmental NGOs in defining priority biodiversity issues.

Scope of Work

The consultant will be responsible for desk based assessment and information gap analysis of the biodiversity of protected areas in Moldova: Identification, collation and consolidation of national biodiversity and protected area data:

- Identify extent and location of all existing information, incl. all ongoing and completed projects in the domain, on national biodiversity, species distribution, habitats, plant communities, ecosystems, land cover, protected areas and other classifications.
- Collate existing biodiversity information – incl. species lists, maps, ecosystem types and other available information - for the following categories of protected areas: Scientific reserves, Natural

monuments, Habitat/Species Management Areas, Protected Landscapes, Managed Resource Protected Areas, Areas of multifunctional management and Monuments of landscape architecture.

- Identify major information gaps for each protected area and propose priorities for further site investigations.
- Identify major gaps in the PA system and suggest priorities for the designation of new sites.
- Collate the results into a preliminary report entitled: 'Biodiversity of protected areas in Moldova: current knowledge and information gaps'.

Qualifications

Education:

- University or Advanced Degree (MA and Ph.D.) in botany, biology, forestry, biodiversity conservation, or other relevant fields.

Experience:

- At least 5 years of professional experience in botany, biology, forestry, biodiversity conservation, or other relevant fields.;
- Work experience on projects financed by international organizations is an asset;

Abilities:

- Ability to analyze and generalize;
- Ability to work in a team;
- Excellent communications and writing skills in domain;
- Excellent PC skills, ability to use Internet;
- Fluency in Romanian and Russian. Knowledge of English is a strong asset.

Personal qualities:

- Responsibility, creativity, promptness and punctuality.

Deliverables:

The consultant will present the deliverables that should be approved by Project manager and by the UNDP CO according the following schedule:

Report on Biodiversity of protected areas in Moldova: current knowledge and information gaps **by February 12, 2010.**