



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: **21st of February 2020**

Country: Republic of Moldova, Chisinau

Description of the assignment: National Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant (NESSC) to support development of a project proposal for the Adaptation Fund addressing extreme climate-induced water-related events in Moldova

Period of assignment/services: 40 working days till December 2020

Contract type: Individual contract (IC)

Proposal should be submitted online by pressing the "Apply Online", **no later than 6th of March 2020**.

Requests for **clarification only** must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: silvia.pana-carp@undp.org. UNDP will respond by standard electronic mail and will send written copies of the response, including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry, to all applicants.

1. BACKGROUND

Republic of Moldova (Moldova) is a small-sized landlocked country in Eastern Europe, exposed to different natural hazards, including floods, droughts and severe storms. In line with climate scenarios, in Moldova the average temperature is expected to increase with 2-3° C, resulting in more acute weather patterns and increased the frequency and magnitude of floods and drought.

Climate change and water resources

Water resources in Moldova are sensitive to climate change with regards to their quantity and quality. Various emission scenarios and climate models provide different projected values for future water quantity and quality in Moldova; however, they indicate the sign that expected changes will be negative in any case. The natural water regime of the big and small rivers will change by increasing in the instability of annual flow and magnitude of spring and flash floods.

Floods on big rivers

The two big rivers as Prut and Dniester flooding in 2008 and 2010 caused the greatest damage. The 2008 floods on Prut and Dniester Rivers incurred USD 120 million in losses while the 2010 floods -

USD 41.92 million which are estimated to have had an adverse economic impact on GDP of about 0.15 percent.

Flash floods

Heavy rains result in frequent floods, to which over 40 percent of the country's settlements are exposed. The flash floods occurring within small river basins provoke average annual damage estimated at the level of \$5 million. Despite these facts, the system for early detection and warning of flash (rapid) floods was not established in Moldova.

Flood defense infrastructure

Flood is seen as one of the major risks given that almost half of all Moldovan localities are situated in the flood-prone areas and additionally, around 45,000 ha (or 2% of agricultural lands) have a history of being waterlogged. During last decades the risk of floods has increased due to outdated and weak flood protection system mainly inherited from Soviet times. There are also gaps in legislation addressing land relations, use of land of water bodies, commissioning of hydro-technical infrastructure, etc.

Hydrological monitoring network

The exclusive role in monitoring of meteorological and hydrological parameters lies with the State Hydro-meteorological Service. There exists a network of meteorological stations and gauges both on the big rivers Dniester and Prut, and on smaller ones. Currently, up to 50% of gauging stations are not in functioning due to different reasons (stolen, broken, no supplies and/ or poor maintenance). Thus, the hydrological data on smaller rivers and their tributaries are very limited.

Water dependent natural ecosystems

Currently, in Moldova, natural ecosystems are in very poor conditions. Forests cover only a small percentage of the country's territory, and they, with some exceptions, are unproductive and are semi-degraded. Remained wetlands are mainly found in the downstream of the Prut and Dniester Rivers. They are mainly small sized and not healthy being subject of anthropogenic and natural pressures and impacts. According to rough estimate, in Moldova, more than 75% of natural wetlands have been lost.

Thus, the **project objective** is to improve national and local resilience to extreme water-related events through promotion of sustainable integrated management of flood and drought risks. International expertise is required to support the project scoping, design the AF Concept and, consequently, develop the AF project Proposal based on thorough situation analysis and extensive stakeholder consultation. During the proposal preparation period, a number of studies and stakeholder consultations will be conducted with the view to further develop a fully formulated proposal. The final output of the international consultant's work will be the AF project Proposal addressing obtained feedback and ready for submission to the AF.

To support formulation of the Project Concept and Project Proposal, the UNDP Moldova has prepared a conceptual framework with indicative outcomes and activities listed below, but to be validated after the first in-country mission:

A. Strengthening of the early warning system for extreme water-related weather events at the national and local level and operational support capacity

- A1. Analysis and optimization of hydrological monitoring network towards the appropriate river basin water management and climate change paradigm.
- A2. Establishing of flash flood early detection and warning system

- A3. Improvement of understanding of local water governance institutions and their capacities for flood risk and drought management by better planning at the sub-basin level
- A4. Introduction of flood and hazards risks maps as an instrument for decision making under the climate change adaptation

B. Strengthening of the flood defense infrastructure

- B1. Inventory of dams and dykes in the central and south parts of Moldova to complete the Register of Hydro-technical Infrastructure
- B2. Dams and dykes safety surveys for identification of higher risks dams and its remediation.

C. Piloted and demonstrated ecosystems-based adaptation to climate change

- C1. Assessment of national potential to implement ecosystems-based climate change adaptation measures (national level)
- C2. Pilot projects for demonstration of ecosystems- based climate adaptation measures.

2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

UNDP is seeking a qualified candidate to ensure application of social and environmental safeguards and standards in development of the Project Proposals for the Adaptation Fund.

The National Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant (NESSC), under the leadership of International Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant (IESSC), will provide technical support to the Project Proposal development, by ensuring a full compliance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and the relevant standards of the Adaptation Fund.

Therefore, the NESSC is responsible for the expected outputs and deliverables, as outlined below:

1) To prepare description of Moldova permits and regulations that apply to the project suitable as a chapter to the ESMP, including

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment regulations and Ecological Expertise procedures
- Land use zoning
- Local/regional level permits and approvals
- Engineering design and safety
- Building permits
- Labour rules including health and safety,

2) To provide description of existing physical and environmental conditions at the national/regional level (as specific sites are not known) or specific (if will be known), suitable as chapter of ESMP, including but not limited to:

- climate
- topography and land use (including mapping)
- main river systems and watersheds (including mapping of dams and impoundments)
- description (and mapping) of significant biodiversity features including protected and significant areas and listing of rare and endangered species (include on land use mapping)
- description of aquatic habitats including streams and rivers, wetlands, natural ponds and lakes, and artificial ponds and lakes

3) To prepare overview of existing socio-economic conditions at the national/regional level (as specific sites are not known) or specific (if will be known), suitable as chapter of ESMP, including but not limited to:

- Demographics
- Vulnerable groups including ethnic minorities and displaced people
- Core Labor rights issues
- Human rights issues
- Indigenous peoples

4) Photo Compilation of representative existing flood control systems to illustrate issues faced

5) To conduct the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening of the project proposal and identify the relevant risks and mitigation actions

6) Provide Inputs for the Environmental and Social Management Framework

7) Following the conducted analysis and desk review support with development of 2 additional project ideas in the area of water management

8) Others as might be necessary in relation to the UNDP and AF Social and Environmental Standards.

All documentation related to the assignment will be in Romanian and English. This is a part-time consultancy. The timeframe for the work of consultant is planned for March 2020 – December 2020.

The NESSC will work under the guidance of LIC, LNC, IESSC and UNDP Moldova Programme Specialist/Cluster Lead.

Payments will be disbursed in several instalments, upon submission and approval of deliverables, and certification by UNDP Moldova Programme Specialist/Cluster Lead that the services have been satisfactorily performed.

For detailed information, please refer to the Terms of Reference.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Academic qualifications:

- University degree in the area of environment, biology, geography, hydrology, water resources management

Experience:

- At least 10 years of progressive experience at the national or international level in working in sphere of environmental and social risk and/or impact assessment, environmental and safety safeguards, and other relevant fields.
- Technical understanding and practical experience in preparing national, community and project specific environmental impact/risk assessment documentation.
- Previous experience of working with national governments and local public authorities in the area of social and environmental assessments, risks identification, monitoring of social and environmental plans implementation.

Language skills

- Fluency in English, Romanian and Russian orally and in writing.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. Proposal:
 - Providing a brief information on each of the above qualifications, item by item
 - A brief methodology on how they will approach and conduct the work
2. Financial proposal (in USD), specifying a fee per day and total requested amount including all related costs, e.g. fees, per diems, travel costs, phone calls etc.;
3. CV and at least 3 names for a reference check.

Important notice:

Incomplete applications not considered.

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Lump sum contracts

The financial proposal shall specify a total lump sum amount, and payment terms around specific and measurable (qualitative and quantitative) deliverables (i.e. whether payments fall in installments or upon completion of the entire contract). Payments are based upon output, i.e. upon delivery of the services specified in the TOR.

In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of financial proposals, the financial proposal will include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (including all related costs e.g. fees, taxes, travel, phone calls etc.) and the number of anticipated working days. The consultant shall bear costs for all supplies needed for data collection and data processing including possession of his own personal computer.

Travel

All envisaged travel costs must be included in the financial proposal. This includes all travel to join duty station/repatriation travel. In general, UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources.

In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and Individual Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

6. EVALUATION

Initially, individual consultants will be short-listed based on the following minimum qualification criteria:

- University degree in the area of environment, biology, geography, hydrology, water resources management
- At least 10 years of progressive experience at the national or international level in working in sphere of environmental and social risk and/or impact assessment, environmental and safety safeguards, and other relevant fields.

The short-listed individual consultants will be further evaluated based on the following methodology:

Cumulative analysis

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

* Technical Criteria weight – 60% (300 pts)

* Financial Criteria weight – 40% (200 pts)

Only candidates obtaining 210 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
Technical		
University degree in the area of environment, biology, geography, hydrology, water resources management	University degree – 50 pts, Master's degree – 60 pts, PhD – 70 pts.	70
At least 10 years of progressive experience at the national or international level in working in sphere of environmental and social risk and/or impact assessment, environmental and safety safeguards, and other relevant fields	10 years – 60 pts each additional year 5 pts up to max – 80 pts	80
Technical understanding and practical experience in preparing national, community and project specific environmental impact/risk assessment documentation	less than 3 years – 0 pts; 3 to 5 years – 20 pts; 5 to 7 years – 30 pts each additional year 5 pts up to max – 60pts	60
Previous experience of working with national governments and local public authorities in the area of social and environmental assessments, risks identification, monitoring of social and environmental plans implementation	less than 3 years – 0 pts; 3 to 5 years – 20 pts; 5 to 7 years – 30 pts each additional year 5 pts up to max – 60 pts	60
Fluency in English, Romanian and Russian orally and in writing	(English – max 10 pts., Romanian – max. 10 pts., Russian – max 10 pts.)	30
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300
Financial Evaluation Scoring		
Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula: $S = F_{min} / F * 200$ S – score received on financial evaluation;		200

Fmin – the lowest financial offer out of all the submitted offers qualified over the technical evaluation round; F – financial offer under consideration.	
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Winning candidate

The winning candidate will be the candidate, who has accumulated the highest aggregated score (technical scoring + financial scoring).

The United Nations Development Programme 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.

Important notice

The applicants who has the statute of Government Official / Public Servant, prior to appointment will be asked to submit the following documentation:

- a no-objection letter in respect of the applicant received from the government, and;
- the applicant is certified in writing by the government to be on official leave without pay for the entire duration of the Individual Contract.

A retired government official is not considered in this case a government official, and as such, may be contracted.

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2 – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS