



Terms of references

Job Title: National consultant for development of the Handbook: Rare species habitats from Soroca and Stefan Voda districts

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

Duration of Employment: November 2016 – January 2017

Contract type: Individual Contract

Expected workload: 60 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 will be responsible for development of the Handbook: Rare species habitats from Soroca and Stefan Voda districts based on the developed Passports and mandatory conservation actions for Red List species and their habitats from respective 2 districts.

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 consultant will develop the Handbook: Rare species habitats from Soroca and Stefan Voda districts taking based on *EUNIS habitat classification and Palearctic habitat classification* described in the 1979 Council of Europe’s Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

All the habitats will be grouped according to the main ecosystems (e.g forest ecosystems, meadow ecosystems, water ecosystems, etc).

For each of the identified habitat the following information will be provided:

- A typical photo of the respective habitat
- Glossary of terms used for description of the habitat
- Code of the habitat according to *EUNIS and Palearctic habitat classification*
- Name of the habitat according to national classification (if any).
- A general description of the habitat (location, soil and vegetation typology and description)
- Main flora species (including their photo)
- Main fauna species (including their photo)
- Main elements of the biodiversity
- A distribution map of the habitat and rare species for the mentioned districts
- A table of compliance of the rare habitats to international classifications

The handbook will be used for the specialists in domain of environment, forestry, agriculture as well as students for identification of the rare habitats type.

Note:

- a) The content and draft version of the handbook should be consulted in the initial and final stage with the project management team and Ministry of Environment.
- b) The proposed handbook 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 November 2016 – January 2017, not exceeding 60 working days.

	Deliverable	Deadline and workload
1	Development and consultation of the handbook content.	November 05, 2016 5 working days

2	Development of the Handbook: Rare species habitats from Soroca and Stefan Voda districts	November 30, 2016 25 working days
3	Consultation of the draft versions of the Handbook: Rare species habitats from Soroca and Stefan Voda with the project management team.	December 15, 2016 10 working days
4	Presentation of the final version to the project management team.	January 30, 2017 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 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.
- Proved experience in development of scientific reports, articles, handbooks, monographies is mandatory.
- Good understanding and experience in description of flora and fauna of Moldova (proven by developed books, articles and other relevant publications).
- 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.

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.