

Terms of Reference

Short Term Expert in Regional Development

CB2 Project MSP - PIMS 3069 “Strengthening Capacity to Integrate Environment and Natural Resource Management for Global Environmental Benefits”

I. INTRODUCTION

Project background information

The CB-2 project aims to expand Romania's capacity to generate global environmental benefits through mainstreaming the Rio Conventions into national, regional and local decision-making. It will do this, *firstly*, by enhancing the enabling environment for convention implementation, including modifying institutional, legislative, policy and reporting frameworks to reflect conventions commitments and, *secondly*, by improving institutional and individual capacity within the lead agencies for convention implementation (MoEF and MARD)¹. The latter component will strengthen mechanisms, tools and training to support the use of Integrated Resource Management to mainstream conventions themes into sectoral plans and programmes. The project also addresses the objectives of the three GEF focal areas and three of the four interim programming priorities under GEF Strategic Priority CB-2, **Cross-cutting Capacity Development: (1) Improve national convention institutional structures and mechanisms; (2) Strengthen policy, legislative and regulative framework; and (3) Mainstream global environmental priorities into national policies and programmes.** The project is consistent with a key UNDP programme objective for Romania: to enhance environmental governance at national and local levels for better compliance with EU standards and international conventions, through policy development and integration of environment into other sectors.

The Ecological University of Bucharest (UEB) is the Delegated Executing Agency of this project. A Project Management Unit (PMU) was formed², with the aim of providing project management service. The PIU reports to the National Steering Committee (NSC) and UNDP, and liaise closely with the National Execution Agency (NEA) and the chair and members of the NSC to prepare all project work plans and managerial and financial reports.

Situation Analysis

Romania has ratified over 20 Multinational Environmental Agreements since 1992, including the “Rio Conventions” on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation (CBD, FCCC, CCD) and prepared related Action Plans. Romania's accession to the EU, in January 2007, has triggered improvements to the institutional, legal and policy framework for environmental management, and led to the preparation of numerous environmental and sectoral plans, strategies and programmes. However, Rio Conventions management has continued to be fragmented and uncoordinated, and conventions implementation has been weak,

¹ MoEF = Ministry of Environment and Forests; MARD = Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

² PMU is made up of a Project Manager (PM), and a Project Assistant (PA)

due, in part, to poor integration of convention themes into EU-related reforms in policy-making, environmental and natural resource management, public administration, decentralization and regional and local planning.

The analysis of the baseline situation indicated that there are many positive initiatives to improve environmental and natural resource management, yet there are also missed opportunities to integrate convention themes into these initiatives. *Institutions:* There is a well-developed institutional framework for environmental and natural resources management, with Convention Units in MoEF (FCCC, CCD and CBD). However, convention responsibilities are unclear and convention units and activities are poorly integrated into programmes at national, regional or local levels. There are no or weak collaborative mechanisms to involve other ministries or stakeholders in achieving convention goals. There have been only limited efforts to bring convention issues into sectoral plans and strategies, and there has been no involvement by regional and local environmental authorities.

Project Strategy

The strategy of the current project is three-fold, as follows³:

A. Enhance the enabling environment (institutional, legal and policy frameworks).

This involves strengthening the institutional and legal arrangements for convention implementation, including delineation of accountability, roles and responsibilities, and reporting and collaborative mechanisms. It also involves amendments to current laws, strategies and plans to enable integration of convention themes into relevant policies, plans and programmes.

B. Strengthen capacity to integrate the conventions with sectorial and regional planning, programmes and projects. The MARD has the mandate for the agriculture and rural development sectors. Thus, strengthening its institutions, laws and norms, enhancing the capacity of its personnel and promoting collaboration with MoEF creates rich possibilities for meeting multiple convention objectives through Integrated Resource Management (IRM). Alignment and close coordination with EU-supported institutional and sectorial capacity building provides a strategic entry point for the GEF to address cross-cutting convention issues that now are not being addressed.

C. Improve institutional and individual capacity of MoEF and MARD. This strategy involves strengthening the technical capacity of MoEF and MARD through awareness-building, technical assistance and applied training, so that they can better implement convention themes into Ministry activities at national, regional and local levels.

II. PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTANCY

The project Outcome in view with this assistance is:

“Regional Coordinating Mechanisms (RCMs) by using IRM tools are established and implemented as demonstration models in two of Romania's eight Development

³ The proposal was initially submitted to GEF Secretariat on April 26th, 2006 and re-pipelined for 2007 as per GEF Secretariat information and upon request resubmitted on March 2nd, 2007. Proposal approved on March 28th, 2008; Project Document signed in June, 2008.

Regions (DRs), then expanded to the remaining six regions, based on lessons learned.

The principal responsibility of the consultant is to make a regional scan for selecting two pilot regions of the project.

The objective of the consultancy is to conduct a scan of all eight Romanian Development Regions (DRs) to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each region related to the project needs to identify 2 regions to be pilot sites for the implementation of a newly designed Regional Collaboration/ Coordinating Mechanism (RCM), based on Integrated Management (IRM) tools and propose the two best pilot regions.

The envisioned output is to create a formal mechanism for communication and cooperation at the Development Regions (DRs) level, at a time when this level is being given increasing responsibility for managing the natural resources base.

An RCM "demonstration model" using IRM tools for interagency collaboration will be developed, setting out the composition, functioning accountability and responsibilities, to be tested in the two regions.

Some of the criteria in view for the selection of the pilot regions may include, but shall not be restricted to:

- Global important environmental and natural resources under threat
- Issues that cut across the Rio conventions that would benefit from Integrated Resource Management approaches
- Regional and Local Action Plans in place
- Have a local Agenda 21 project
- Have environmental NGOs
- Local authorities have a demonstrated interest in the conventions/ possible "champions"
- Possible Integrated Resource Management Tools to be used

Within the framework of this ToR, the consultant is expected to perform the following duties:

- Structure a small working group to oversee the consultancy and particularly the selection/ recommendation of the two pilot regions. The group should include key stakeholders involved in the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) signed by Romania but also representatives from the regions and NGOs;
- Review NCSA⁴ reports and any other relevant studies; particularly relevant to regional development;
- Review the list of MEAs signed by Romania – including the Rio Conventions: CBD, FCCC and CCD but also others such as Stockholm Convention (POPs); particularly the obligations;
- Review the status of their implementation in Romania: national action plan, strategies, national [progress] reports, communications, etc.;
- Identify key criteria related to the implementation of these MEAs at the regional and local level to be used for the selection of two regions;
- Review and validate criteria with the working group;
- Review regional and local data and interview key regional stakeholders to

⁴ National Capacity Self-Assessment (country) Reports

- collect information on the selected criteria;
- Using relevant information for the project and the selected criteria establish a profile for each region;
- Using these profiles, identify the most suitable 2 regions to be the project pilot sites;
- Validate profiles and the proposed selection with the working group;
- Elaborate an initial action plan to implement the pilot activities in the 2 regions.

III. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TENTATIVE TIMEFRAME

Deliverables:

- List of criteria with justifications for selecting pilot sites;
- Minutes of the Validation meeting with the working group;
- A final report summarizing the profile for each region, the multi-criteria analysis to select the 2 best regions and the final selection results.

Tentative timeframe

- Consultancy work shall start March 10th, 2010 to be concluded through May 31st, 2010.
- Estimated consultancy time allocation = 30 work-days

List of criteria and composition of working group	Delivery expected: March 25 th , 2010
Minutes of the validation meetings	Delivery expected: April 25 th , 2010
Final report	Delivery expected: May 25 th , 2010

IV. REQUIREMENTS:

The consultant should possess the following Competencies and meet the following Requirements:

Competencies:

- Good working experience in undertaking desktop research and publications review;
- Familiarity with Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development structures at national and regional level is a must;
- Excellent knowledge of the situation of the 8 (eight) Development Regions of Romania;
- Good knowledge of the Environmental Management (Institutional) framework in Romania;
- Familiarity with the International Conventions addressing Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity Conservation, and their implementation in Romania;
- Knowledge of the EU environmental management (Legal) framework;
- Acquaintance with the Romanian administrative and local governance structures will be an advantage;
- Experience in conducting interviews and focus groups;
- Demonstrated skills to interpret, present and report data/information.

Required Skills and Experience:

Education:

Advanced University degree in the fields of biodiversity conservation and environmental protection, natural resource management, public administration or related fields.

Work experience:

The Consultant should have five to ten years or more of experience in environmental management and/or agriculture; including regional and local experience;

Languages:

Able to provide assignment outputs of high quality in Romanian and English.

V. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS:

The principal responsibility for managing this consultancy lies with the Delegated Executing Agency – The Ecological University of Bucharest, and the Project Management Unit. The Project Management Unit within the Ecological University of Bucharest will contract the consultant and ensure timely provision of the necessary feedback on deliverables.

The Project Management Unit within the Ecological University of Bucharest will have the responsibility of liaising with the team of consultants and assisting with logistical support, as case may be, in setting up stakeholder's interviews and coordinate with the Government.

VI. EVALUATION OF APPLICANTS:

Successful candidates will be selected based on a cumulative analysis of their technical capacity and their financial offer.

All applications and enquiries must be sent:

- by e-mail to Mr. Pop Dorin Alexandru, CB-2 Project Assistant, dorinal Alexandru@yahoo.com , with Cc to environment.ro@undp.org.

Applications must contain the following documents:

- CV
- Letter of intention, that will highlight the applicant's skills in relationship to the assignment and the applicant's approach to the given assignment
- Financial offer, expressed as fee/ day, in USD.

Applications should indicate: "National Expert on Regional Development"

The deadline for submitting applications is March 8th, 2010, 5 pm Romanian time.