



**“Support to alignment of NBSAP with CBD obligations and to Development of CHM”
– Biodiversity Enabling Activity Project –**

GEF - UNDP Project, assisting MMDD, through execution by UEB

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**Terms of Reference
for Short-Term Expert: In-situ Conservation - Mountain and Forest
Biodiversity: 2
related to Biodiversity Conservation
in the
Review and Development of the Biodiversity
Romanian Strategy and Action Plan
within the framework of UNDP-GEF project
*“Support to alignment of NBSAP with CBD obligations and development
of CHM”***

1. Project background information¹

The project’s objective is to enhance the national capacity to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provisions, through addressing institutional and human capacity gaps, and adopting a more integrated approach to biodiversity conservation.

The main components of the project are:

- **Aligning the National Strategy and Action Plan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity with legal obligations under the CBD.**

The main deficiency of the existing Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP - Romania) is that the document was formulated by a limited number of local experts without broader consultation and stakeholders’ involvement. The document, therefore, contains not only outdated information, but it is, also, largely based on expert judgments and views on priorities and threats to biodiversity. No major gap analysis has been undertaken during the BSAP preparations. Therefore, as part of the add-on project, Romania will be given an opportunity to do a consultative and participatory in-depth analysis of critical gaps and barriers to effectively bringing the biodiversity conservation agenda forward.

- **Strengthening Romania’s Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM).**

Despite existing databases for biological diversity at national level, and the nomination of a CHM National Focal Point, there is no coordination program setting to provide for integrated data and information management system for biodiversity conservation in Romania. The

¹ Source: NBSAP-Romania Project Document

existing efforts are important, but not consolidated in support of decision-making. Therefore, a comprehensive CHM, in place and effectively running, is an urgent priority to overcome the current deficiency in the respective information, communication and collaboration system.

- **Undertaking detailed capacity needs assessment in the areas of priority to the CBD implementation.**

The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA), conducted in 2005, identified a number of priorities under the biodiversity thematic area. However, more in depth analysis is needed. And, because three years have already passed, a validation/updating process should take place. For example: Initial assessment and monitoring programs, including taxonomy and implementation of measures for in-situ and ex-situ conservation and sustainable use – capacities needs will be carefully analyzed following with the design of a training and capacity building modules. With changing legal framework, for ownership rights and land use, these issues require particular attention.

The approach of aligning the Biodiversity Strategy with the CBD obligations will be highly participative through broad consultation of relevant stakeholders. Mechanisms of voluntary cooperation will be explored in order to improve the biodiversity related information flow between the institutions and a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) with linkages to national biological data bases will be developed. The capacity needs assessment will be strictly focused on CBD obligations and implementation, and tailor-made training modules will be designed, targeting the key stakeholders responsible with the CBD implementation.

2. Scope of Work for this Consultancy Services

During stocktaking phase, the consultant will be responsible for:

- Collection, synthesis and analysis of information on the biodiversity of wetland, dry and sub-humid ecosystems of the country, primarily by ecosystem and in terms that will allow the application of the criteria for priority setting (responsibility of the Key Expert); Analysis should be done both from a national perspective and from a regional perspective covering the full extent of each major category of ecosystem.
- Description and analysis of wetlands, dry and sub-humid ecosystems and of their habitats (including those of Natura 2000 sites) - Geographic location, areal extent and condition of these ecosystems (ideally, mapped and spatially referenced) in close cooperation with the other team experts;
- Analysis will include the present areal extent in relation to what is known of their original areal extent and will include an analysis of recent and current trends affecting the areal extent and condition of these ecosystems.
- Identification and analysis of the direct and indirect causes of biodiversity loss by ecosystem;
- The threatened, endangered and rare species by ecosystem should be highlighted as well as any "flagship" species,
- Identification and analysis of the risks posed by alien invasive species for each ecosystem.
- Analysis of the possibility/potential for control/elimination of existing IAS. Analysis of the adequacy of existing programs/measures for controlling IAS (The consultant will contribute to a synthesis, at the end, on alien invasives that would cover all ecosystems treated by all of experts and would cover the adequacy of laws, policies and capacities for controlling/minimizing the risk of introduction of new alien invasive species into Romania).
- Identification of species that have been lost from Romanian ecosystems but that are still found outside the country or in *in situ* collections and that could be reintroduced into the wild.
- Identification and prioritization of the direct threats/ pressures to the biological resources resulting from the trade in rare and threatened plant and animal species

- Identification of resource use regimes; Identification of what biodiversity is being used (what ecosystems? what species?) and how; Assessment of the sustainability of this use and analysis of the causes of unsustainable use. Emphasis needs to be placed on the question as to whether the use of the biological resources results in a man-caused loss of biodiversity or of productivity; Assessment of the trends in the sustainability of resource use over time including projections of future use; Analyze the causes of unsustainable use. This will include questions concerning how the resource is being used, by whom and for what purposes. It will also include questions on what the land and resource tenure systems are, both modern and traditional, that determine the rights of access to the resources being used.
- Assessment of the use of traditional cultural knowledge related to landscape conservation in selected ecosystems.
- Identification of existing biodiversity monitoring systems and analyze their strengths and weaknesses. Analyze the appropriateness of existing indicators wetlands, dry and subhumid biodiversity status and to assess its trend;
- Analysis of the adequacy and effectiveness of the existing protected areas (PA) network for ensuring the conservation of the biodiversity of these ecosystems;
- Analysis of the risks posed by climate change.
- Identification of existing taxonomic guides and analyze their adequacy.
- Conducting of a gap analysis to determine how well the existing PA network(s) cover the habitats and ecosystems covered by your terms of reference
- Analysis of the effectiveness of the management of the PA network
- Analysis of the effectiveness of PA management for the habitats/ecosystems covered by the TOR.
- Complete the identification of information needs for biodiversity conservation (done by the NCSA and the CBD Strategic Plan) and analyze the extent to which these information needs are already being supplied by existing institutions.

During the strategy development phase, the consultant will be responsible for:

All tasks during the Strategy Development Phase will be undertaken as a team member working in close coordination with other national consultants and under the overall supervision and guidance of the Key Expert. The Team Leader will have a coordination role.

Tasks for the consultant:

- Identification of the constraints that impede the achievement of the strategy objectives, with a special emphasis on the following categories of constraints- (pertaining to Education/Communication and Public Awareness related to biodiversity conservation):
 - i. Identification of specific laws, policies and regulations pertaining to biodiversity conservation, that need to be reformed;
 - ii. Specific potential changes to institutional mandates that should be made;
 - iii. Institutional and individual capacity needs;
 - iv. Information constraints;
- Work with the Key Expert and other national consultants, add his/her input to develop a strategy of the envisioned situation for biodiversity conservation in Romania until 2025;
- Work closely with key stakeholders to develop a consensus on sections of the strategy to be elaborated;
- Provide the necessary input related to his/her assignment for the development of the corresponding sections of the biodiversity strategy;
- Present the sections of the draft strategy that the consultant was responsible with, at the second national stakeholders' workshop;
- Incorporate into the respective sections of the strategy the feedback from the workshop with stakeholders and other written review comments;

Consultant's tasks for the development of the National Action Plan should include:

All tasks during the Action Plan Development Phase will be undertaken as a team member working in close coordination with other national consultants and under the overall supervision and guidance of the Key Expert. Tasks will be:

- Working as part of the team, to identify the key priority actions and respective activities to be undertaken during the following two time periods:
 - Short term priority actions for the period 2008-2010
 - Mid-term priority actions for the period 2011- 2018
- In consultation with key stakeholders, provide detailed activity descriptions of specific Short-Term activities (2008-2010), as assigned by the Key Expert. These activity descriptions will include:
 - Title
 - Timeframe
 - Justification within the context of the National Biodiversity Strategy
 - Activity or Project objectives and outcomes
 - Budget
 - Proposed implementing agency(ies)
- In consultation with relevant stakeholders, prepare the draft plan of activities to be undertaken during the Mid-Term period (2011—2018):
 - Justification
 - Description of the activity/project
 - Indicative budget
- Incorporate in the National Action Plan, into the respective sections, all of the written review comments.

Capacity Assessment should include:

Based on the stock-taking phase data, and along with the in-puts to the National Strategy parts elaboration and the proposals for the Action Plan designing, the consultant should also provide recommendations in terms of training needed for the improved implementation of the alignments to CBD requirements, and the key issues identified in the NCSA final report. Reporting on the Institutional and Human Resources capacity needs should be taken into consideration.

3. General Obligations and Deliverables:

The consultant will:

- participate in the national consultant team "brainstorming sessions" organized by the Project Manager, with the Key expert and National Steering Committee (NSC) representatives;
- prepare a full draft report covering all Stock-Taking tasks and results in his/ her TOR prior to the first national stakeholder workshop;
- propose **detailed objectives** vis-a-vis each task/ thematic area covered and propose **strategic options for achieving each objectives**, by identifying priorities, constrains and needed resources (financial, legal, institutional, and human), and develop alternative scenarios for meeting requirements of those objectives implementation;
- present his/ her findings and proposals at the first stakeholder workshop;
- revise his/ her report based on workshop feedback and on review comments received;
- develop and run activities and consultative approaches as to elaborate on the respective parts into the National Strategy Draft writing, the Action Plan designing, and the Capacity Assessment needs Report, on institutional and training for NBSAP implementation, as it pertains to his/ her area of expertise and assigned tasks under these TORs;
- participate in the Second National Workshop, as to take in-puts for the necessary adjustment of these documents, and integrate them into their final version.

7. Supervision and payment

Consultations regarding the assignment with Ecological University of Bucharest (UEB) shall begin work immediately upon contract signature. The contractor shall report to the Project Team Leader - Key Expert and to the Project Manager. The payment schedule will be devised at a later stage; however, usually, this is being done through three installments and/or upon the completion, delivery of certain outputs, pending on their content validation, by the Project Manager, NCSA and UNDP Romania. A final substantial and financial project report will be submitted with the request for final payment.

8. Application:

Applications must be in English, and entail the following:

- Letter of Intent
- CV
- Consultancy fee (USD/Day)

9. Consultants Selection process

Based on the relevant candidates' qualification, as entailed in their submitted professional resume, those who can prove eligibility to project work shall be contacted for interviews, in view of contractual terms setting. The dialogue shall be held with a panel including: the Project Key Expert, the Project Manager, and the Project UNDP-Romania Coordinator.