



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Terms of Reference

Title: Construction/ National Expert for High-Level Event on Green Development
Reporting to: UNDP Moldova
Contract Type: Individual Contract (IC)
Starting Date: February 2014
Duration: Output-based consultancy with an estimated input of up to 20 work days within a period of 3 months (February –April 2014)

Background

The desire to respond to economic, social and environmental development priorities is at the heart of post-2015 development agenda. Indeed, one of the key challenges facing current political and economic systems is to ensure continued economic growth, while reducing environment footprint and fighting inequality both within and amongst the countries.

The situation of many developing countries is the most challenging: they need to grow fast to bridge the development gap with the developed countries and ensure the benefits of growth are equitably distributed across the society. However, they need to do so amidst scarcer natural resources and heightened climate risks. As for many of them the old-styled 'brown' industrialization might not work as before, they need to discover new green engines for growth with latter complementing and eventually the former. The Republic of Moldova is one of these countries. While during the last decade the economic growth has been mostly positive and great advances have been made in reducing poverty the country faces strong competitiveness and resource-related challenges and hence searches for a new innovation-based green development model.

Furthermore, it is now the time to ask what legacy current generation of Moldovan people will leave to their children and grandchildren. Thus, the country those generations will live in largely depends on the choices made today. How fertile will the soil that Moldovans are so proud of be? Will there be sufficiently clean water for all the people to consume? Can the gap between the wealthiest and those in most need grow larger or will it be contained and diminished? Green growth can address these and other pressing development challenges.

With the initialing of the Association Agreement with the EU in Vilnius in November 2013, the country has also made statement on its development choice. The people of

Moldova have opted to integrate into one of the biggest and most competitive markets. In doing so, they have opened themselves to learning and improving, to changing and aiming for future economic and environmental sustainability.

The international community offers an impressive array of lessons and experiences which can be employed and adapted. Moreover, several experiences can be found in Moldova itself and these experiences can enrich further our understanding of the challenges and opportunities lying ahead. Both local and international experiences show that economic growth and environmental sustainability are not and should not always be mutually exclusive. This initiative aims at finding, learning from and promoting experiences and solutions that satisfy both growth and sustainability elements of development and that can be further fed into the national development policy and practice.

The initiative that will culminate with a high-level forum under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Moldova on “Green Offer for Moldova’s Today and Tomorrow” will seek to review past experiences, will also bring into attention working policy and business models, and to learn from achievements and failures in advancing green economic development in order to offer a set of comprehensive, evidence-based and business-proof policy and regulatory recommendations to help Moldova switch to a green development through increased competitiveness, investment attractiveness and sustainable business development.

Expert Activities

Driven heavily by remittances the last decade was stage for a massive increase in the amount of construction activity, mainly residential in Chisinau, but also in other rayon centers across Moldova. Mostly regulated by Soviet era construction standards, the sector is relying heavily on import of construction materials and less transparent exploitation of the limited materials existing in the country – gravel, stone, sand being leading in this regard. The sector green challenges span from preserving the nature where resources exploitation occurs to clean use of land and water and construction waste management.

Under the overall direction and guidance of UNDP Moldova and the Lead Consultant for High-Level Event on Green Development, the sector expert is expected to work closely with the Lead Consultant in fulfilling the following requirements:

I. Producing the thematic paper (main deliverable)

Note: The paper will be structured in a manner agreed in advance between the Expert and the Lead Consultant.

1. Showcase major players:
 - a. Present the models employed by significant domestic players (both local and foreign) in the sector.

- b. Identify the relevant legislative, regulatory, fiscal and financing elements favoring the business development.
 - c. Identify the relevant legislative, regulatory, fiscal and financing impediments for further development.
 - d. Assess social and environmental outcomes.
- 2. Regional context
 - a. Identify the situation in the neighboring EU countries and beyond. Prioritize experiences that are relevant and can bring the most value-added for domestic stakeholders.
 - b. Identify neighboring champions. Establish contact with relevant ones. Integrate into analysis the most relevant lessons learnt.
 - c. Identify favorable conditions/regulations/policies/approaches and link to I.1.d.
- 3. Analyze the existing efforts and experience in the sector within the Republic of Moldova. Analysis will include, but will not be limited to:
 - a. Data on size, growth and presence of business practices from within the sector.
 - b. Characteristics of different types of existing domestic businesses, including best practices, with classifications (where applicable). Include recent evolutions, experience.
 - c. Analyze constraints and opportunities for developing green business models within the sector.
- 4. Matrix of legislative/regulatory development.
 - a. Identify areas in the legal/regulatory/fiscal system(s) that need further strengthening.
 - b. Formulate, where possible, policy/regulatory/fiscal vector strengthening recommendations.

II. Support for co-chairing a thematic round table

- 1. Support and offer recommendations to the Lead Consultant as far as identifying and involving interested representatives from the business/practitioners community to comment on draft thematic paper, especially I.4.
- 2. Provide awareness and involve policy/regulatory responsible(s)
- 3. Support to chair of a round table discussion on the draft thematic paper, so as to improve the quality and content of recommendations for the Government.

III. Contribute to the mapping of the existing efforts on all three dimensions:

- 1. Business: draft short bios for relevant encountered practitioners.
- 2. Government/Communities: map and report all stakeholders.
- 3. External assistance: present efforts up-to-date to assist green sustainable development in Moldova.

Time Frame & Deliverables

Deliverables		Estimated work input	Deadline
A	Thematic paper produced and accepted	10 days 2 days	Document structure and draft– by February 20, 2014 Document final draft – by March 20, 2014
B	Co-chair a thematic round table	1 day 1 day	Suggested list of participants in the round table – February 20, 2014 Co-Chairing the round table – March 10, 2014
C	Contribution to mapping efforts	3 days	March 31, 2014
D	Contribution to sector workshop as part of the High-Level Event	2 days	March 31, 2014
E	Post-Event Sector Brief synthesizing the workshop discussions	1 day	April 20, 2014

Qualifications

The consultant should be nationally recognised with at least 2 years' experience in the field of construction and/or development. The expert must have proven knowledge of relevant policies and laws. He/she shall have some working experience in the field of green development, proven communication and organizational skills. Familiarity with the United Nations and its programmes in sustainable development is beneficial. He/she must have proven strong written and communications skills, be fluent in Romanian, Russian and English.

The contractor shall demonstrate integrity by modelling the UN values and ethical standards; display cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensibility and adaptability; consistently approach work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude; ability to work independently; strong ability to demonstrate high quality final products; ability to communicate issues and facilitate resolution in a timely manner.

Implementation and Coordination Arrangements

The consultant will be issued contract through UNDP Moldova. The Sector Expert will report to Lead Consultant for the High-Level Event on Green Development and UNDP Policy Specialist.