

Terms of references

Job Title: National consultant in Economy and Finance

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

Duration of Employment: July 2015 – October 2018

Contract type: Individual Contract

Expected workload: 160 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 Economy and Finance will support the Ministry of Environment of Moldova as well as other stakeholders in developing a system of penalties for prevention biodiversity-harmful activities and lobbying for securing public funds for biodiversity mainstreaming initiatives at the local level.

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

Expected tasks

The key tasks of the consultant are as follows:

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

- Analyzing international legal frame and/or experience on fines/ penalties (including EU states and/or neighboring countries) for prevention biodiversity-harmful activities and provide the findings to the Legal consultant which will make proposals for a system of penalties for malfeasance to the approved DSPs and LUPs.
- Assist Legal consultant in development a proposal for a system of penalties commensurate with the loss in biodiversity and the clarification in the mandates of the different agencies responsible for enforcement and prosecution (Revising existing fines, penalties and grazing taxes (including necessary proposals to amendments to the Administrative Code) in order to enable the efficacy in prevention of biodiversity-harmful activities; Analyzing opportunities for the increase of fines and penalties according to the real value of biodiversity (or ecosystem) loss and their applicability (evenly applicable) to all transgressors).

Note: 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.

2. Integrated district spatial plans¹ (DSPs) and land use plans² (LUPs) accommodating biodiversity concerns are developed for two districts

- Assess the economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in areas of high biodiversity or in critical areas e.g. ecological corridors, and integrate the results into the DSPs and LUPs.
- Consult the report with the main stakeholders and submit it the project management team.

3. Secure public funds for biodiversity mainstreaming initiatives at the local level

- In deep analysis of the current public finance resources allocations in the forestry, agricultural and rangeland sectors to support biodiversity-friendly practices in the two districts and 4 selected communities.
- In order to build the business case for increasing resources flows, valuation will be undertaken of costs/ benefits of different production systems and the new biodiversity-friendly practices within the selected landscapes and their benefits to biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and livelihoods in order to identify and reduce negative spending's.
- Make recommendations to the selected local governments (Zastina and Badiceni (Soroca district), Talmază and Copceac (Stefan Voda district)) to realign public budgets and broker budget and private resources for increase funding for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns.
- For both new and existing (realigned) funding sources, develop resource distribution criteria to ensure the most effective and efficient application of scarce resources and ensure that adequate incentives are provided for landowners/ managers to make them move towards biodiversity-friendly practices.
- At the district level, undertake public expenditure reviews of the agricultural, forestry and rangeland sectors in the two districts (Soroca and Stefan Voda), identify negative spendings and

¹ District Spatial Plan (DSP) represents an expression of physical organisation of space within a district, and directed towards balanced territorial development reflecting economic, social, cultural and ecological policies of society.

² Land Use Plan (LUP), or urbanistic plan, is a documentation which states conditions for positioning of various activities in a given area, and is developed for a part or entire locality, or for an area/ land meant to become a locality.

make proposals for their reduction, and propose budgets realignment to finance for example the destocking of rangeland, and rehabilitation of forests.

III. DELIVERABLES, ESTIMATED WORKLOAD AND TIMEFRAME:

The assignment should be carried out within a period of July 2015 – October 2018, not exceeding 160 working days.

	Deliverable	Deadline and workload
1	Report on international legal frame and/or experience on fines/ penalties (including EU states and/or neighboring countries) for prevention biodiversity-harmful activities	December 10, 2015 10 working days
2	Draft Report on the economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in areas of high biodiversity or in critical areas e.g. ecological corridors, and integrate the results into the DSPs and LUPs.	December 10, 2015 30 working days
3	Final Report on the economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in areas of high biodiversity or in critical areas e.g. ecological corridors, and integrate the results into the DSPs and LUPs.	March 30, 2016 10 working days
4	Proposal for a system of penalties commensurate with the loss in biodiversity and the clarification in the mandates of the different agencies responsible for enforcement and prosecution.	October 31, 2016 20 working days
5	Analysis report of the current public finance resources allocations in the forestry, agricultural and rangeland sectors to support biodiversity-friendly practices in the two districts.	June 30, 2017 30 working days
6	Cost/ benefit analysis of different production systems in order to identify and reduce negative spending's.	December 10, 2017 20 working days
7	Recommendations provided to the selected local governments to realign public budgets and broker budget and private resources for increase funding for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns.	March 30, 2018 20 working days
8	Resource distribution criteria developed to ensure the most effective and efficient application of scarce resources and ensure that adequate incentives are provided for landowners/ managers to make them move towards biodiversity-friendly practices.	October 31, 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 economy, finance, or other relevant fields. Additional education in biodiversity conservation, forestry, environment protection will be an asset.

Experience:

- At least five years of experience in economy, finance, or other relevant fields.
- Good knowledge of the public finance sector, environment, land use management and forestry sectors are a strong advantage.
- Experience in interacting and 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
- 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.