

Terms of references

Job Title: National Consultant in Flora Biodiversity

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

Duration of Employment: July 2015 – December 2016

Contract type: Individual Contract

Expected workload: 70 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 Flora Biodiversity will support the Ministry of Environment of Moldova in developing a sustainable biodiversity monitoring system at national and local levels.

The consultant will be part of the team of national consultants responsible for development of the sustainable biodiversity monitoring system.

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

Expected tasks

The Consultant under the direct guidance of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Consultant (Team leader) will be responsible for undertaking field inventory of flora Red list and rare/endangered species as well as their habitats from Soroca and Stefan Voda districts (if a habitat extends beyond the administrative borders of the mentioned districts, they should be covered by the inventory). All the inventory results will be provided to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Consultant (Team leader) in order to complete the Species/ Habitat Passports and mandatory conservation actions.

The key tasks of the consultant are as follows:

- Consult the latest publications/scientific works on Red list and rare/endangered floral/vegetal species/habitats identification in the country and more specifically in two target districts, including the latest version of the Red Book of Moldova.
- Undertake the field inventory of Red list and rare/endangered flora/vegetation species as well as their habitats from Soroca and Stefan Voda districts using the developed Species/ Habitat Passports (to be provided at the initiation of the assignment), based on an officially recognized scientific methodology. Consultant will perform the inventory in all types of the ecosystems from 2 districts (forest, meadow, steppe, aquatic, agriculture, petrophyte ecosystems).
- Take GIS coordinates with GPS of the Red list and rare/endangered floral/vegetal species and provide them in .shp format to Team leader and project's GIS consultant in order to develop a vegetation distribution map. The limits of the habitats identified should form a polygon in GIS format. The consultant should use the Moldref format for GIS data taken and presentation.
- Take high-resolution pictures in jpeg format of the current status of the Red list and rare/endangered floral/vegetal species/habitats with clear mark of the date and time of the picture taken. Pictures should be associated to each location of the specie/habitat found and provided to the Team Leader and Project manager together with progress reports.
- Support the Team leader in filling in the draft Species/ Habitat Passports for the Red list and rare/endangered habitats.
- Provide substantive support through draft recommendations to the Team leader for development of the mandatory conservation actions that the landowner/ user must undertake in order to conserve each and every identified specie and/ or habitat from floristic/vegetation conservation point of view.
- Participate at the consultation sessions with landowners/ users (at the national and local levels) on draft Passports and mandatory conservation actions.
- Based on a consultation process provide assistance to the Team Leader in finalizing the Species/ Habitat Passports for Red list and rare/endangered species/habitats.
- If requested, assist Forestry Expert in more accurate data input for species/ habitats (both vegetal and animal taxa) into forest management plans (FMPs) if the species is found in the forest fund, Pasture management service provider which is developing Grazing management plans (GMP), is species found on grazing lands, as well as in other planning tools (such as hunting, tourism, fishing, water use documentation) if any.

Note: All the expenses related to this assignment (travel, stationary, needed equipment) will be on the consultant's expenditure.

III. DELIVERABLES, ESTIMATED WORKLOAD AND TIMEFRAME:

The assignment should be carried out within a period of July 2015 – December 2016, not exceeding 70 working days.

	Deliverable	Deadline and workload
2	Interim report on Red list and rare/endangered floral/vegetal species, habitats identified in Soroca and Stefan Voda districts (including GIS data).	November 15, 2015 30 working days
3	Final report on Red list and rare/endangered floral/vegetal species, habitats identified in Soroca and Stefan Voda districts (including GIS data and mandatory conservation actions).	June 01, 2016 30 working days
4	Finalized the Species/ Habitat Passports for Red list and rare/endangered species/habitats, based on the consultation process.	September 30, 2016 10 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 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Consultant (Team leader) and BD mainstreaming/Clima East Project Manager, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment of Moldova and other stakeholders. The Contractor will report to the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Consultant (Team leader) and 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 biology, forestry or other relevant fields.

Experience:

- At least five years of experience in biology, forestry or other related fields.
- Proven experience in performing biodiversity field inventories.
- Experience in performing biodiversity inventories or scientific studies/research in Soroca and Stefan Voda districts will be a strong asset.
- Experience in working with state institutions at central and local levels.

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.

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.