

Terms of references

Job Title: National Consultant in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management

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: 140 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 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Consultant will support the Ministry of Environment of Moldova in developing a sustainable biodiversity monitoring system at national and local levels.

The consultant will lead a team of two national consultants on flora and fauna responsible for field inventory of 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).

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

- Based on the consultations with Ministry of Environment, Academy of Science and in close collaboration with project Legal consultant, develop the methodology, regulation (guidelines), and stakeholders responsibilities for development of the Species/ Habitat Passports for red list species which will be identified during inventories as part of the territorial and urban planning process (outside PAs). The methodology can be based on a Passports for PA system (if applicable) developed in the framework of GEF/UNDP PAS Project.
- Developing the drafts of Species/ Habitat Passports which should incorporate tentatively such information as (location and owner, area/ or number of individuals, GIS coordinates and maps, pictures, conservation actions/ recommendations etc.)
- Consult the draft Species/ Habitat Passports with representatives from Ministry of Environment, Agency Moldsilva, Academy of Science, Local Public Authorities from Soroca and Stefan Voda districts, and other interested stakeholders.
- Support the project's Legal Consultant in order to lobby for introducing the necessary legal amendments to make mandatory development of Passports for red list species identified during inventories as part of the territorial and urban planning process (outside PAs).
- Coordinate and lead the work of two consultants on flora and fauna responsible for field inventory of Red list and rare/endangered species from Soroca and Stefan Voda districts.
- Based on the inputs from Biodiversity Consultant (Flora) and Biodiversity Consultant (Fauna) complete the Passports for the identified Red List species and their habitats (location and other species-related data), including taking their GIS coordinates. The map of the species/habitat distribution will be developed by project's GIS consultant based on the inputs from the biodiversity inventory team.
- Develop draft Report on the inventory findings of Red list and rare/endangered species, habitats and develop Species/Habitat Passports for each of the specie/habitat identified in Soroca and Stefan Voda districts.
- Develop mandatory conservation actions that the landowner/ user must undertake in order to conserve each and every identified specie and/ or habitat.
- Ensure broad consultation with landowners/ users (at the national and local levels) on Passports and mandatory conservation actions.
- Based on a consultation process finalize the Passports and mandatory conservation actions and provide them to the Project management team in order to be officially endorsed to the landowners/ users.
- Support the landowners/ users to approve the Passports and mandatory conservation actions at the local decision level body.

- Support the district-level environmental inspection and Cadastre office in further monitoring of the approved Passports and mandatory conservation actions, through at least 3 consultation workshops/meetings.
- Assisting 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..
- Assisting Stefan Voda and Soroca districts in improving it's District Environmental Plans (DEPs). Note: Stefan Voda has a recent developed DEP. Soroca did not has a DEP at the point of project start up, and if such plan will be developed during the assignment, support will be allocated by the consultant to the exercise.
- Develop a methodology for monitoring and supervision of the DSPs, LUPs, FMPs and GMPs, from conservation of biological and landscape diversity perspective, and assist service providers responsible for plans development for incorporation of biodiversity conservation proposals in the DSPs, LUPs, FMPs and GMPs monitoring plans Develop a stakeholder engagement plan.

2. Multi-Stakeholder Biodiversity Mainstreaming Committee (MSBMC)

- Assist the Project team in establishment and setting up the roles of different stakeholders in the Multi-Stakeholder Biodiversity Mainstreaming Committee (MSBMC), which has as main objective incorporation of biodiversity conservation in the development, implementation and enforcement of the DSPs and LUPs for the selected districts. Participate and take lead of the working sessions of the MSBMC..

3. System of penalties for malfeasance to the approved DSPs and LUPs

Assist the project staff (namely the Legal expert) in:

- Designing the system of penalties for malfeasance to the approved DSPs and LUPs in accordance with the real value of biodiversity (or ecosystem) loss. An assessment of economic/ monetary values of biodiversity and ecosystem services (building on GEF/ UNDP's NBSAP project results) will provide the necessary rationale for this.
- Reviewing the produced drafts of the DSPs and LUPs to ensure that such are in compliance with (i) national legislation, (ii) ratified conventions, and (iii) rational use of natural/biodiversity resources.

III. DELIVERABLES, ESTIMATED WORKLOAD AND TIMEFRAME:

The assignment should be carried out within a period of July 2015 – December 2018, not exceeding 140 working days.

	Deliverable	Deadline and workload
1	Final draft of Passports for red list species identified during inventories as part of the territorial and urban planning process (outside PAs).	August 20, 2015, 10 working days
2	Interim report on Red list and rare/endangered species, habitats identified in Soroca and Stefan Voda districts.	December 10, 2015 35 working days
3	Final Report, draft Species/Habitat Passports and mandatory conservation actions for rare/endangered species, habitats identified in Soroca and Stefan Voda districts	June 15, 2016 10 working days
4	Final consulted Passports and mandatory conservation actions provided to the Project management team	September 30, 2016 15 working days

5	Landowners/ users supported to approve the Passports and mandatory conservation actions at the local decision level body.	December 10, 2016 10 working days
6	Recommendations for improvement of the District Environmental Plans provided	December 10, 2016 15 working days
8	Drafts of the DSPs and LUPs reviewed in order to ensure that such are in compliance with (i) national legislation, (ii) ratified conventions, and (iii) rational use of natural/biodiversity resources.	December 10, 2016 5 working days
7	Methodology for monitoring and supervision of the DSPs, LUPs, FMPs and GMPs developed and incorporated in the final version of the plans.	March 30, 2017 20 working days
9	Project team assisted in establishment and setting up the roles of different stakeholders in the Multi-Stakeholder Biodiversity Mainstreaming Committee (MSBMC), Stakeholder engagement plan developed.	December 10, 2018 20 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 biology, zoology, environment protection, forestry or other relevant fields.

Experience:

- At least five years of experience in biology, zoology, environmental protection, forestry or other related fields.
- Experience of performing biodiversity field inventories is mandatory.
- Good knowledge of the environment, land use management and forestry sectors is required.
- Experience in working with state institutions at central and local levels.
- Experience in similar positions in a UNDP and/or other international projects are a strong advantage.

Competencies:

- Excellent written communication skills, with analytic capacity and ability to synthesize project outputs and relevant findings for the preparation of analytical documents.
- Effective demonstrable analytical and team working skills
- Builds strong relationships with partners, focuses on impact and result for the client and responds positively to feedback.

- 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.