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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job title:	National Consultant for support in pasture restoration activities in Orhei National Park region
Duty station:	Chisinau, Moldova
Reference to the project:	Clima-East: Sustainable management of pastures and community forests in Moldova's first National Park Orhei to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and dividends for local communities.
Contract type:	Individual contract
Expected workload:	28 months (50 working days)
Duration:	September 2014 – December 2016

Background:

Moldova is located in an insufficiently wet zone which results in a high frequency of droughts in the result of climate change which negatively affect its economy. The Government of Moldova recognizes the problem, and in order to be prepared for future droughts/natural calamities and to promote more sustainable agricultural production and food security, adopted an Action Plan for Drought Mitigation Measures in the Agri-Food Sector (2012 -2015). Along with other activities reflected in the Action Plan, special attention is paid to the improvement the management of pastures for reducing the impact of droughts on the livestock sector.

Although there are designated pasturelands in most of the communities in the Orhei National Park area, often these resources are depleted. The grazing capacity of existing pastures in the park is three to four times lower than the number of 14 thousand head of existing livestock in the region. This results in biodiversity loss, loss of forest area and further fragmentation, which provides stressors to native animal and plant populations living there.

To address this situation EU Commission under CLIMA EAST package provided a grant to Republic of Moldova to demonstrate a natural resource management model in the pastures and forests of Moldova which increases ecosystems' capacity to sequester carbon under pending climate risks, while at the same time retaining biodiversity and economic values. The CLIMA EAST pilot project targets the pastures and forest degraded lands located in the Orhei National Park area (33,792.09 ha) and its buffer zone. The project is implementing pasture restoration projects on 470 ha in 12 communities from the park.

Objective of the assignment:

The expected output for the assignment is to assist the Local Public Authorities in implementation of the selected pasture restoration projects in 12 communities from Orhei National Park region, which will increase the livelihoods in the park area.

Scope of work and expected output:

The activity will consist in assisting grant beneficiaries in implementation of pasture restoration projects on 470 ha (35 pasture plots) in 12 communities from the park.

In order to achieve the aforementioned objective, the Contractor will have to achieve the following tasks:

1. Perform 5 monitoring visits (during the 5 stages of pasture restoration activities detailed bellow) to each of the 35 pasture plots in 12 communities in order to ensure technical compliance of the performed works with the methodology described in Grants Agreements and Technological fiches for pasture restoration works. Consultant should ensure that the appropriate equipment is used for the pasture restoration works and the right quantity of fertilizers and seeds are used by beneficiaries. Also the Consultant should ensure that the haymaking regime is respected by the beneficiary communities. Consultant should consult grant beneficiaries on any issues that can appear during grant implementation and provide solutions to overcome the issues. Monitoring visits (to each plot) will be held in the following period (5 stages of pasture restoration activities):

1st visit: During soil preparation works and ammophos fertilizers application (October – November 2014);

2nd visit: During over-seeding works and ammonium nitrate application (February – March 2015);

3rd visit: During second application ammonium nitrate (February – March 2016);

4th visit: During mowing period during 2015 and 2016 (May-June and July-August);

5th visit: After ending of vegetation period (December 2015 and 2016).

Note: The preliminary timetable for in field visits should be agreed with grant beneficiaries and project team.

2. Organization of the 3 guiding workshops (the length of each workshop shall not exceed 1 working day), in Orhei, for grant beneficiaries related to pasture restoration works.

The overall objective of the workshops will be to demonstrate the correct and innovative approach related to implementation of field activities. Ideally the workshops should be organized prior to start of implementation activities (soil preparation and fertilizers application, over-seeding and mowing). The detailed topic for each workshop will be consulted with the project team. The consultant will be responsible for development of the agenda and making the presentations, while the project team will be responsible for logistics arrangements.

3. Assisting project implementation team in establishment of the entity responsible for community forests and pastures sustainable management and monitoring. The project in collaboration with FLEG Programme in Moldova will assist local communities from Orhei national park area to establish a community pasture and forests association affiliated to the National Park Administration. In this regard the Consultant is expected to consult the project team in development of the association regulation and functioning mechanism, and to advocate the initiative at the local communities' council in each community from the park.

Also the Consultant will be required to propose to the project team the list and technical requirements for all the necessary agricultural equipment for pasture restoration.

Deliverables and Timeframe:

1. Progress report on pasture restoration projects implementation activities **by 30 November 2014, 31 March 2015, March 2016, August 2015, August 2016, December 2015, December 2016.**
2. Workshops' packages/materials, including but not limited to: outline, agenda, presentations and handouts, and Minutes after each of the 3 guiding workshops **by 31 October 2014, 31 March 2015, 30 June 2015.**
3. Regulation on community pasture and forest association and functioning mechanism development **by 30 November 2014.**
4. Report on list and technical requirements for all the necessary agricultural equipment for pasture restoration **by 31 March, 2015;**

Management Arrangements:

The Contractor will work under the overall guidance of the UNDP CLIMA EAST Project Manager, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment of Moldova, and Local Public Authorities. The Contractor will report to the UNDP CLIMA EAST Project Manager.

Financial arrangements:

Payment will be disbursed in four instalments upon submission and approval of the final reports and documents as specified under 'Deliverables and Timeframe' section and certification by the Project Manager, and UNDP Portfolio Manager, that the services have been satisfactorily performed.

Academic Qualification

University degree in agriculture, pasture management or other related fields.

Qualifications and Experience

- At least 3 years of relevant experience in the field of pasture management, agriculture or other relevant fields;
- Advanced technical knowledge and experience related to pasture restoration
- Work experience with projects financed by international organizations will be an asset;
- Ability to analyse and generalize;
- Ability to work with local public authorities and local communities.

Competencies

- Capacity for analytical studies;
- Ability to undertake field works are strongly required;
- Ability to plan and organize his/her work, observing deadlines and achieving results.

Language requirements

- Fluent in written and oral communication in Romanian;
- Knowledge of English or/and Russian will be a strong asset.