

Terms of reference

Job title:	National Consultant for Medium-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) Capacity Building
Duty station:	Chisinau, Moldova
Reference to the project:	Strengthening capacities to undertake Environmental Fiscal Reform to meet national and global environmental priorities
Contract type:	Individual contract
Expected workload:	40 days
Duration:	February – April 2015

I. BACKGROUND

The GEF funded “Environmental Fiscal Reform Project” (EFRP) was launched in 2011 and sets out to build capacities for implementing environmental fiscal reforms (EFR) that will produce increased national and global environmental benefits through the adoption of selected subsidies, fees, fines, taxes and other appropriate fiscal instruments.

This project sets out to build capacities for implementing environmental fiscal reforms (EFR) that will produce increased national and global environmental benefits through the adoption of selected charges, subsidies, fees, fines, taxes and other appropriate instruments. It will initiate and pilot EFR instruments targeted to meeting Rio Convention objectives and ensure their integration within national plans and policies, especially in national taxation and decentralization process in Moldova. The reforms will focus on creating conditions, financial incentives and disincentives, and decreased opportunity costs to undertake actions that deliver environmental outcomes. The expected outcome is that EFR will be adopted as an important element of Moldova’s development policy, whereby improved economic, financial and fiscal instruments and their use would strengthen regulatory and other approaches to environmentally sound and sustainable development, with a particular emphasis of meeting obligations under the three Rio Conventions (Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Desertification). The project will also contribute to and complement a broader national decentralization reform process, including policy planning at the national level, redesigning of competencies and responsibilities of local and sub-national governments and reforming local government revenue systems.

One of the objectives of the project is the improved management and performance of the National Ecological Fund (NEF), including project cycle management, which is the main financing source in the environment sector. With the support of the project, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) initiated a comprehensive reform of the NEF, in view of ensuring the sustainability and functionality of the Fund as an effective tool for financing the implementation of environmental policies and strategic priorities in Moldova. The new draft Regulation and Operational Manual for the NEFF brings best international practices for public environmental expenditure and project cycle management.

The project strategy is focusing in parallel on strengthened capacities of the Ministry of Environment and on other environmental authorities for environmental programming and

medium-term expenditure planning. Since 2006 in Moldova the planning process through medium-term budgetary framework (MTBF) is implemented. The MoE is integrated into this process through developing of the two policy documents - the Strategy of expenditures strategies for the environmental sector and strategy for expenditure for water management. However, until now, the MoE has not particularly benefited from this reform and has not succeeded in obtaining adequate financing for environmental programmes. While it should be recognized that the budget process and resource allocation decisions are in large part of political nature, with or without an MTBF, the relatively low capacity of the MoE to prepare, cost and implement economically-sound multi-year spending programmes, may well have been one of the reasons for a low budget support for the environment. The building capacities of MoE in elaborating their budgets and MTBF submissions could result into more adequate and predictable allocations to the environment sector.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND TASKS

GEF EFRP seeks National Consultant in (hereinafter Consultant) in order to assist the working group of Ministry of Environment in elaboration of the Strategy of expenditures for environmental protection sector and Strategy of expenditures for water management under the Medium Term of Budgeting Framework for 2016-2018.

The assignment will require the completion of the following tasks:

- Assess existing strategies and policies relevant for environmental sector, including the expenditure strategies of the 2015-2017 budget cycle, the MoE Report on the implementation of expenditure strategies in 2014 and elaborate a Report on the current situation and the main trends of the environmental sector, focusing on key issues in the sector, sector priorities and environmental objectives and planned institutional modifications.
- Analyze the budget programs and subprograms of the expenditure strategies for 2015-2017 and assist the MoE in formulation of the objectives and actions as well as in identification of the performance indicators for each planned action.
- Review the expenditures by current programs/subprograms and identify the costs of the policies and actions which are planned in the spending programs/subprograms for 2016-2018 Sector Strategies.
- Consider the possibility of inclusion in the proposed budget programs/subprograms of the activities focusing on the implementation of the Rio Conventions provisions, including identification of realistic sources of funds necessary for such activities.
- Provide technical assistance to the MoE in MTBF consultation process, during debates at the Ministry of Finance, in coordination and finalization of MTBF for its approval during MoE board meeting.

III. DELIVERABLES, ESTIMATED WORKLOAD AND TIMEFRAME:

The assignment should be carried out within a period of 3 months, not exceeding 40 working days.

	Deliverable	Deadline and workload
1	Inception report which include detailed work plan approved by MoE representative.	1 st March, 3 days
2	Intermediary report on the current situation and the main trends of the environmental sector, focusing on key issues in the sector, the environmental sector priorities and objectives and planned institutional modifications	March 15, 2015, 10 Days
3	9 subprograms within the "Environmental Protection" and "Water Management" budget programmes, which will include revised and updated,	April 5, 2015 17 days

	Deliverable	Deadline and workload
	objectives, actions, monitoring indicators and established costs for each subprogram.	
4	Final Activity report, which includes reporting activities on assistance provided to the MoE in MTBF coordination, discussions and submissions.	April 30, 2015, 10 Days

Management and Institutional Arrangements:

All deliverables will be developed in Romanian. The deliverables shall be endorsed by GEF/UNDP EFR Project Manager and representatives of the Ministry of Environment of Moldova. The Consultant will report directly to the GEF/UNDP EFR Project Manager.

The tentative time-frame for this assignment is tentatively planned for February – April 2015.

Financial arrangements:

Payment will be disbursed in four instalments upon submission and approval of the final 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.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

- University's degree in environmental management, public finance, economics, or a closely related field
- At least 3 years of progressively experience in programming, financial planning and budgeting, including in environmental sector
- Be familiar with the legal, policy and institutional framework of the environment sector of Moldova
- Experience in working and collaborating with governments
- Experience in working with international donor organizations
- Good oral communication skills and ability in working of team group
- Fluency in written and spoken Romanian and working English is required in this assignment.