

Terms of references

Job Title: Tourism consultant for Soroca and Stefan - Voda

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

Duration of Employment: June – November 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 Tourism Consultant will support the local public authorities from Soroca and Stefan-Voda districts in development of a two touristic guidelines. The guidelines are intended to be used by the local authorities and touristic operators in order to promote the touristic flow in the regions and potential investments attraction.

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. Development of the touristic guides for Soroca and Stefan-Voda districts

The consultant will closely cooperate with all public authorities both from district and community levels in order to assess the touristic potential from Soroca and Stefan – Voda districts. Based on the assessment (both literature based and in field visits) describe in detail the existing touristic attractions, objects, and propose a set of touristic routes based on existing infrastructure and the proposed one. Preferences should be given to ecotourism development of the target districts and localities. The study should be presented in a form of guidelines with the following proposed content:

A. District general description as a touristic destination

- Location
- Relief
- Natural heritage (incl. protected areas) and other „green” touristic attractions.
- Cultural potential and traditions
- Ethnical communities (if any)
- History
- Social-economic development of the district
- General touristic potential description (number of visitors, existing touristic network and attractions)
- Recommended long term touristic focus of the district (a long term view and strategy of the tourism development of the district)
- Curiosities and legends about the major touristic destinations

B. Touristic description of the district locality (detailed description of the each locality from the district)

- Succind description of the locality
- Natural attractions: protected areas, nature monuments, representative green areas, etc.
- Antropic, cultural and historical attractions: historical sites, anthic/medieval fortresses, representative cultural locations, architectural monuments, places related to any important/marcable personalities, etc.
- Local traditions and handicrafts
- Local events
- Hospitality infrastructure
- Local excursions
- Recommended touristic routes

C. Useful contacts (contacts of the hotels, pensions, restaurants, local handicrafts, etc)

Note:

- a) The content and draft version of the guidelines should be consulted in the initial and final stage with the project management team, local public authorities and tour operators. The minutes of the consultation meetings should be attached to the consultant final report.
- b) The proposed guidelines preferable should not exceed 200 pages including annexes.
- c) All the expenses related to this assignment (travel, accommodation etc.) will be on the consultant's expenditure.

III. DELIVERABLES, ESTIMATED WORKLOAD AND TIMEFRAME:

The assignment should be carried out within a period of June – November 2016, not exceeding 70 working days.

	Deliverable	Deadline and workload
1	Development and consultation of the guidelines content.	June 17, 2016 5 working days
2	Development of a two touristic guidelines for Soroca and Stefan-Voda districts	October 30, 2016 50 working days
3	Consultation of the draft versions of the touristic guidelines for Soroca and Stefan-Voda districts and presentation of the final version to the project management team.	November 30, 2016 15 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 Local Public Authorities 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 tourism or other relevant fields.

Experience:

- At least five years of experience in tourism or other related fields.
- Proven experience in development of the touristic guidelines is mandatory.
- Good understanding and experience in ecotourism and natural attractions description is required.
- Experience in working with local public authorities with regard to data collection.

- Experience in similar positions in a UNDP and/or other international projects are a strong advantage.

Competencies:

- Ability to achieve results and deadlines in a timely manner, maintaining a high standard throughout.
- Analytical and delivery presentation (reports development and presentation).

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.