



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: 26 April 2013

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: International Consultant for Environment Protection Outcome Evaluation

Project name: n/a

Period of assignment/services: May-June 2013

Expected workload 23 days (6 in country, 17 home based)

Proposals should be submitted online by pressing the "Apply Now" button no later than **10 May 2013**.

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

Moldova declared its independence in 1991 with the European integration becoming a strategic priority 8 years after. Since its independence the country engaged into a multitude of reforms across all sectors, in parallel developing the environmental policy and legal and institutional framework. The most important reform thought to contribute to the major transformation is the Central Public Administration Reform launched in 2005 and in the environmental sector it intended to improve transparency and finance management and to promote more structured staff training. The first policy document adopted in 2001 by the country in the environmental area is the National Environmental Policy Concept but due to the lack of a strategy and actions plan as a follow up there is still no comprehensive strategic framework in the place. Moldova is also party to 18 multilateral environmental conventions and 13 bilateral agreements which contributed to a certain degree to formulation of the environmental policy and legal framework. The main driver of current reforms is the approximation effort towards the EU environment *acquis communautaire*. In parallel implementation and enforcement capacities need to be built up.

The Ministry of Environment, established in 1998, is the leading central public authority responsible for formulation of policies for environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. The subordinated agencies are in charge of environmental monitoring, ensuring compliance and

enforcement of the environmental legislation, permitting, providing environmental services and others. Driven by the public administration reform, the Ministry of Environment has developed its Institutional Development Plans which identify the need to strengthen the financial, human and institutional capacities in this area. Despite the existing Plan there is still a weak linkage between strategic planning and finance planning in the environmental sector and the Ministry has limited capacity to formulate financially sound environmental programmes. The environmental sector's budget remains extremely limited and had dropped to 0.1% of the total national budget in 2011.

Moldova's energy sector is characterised by a high dependence on external energy sources. It imports almost 96% of the needed energy resources and the energy prices highly depend on the external factors. The scarcity of natural resources is increasing due to overexploitation and poor management. The inherited agricultural systems promoting unsustainable farming has led to severe soil degradation and erosion impacting the biodiversity and the landscapes. It is estimated that annually soil losses result in a cost which equal to almost US\$250 mln¹. It is also a large source of water pollution which along with the sanitation and wastes management is of greatest concern. Climate change is more and more recognized as key challenge, given the increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards and the high vulnerability of Moldova's population, economy and environment. The cross-cutting nature of the environmental protection is often disregarded by the other sectors thus overlooking the potential the environment might have for the social and economic development.

Against this background the **UNDP Environment and Energy Portfolio** response is aimed at contributing to the upgraded natural resource management in order to meet the EU environmental standards, improved national environmental policies and efficiently functioning public sector.

According to the evaluation plan of the UNDP Moldova office, in 2012 an evaluation will be conducted for the Environment Protection Outcome to assess the impact and contribution of the following projects towards progress in achieving the respective outcome: *Support to Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova, Preparation of the Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) Phase out Management Plan, Implementation of the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan, stage 1, Terminal Phase out Management Plan, Development of the national metered-dose inhaler (MDI) Transition Strategy, Mainstreaming of Sound Management of Chemicals into national development planning process, Strengthening capacities to undertake environmental fiscal reform to meet national and global environmental priorities, National Biodiversity Planning Project to support implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan In Moldova, and Moldova Energy and Biomass Project.*

In this context, UNDP Moldova seeks to hire an international consultant (hereinafter referred to as the "evaluator") to assess the extent to which programme and project activities implemented with partners during 2007-2012 have contributed to the progress under **Country Programme Document (CPD) Outcome 1.4** "*Management of environmental and natural resources is improved in compliance with international/EU standards*", as well as to achievement of set targets, whether existing UNDP's partnership arrangements with local partners proved to be successful and relevant and overall whether UNDP-supported activities have contributed to improved management of environmental and natural resources in compliance with international/EU standards.

2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ANALYTICAL WORK

This is a summary progress evaluation, aiming to assess the extent to which programme and project activities implemented with partners during 2007-2012 have contributed to the progress under **CPD Outcome 1.4 for UNDP**, as well as to achievement of set targets, whether existing UNDP's partnership arrangements with local partners proved to be successful and relevant and overall whether UNDP-

¹ See OECD (2010), *Capacity Development for Environmental Management in Moldova: drivers, links to planning and methods of assessment*

supported activities have contributed to improved management of environmental and natural resources in compliance with international/EU standards. The evaluation shall identify changes that happened within the last 6 years as they relate to the development outcomes, the degree and levels of these changes, i.e. enabling environment, organizational and/or individual levels. It shall also assess whether UNDP's strategic positioning in this area can be improved.

Since this is an evaluation carried out at the end of the development interventions planned for the current CPAPs, the evaluator shall give greater importance to assessing efficiency and to a possible extent the effectiveness of UNDP's Environment and Energy Portfolio CPD Outcome 1.4, whether the size of resources, both financial and human, and partnership strategies continue to be cost-effective and may be applied in continuation and/or revised/changed in the Country Programme Action Plan 2007-2011.

Evaluator shall take into account and rank the following items:

- Status of and degree of change in the outcomes, and factors influencing the outcomes
- Level of incurred changes: Enabling environment, Organizational and/or Individual levels
- UNDP strategic positioning on achieving the outcomes
- Relevance of the outcomes and outputs
- Partnership strategy
- Sustainability: whether there is ownership and capacity to maintain and manage development in the outcomes

The main partners to be involved in the evaluation are: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Forestry Agency Moldsilva, Project Management Teams, NGOs and CBOs, and LPAs.

For detailed information, please refer to Annex 1 – Terms of Reference.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

I. Academic Qualifications:

- Advanced university degree in environment-related sciences, environmental economics, public administration, economics, international development or other related field
- Trainings in project management and monitoring and evaluation is an advantage

II. Years of experience:

- At least six years of work experience in the field of environment-relates sciences, including participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Experience in conducting complex evaluations, especially in the environmental field
- Working experience in the Eastern Europe region

III. Competencies:

- Good understanding of the environmental issues
- Sound knowledge about results-based management (especially results-oriented monitoring and evaluation)
- Proven knowledge of monitoring and evaluation policies and procedures of international financing agencies
- Excellent analytical skills and report writing abilities
- Availability to work with UNDP during the indicated period;
- Good communication skills
- Excellent proficiency in English (the knowledge of Russian and Romanian is an advantage);

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

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

1. Proposal:

- (i) Explaining why they are the most suitable for the work;
- (ii) Provide a brief methodology on how they will approach and conduct the work (if applicable);

2. Financial proposal;

3. Personal CV including past experience in similar projects and at least 3 references.

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

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 travel, per diems, and number of anticipated working days).

Travel

The Consultant will have one mission to Moldova. The number of days spent in Moldova for the mission is 6 days.

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:

- Advanced university degree in environment-related sciences, environmental economics, public administration, economics, international development or other related field
- At least six years of work experience in the field of environment-related sciences, including participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation

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

Provided that the evaluation panel decides to conduct the technical evaluation with interview the following evaluation scheme 1 shall apply:

EVALUATION SCHEME 1 (with interview):

Cumulative analysis

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

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and

b) 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 a minimum of 210 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
Technical		
Advanced university degree in environment-related sciences, environmental economics, public administration, economics, international development or other related field	MSc– 20 pts, PhD– 40 pts	40
Trainings in project management and monitoring and evaluation	Yes-max 20 pts; No-0 pts	20
At least six years of work experience in the field of environment-relates sciences, including participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation	6 years- max. 30 pts; >6 years –max. 60 pts	60
Previous experience in conducting complex evaluations, especially in the environmental field	for each year from 1 to 5, max. two points will be assigned; >5 years- max. 25 pts	25
Previous experience of work in the Eastern Europe region	for each year from 1 to 5, max. two points will be assigned; >5 years –max. 20 pts	20
Proven experience in working with the international organizations	for each year from 1 to 5, one point will be assigned; >5 years – max.10 pts	10
Previous successful experience in working with UN Agencies (for each year from 1 to 5, two points will be assigned; >5 years -15 pts;)	for each year from 1 to 5, max. one point will be assigned; >5 years – max.15 pts	15
Proficiency in English; knowledge of Romanian and/or Russian is an advantage	Proficiency in English –max. 5 pts; knowledge of Romanian and/or Russian + max. 5 pts	10
Interview (demonstrated technical knowledge and experience; communication/ interpersonal skills; initiative; creativity/ resourcefulness)	(max. 60 – demonstrated technical knowledge and experience; max.15 – communication/ interpersonal skills; max.15 – initiative; max.10 – creativity/resourcefulness)	100
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300
Financial		
Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula: $S = F_{min} / F * 200$ S – score received on financial evaluation; Fmin – the lowest financial offer out of all the submitted offers qualified over the technical evaluation round; F – financial offer under consideration.		200

Winning candidate

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

Provided that the evaluation panel decides to conduct the technical evaluation without interview the following evaluation scheme 2 shall apply:

EVALUATION SCHEME 2 (without interview):

Cumulative analysis

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

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- b) 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% (200 pts);

* Financial Criteria weight – 40% (133pts);

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 140 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
<u>Technical</u>		
Advanced university degree in environment-related sciences, environmental economics, public administration, economics, international development or other related field	MSc– 20 pts, PhD– 40 pts	40
Trainings in project management and monitoring and evaluation	Yes- max 20 pts; No-0 pts	20
At least six years of work experience in the field of environment-relates sciences, including participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation	6 years- max. 30 pts; >6 years –max. 60 pts	60
Previous experience in conducting complex evaluations, especially in the environmental field	for each year from 1 to 5, max. two points will be assigned; >5 years- max. 25 pts	25
Previous experience of work in the Eastern Europe region	for each year from 1 to 5, max. two points will be assigned; >5 years –max. 20 pts	20
Proven experience in working with the international organizations	for each year from 1 to 5, one point will be assigned; >5 years – max.10 pts	10
Previous successful experience in working with UN Agencies (for each year from 1 to 5, two points will be assigned; >5 years -15 pts;)	for each year from 1 to 5, max. one point will be assigned; >5 years – max.15 pts	15
Proficiency in English; knowledge of Romanian and/or Russian is an advantage	Proficiency in English –max. 5 pts; knowledge of Romanian and/or Russian + max. 5 pts	10
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		200
<u>Financial</u>		
Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula: $S = F_{min} / F * 133$ S – score received on financial evaluation; Fmin – the lowest financial offer out of all the submitted offers qualified over the technical evaluation round; F – financial offer under consideration.		133

Winning candidate

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

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2 – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS