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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job title:	National Consultants to develop the Community Forest management plans for the Orhei National Park region
Duty station:	Chisinau, Moldova
Reference to the project:	Clima-East: 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.
Contract type:	Individual contract (group of consultants)
Expected workload:	12 months (expected workload 160 working days)
Duration:	October 2013 – August 2014

Background:

Moldova has one of the poorest coverage with forests in Europe (around 12% of the territory), which is highly fragmented. The current amount of forested area is insufficient to guarantee effective environmental protection. Forests in Moldova are also playing a major role for the energy security of the country. Due to the high cost of imported fossil fuels (mostly natural gas) and electricity for the end consumers, demand of firewood in rural areas is very high. The main source of alternative fuel most often comes from wood collected from the environment (forest wood, downed wood in community land, vineyard residues etc.). The most of the wood comes from the authorized harvesting in the forests managed by Moldsilva Forest Agency. The rest of the wood comes mostly from forests and protection belts which belong to Local Public Authorities, which are usually unmanaged and are subject of illegal logging. Ensuring the proper planning and management of community forests, through building stable diversified forests, ecological reconstruction of forests in time will positively influence and will be a model for carbon sequestration in the framework of climate change and will have a positive social impact on local population and on biodiversity.

In this regard EU Commission under CLIMA EAST package provided a grant to Republic of Moldova to demonstrate a natural resource management model in the pastures and forests of Moldova which increases ecosystems' capacity to sequester carbon under pending climate risks, while at the same time retaining biodiversity and economic values. The CLIMA EAST pilot project targets the pastures and forest

degraded lands located in the Orhei National Park area (33,792.09 ha) and its buffer zone. The project will develop innovative pasture and community forest management systems on the whole territory of the park, including rehabilitation of 500 ha of pastures and afforestation of 150 ha of eroded and non-productive lands.

Objective of the assignment:

The expected output for the assignment is to assist the Local Public Authorities in developing forest management plans for the community forest lands in Orhei National Park region, which will serve as a tool for better management and biodiversity of community forests and increasing the livelihoods in the park area.

Scope of work and expected output:

The activity will consist in developing forest management plans for the 1,392 ha of community forests from National Park Orhei area and its buffer zone.

In order to achieve the aforementioned objective, the Contractor will have to achieve the following tasks:

Preparatory phase

- analysing forest conditions of the areas, studying all existing information/data and other materials on the areas;
- preparing all necessary tools, field and office equipment for Forest Management Planning commencement;
- organizing the First Forest Management Planning Conferences, where the scope and objective of the forest management planning will be presented. The Conference should be organized in a participatory way involving participants from Ministry of Environment, Agency Moldsilva, Academy of Science and Local Public Authorities.
- coordinating activities between Local Public Authorities and other authorities and groups, ensuring sufficient preparedness of Local Public Authorities for undertaking Forest Management Planning activities;

Field phase

- conducting field Forest Management Planning work in community forestlands, also cooperating with Local Public Authorities;
- delimitation of boundaries, parcels and sub parcels of the selected forestlands by applying special signs in accordance with the existing regulations developed and approved by the Government and Agency Moldsilva. Purchasing of ink, brushes, pillars is the responsibility of the team;
- providing description for every parcel, sub parcel and forest unit (UA) that includes the type of vegetation, type of habitat, other forest and mapping parameters;
- providing a proper eco-typology of the selected forestland, including types of forests, types of habitat and types of soil. This data should be properly incorporated in the sheets for vegetation description as part of forest management planning report ;
- preparation of the initial data (assembled draft maps) for development of the forest management maps;

- mapping the road network per each forest unit and parcel (if such roads and signs exist in the area of work);

Office phase

- development of the Forest Management Planning reports
- processing all field information and building electronic databases for the Local Public Authorities;
- checking the coverage of the areas
- developing the forest/stands maps for each Local Public Authority where Forest Management Planning work was done;
- organizing the second Forest Management Planning Conference with participation of all stakeholders, both national and local, where the results of the work will be presented;
- change or update the Forest Management Planning reports based on the recommendations from the second Forest Management Planning Conference.
- collaborate with Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS) in order to finalize the Forest Management Planning reports.

Note:

Activities related to official verification and approval of the Forest Management Planning reports (according to the Forest Code) as well as developing, design and printing out the books of Forest Management Planning and the maps of forest vegetation for each of selected Local Public Authorities will be carried out by Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS).

Deliverables and Timeframe:

1. Preparatory phase finalized and report developed **by 25 October 2013**.
2. At least 1/3 of the community forestlands (464 ha) with demarcated boundaries, parcels and sub parcels and vegetation described **by 10 December 2013**.
3. All the community forestlands (1392 ha) with demarcated boundaries, parcels and sub parcels and vegetation described **by 30 June 2014**.
4. Electronic and Hard copies of the Forest Management Plans/Books (FMPs) and forest vegetation maps (FVM) for Orhei National Park community forestlands developed in cooperation with ICAS and delivered to the Project Management Unit to be further submitted to Local Public Authorities **by 31 August, 2014**.

Management Arrangements:

It's expected that the team will consist of max 4 consultants. The team will work under the overall guidance of the UNDP CLIMA EAST Project Manager, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment of Moldova, Agency "Moldsilva" and Local Public Authorities from Orhei National Park area. The Contractor will report to the UNDP CLIMA EAST Project Manager.

Financial arrangements:

Payment will be disbursed in four 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.

Qualifications and Experience

- Graduate degree in forestry or related fields;
- At least 3 years of significant experience in forestry or related issues in Moldova;
- Experience in Forest Management Planning activities is strongly required;
- Work experience with projects financed by international organizations will be an asset;
- Experience in working with local public authorities and local communities;
- Technical knowledge in the targeted focal area(s).

Competencies

- Capacity for analytical studies, organization of workshops/meetings, other necessary activities;
- Ability to undertake field works are strongly required;
- Strong interpersonal skills, communication and diplomatic skills, ability to work in a team;
- Ability to plan and organize his/her work, efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results;
- Openness to change and ability to receive/integrate feedback;

Language requirements:

- Fluent in written and oral communication in Romanian;
- Knowledge of English or/and Russian will be a strong asset.