

Terms of references

Job Title: National consultant in Forestry

Project Reference: Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into Moldova territorial planning policies and land-use practices

Duration of Employment: July 2015 – December 2018

Contract type: Individual Contract

Expected workload: 300 working days

I. Background

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), acting as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is providing assistance to the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova in implementation of the GEF Medium Sized Project (MSP) “Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Moldova’s Territorial Planning Policies and Land-Use Practices” (BD mainstreaming project).

Despite the Government’s reform efforts, the spatial/territorial planning framework is facing two types of barriers: (i) inadequate planning and enforcement framework and (ii) inadequate demonstrated experiences in spatial planning and biodiversity-compatible land management practices.

Against this background, the BD mainstreaming Project will be addressing the gaps in land planning and enforcement systems through development of relevant regulations, standards and legislation to accommodate biodiversity conservation objectives while the gap of limited coordination across sectors will be addressed by establishing a multi-stakeholder committee which will ensure a unified approach in the development, implementation and enforcement of land-use plans from the different ministries and departments. In addition, a monitoring system will be emplaced among the various regulatory agencies, assigning responsibilities based on comparative advantage, in order to evaluate acceptable limits of change in biodiversity-important areas. The gap of inadequate demonstrated experiences in spatial planning and biodiversity-compatible land management practices will be tackled through development and testing of biodiversity-compatible district spatial (land-use) plans in 2 districts of Moldova, relying on cross-sectoral working groups, GIS technologies for biodiversity mapping, identification of sites of conflict between biodiversity and human activities and others.

Overall, the objective of the project is to mainstream biodiversity conservation priorities into Moldova’s territorial planning policies and land-use practices through two components – the first will focus on modifying the land use planning and enforcement system so that it addresses biodiversity loss, and the second will demonstrate methods for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity on communal lands outside PAs.

The BD mainstreaming project is implemented as part of a larger biodiversity programme, which includes also UNDP/EU Clima East Project “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”.

II. Scope of work and responsibilities

The National consultant in Forestry will support the Ministry of Environment of Moldova in mainstreaming rare and endangered species/habitats into forest management plans and establishment green habitat corridors between forest fragments.

The Consultant will report directly to the project manager of the BD mainstreaming project and will work with all other involved national consultants.

Expected tasks

The key tasks of the consultant are as follows:

1. Developing a biodiversity monitoring system

The consultant will closely cooperate with Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Expert, and will be responsible for:

- data input for species/habitats into forest management plans (FMPs) of two selected districts, based on biodiversity investigation with regard to the presence of rare and endangered species in the forestlands
- analyze and provide necessary amendments in the existing normative frame with regard to FMPs in close collaboration with Legal consultant
- cooperate with Moldsilva Agency and, particularly, with the Soroca Forestry Enterprise and Tighina Forestry Enterprise in order to promote appropriate changes in the normative legal frame in order to ensure enforcement the biodiversity conservation provisions of the Forest Management Plans.
- Develop methodological recommendations for monitoring and supervision of the FMPs, especially taking into account the conservation of biological and landscape diversity.

2. Establishment the green habitat corridors between forest fragments

- a) Performing technical support in forest restoration activities through systematic methodological support provided to the Soroca Forestry Enterprise and Tighina Forestry Enterprise, which will be responsible for performing reforestation activities, through:
 - Consult in implementation of sustainable forest management schemes;
 - Providing technical support in sustainable forest management
 - Monitoring of threat reductions and biodiversity population status.
- b) Quality assurance of the forest restoration activities
 - Before the planting activities, provide assistance to the project management team in evaluation of the offers provided by Forest Enterprises Soroca and Tighina for reforestation, guarding and protection of 100 ha of selected degraded lands in order to establish ecological corridors, according to the international practices for sustainable forest management, national guidelines on scientific forest management¹ and silvicultural practices, technical and human capacities, and technical norms in the field: Check the norms of work according to the forestry technological maps and norms for: soil preparation, reforestation, completion, management, guarding and protection of stands; Perform a field visit to each of the site in order to check the correspondence of the proposed works with the actual situation; Check the proposed prices for materials and goods from the proposals; Check if the proposed methodology corresponds to the methodology described in Planting project per each plot (provided by the project); Compare (if possible) the offer with other initiatives in the field; Develop a short comprehensive analysis on the offer evaluation and recommendation for future actions.
 - In the process of planting check in the field if the works performed by the contractor corresponds to the methodology described in Planting project per each plot.

¹ National guidelines: Îndrumări tehnice pentru regenerarea pădurilor și împădurirea terenurilor din fondul forestier de stat al Republicii Moldova, Kisinew, 1996.

- During the completion and maintenance of the plantation check the volume of the work performed based on the field visits and Registers' of performed works and other technical reports from the forest enterprises.
- At the finalization of every stage of work, check technical documentations, correspondence of the performed works with the sustainable forest management practices, and report to the Project management team about the progress in ecological corridors establishment.
- Check if the guarding and protection of plantations during the project implementation is implemented accordingly.
- At the end of project intervention check the quality of reforestation activities and ensure that survival percentage of the plantings by the end of the project is according to the approved forestry technical norms for the respective region.
- Develop a final reception report according to the national legislation.

Note: All the costs related to this assignment will be bared by the consultant (please see Individual Consultant Procurement Notice for details on Financial Proposal).

III. DELIVERABLES, ESTIMATED WORKLOAD AND TIMEFRAME:

The assignment should be carried out within a period of July 2015 – December 2018, not exceeding 300 working days.

	Deliverable	Deadline and workload
1	Evaluation of the offers provided for reforestation of the selected degraded lands in 2 districts. A short comprehensive analysis on the offers evaluation and recommendation for future actions developed	September 15, 2015 10 working days
2	Report on performed training and consultation activities with Forest enterprises in implementation of sustainable forest management schemes	October 15, 2015 20 working days
3	Report on the reforestation activities performed based on the site visits and correspondence the works with the methodology described in Planting project for each plot	November 15, 2015 30 working days
4	Reports on the volume of work performed during the land preparation, planting, completion and maintenance of the plantations	October 15, 2015 March 30, 2016, 2017, 2018 June 30, 2016, 2017, 2018 November, 30, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 70 working days
	Report on the quality assurance of the performed reforestation activities	December 10, 2015, 2016, 2017 30 working days
5	Final reception report on reforestation according to the national legislation	December 10, 2018 20 working days
6	Data inputs for species/habitats into forest management plans (FMPs) of two selected districts, based on biodiversity investigation with regard to the presence of rare and endangered species in the forestlands performed	October 30, 2016, 30 working days
7	Amendments in the existing normative frame with regard to FMPs provided	December 10, 2016

		20 working days
8	Methodological recommendations for monitoring and supervision of the FMPs, especially taking into account the conservation of biological and landscape diversity	March 30, 2017 20 working days
9	Permanent technical support provided in forest restoration activities through systematic methodological support provided to the Soroca Forestry Enterprise and Tighina Forestry Enterprise	December 10, 2018 50 working days

Deliverables can be amended or specified for the purpose of the assignment.

Management Arrangements:

Consultant will work under the overall guidance of the BD mainstreaming/Clima East Project Manager, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment of Moldova and other stakeholders. The Contractor will report to the UNDP BD mainstreaming/Clima East Project Manager.

Financial arrangements:

Payment will be disbursed in 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 AND SKILLS REQUIRED

Academic Qualification:

- University or Advanced Degree in forestry or other relevant fields.

Experience:

- At least five years of experience in forestry or other related fields.
- Experience of performing forestry field inventories is mandatory.
- Good knowledge of the forestry norms and sustainable management practices is required.
- Experience in working with state institutions at central and local levels, as well as with forestry enterprises.
- Experience in similar positions in a UNDP and/or other international projects are a strong advantage.

Competencies:

- Builds strong relationships with partners, focuses on impact and result for the client and responds positively to feedback
- Effective demonstrable analytical and team working skills;
- Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations, in particular, respecting differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status.

Language requirements:

- Fluency in oral and written Romanian and Russian. Knowledge of English will be an asset.

The United Nations Development Programme in Moldova is committed to workforce diversity. Women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnic or religious minorities, persons living with HIV, as well as refugees and other non-citizens legally entitled to work in the Republic of Moldova, are particularly encouraged to apply.