

TERMS OF REFERENCE

National Consultant to complete the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for Protected Areas System

Job title:	National Consultant
Duty station:	Chisinau, Moldova
Reference to the project:	"Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System of Moldova"
Contract type:	IC
Expected workload:	15 days
Starting date:	April, 2013

Background

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), acting as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is providing assistance to the Moldovan Ministry of Environment in the implementation of the GEF Medium Size Project (MSP) "Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova". The Protected Area System of Moldova is not uniformly distributed in the landscape and there are substantial gaps, particularly in terms of steppe habitats, that need to be addressed to ensure the adequate representation of the main types of ecosystems. Protected Areas are also highly fragmented in the landscape and are not achieving the conservation objectives for landscape-scale ecological processes. The project aims to enhance the coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System of Moldova by piloting - within the broader framework of the National Environmental Network - the establishment of the first National Park in Moldova, and by strengthening the capacities at the systemic, institutional and individual levels to establish and manage a representative protected area system. Thus, the GEF-funded developmental interventions will lead to creation of an enabling framework for the expansion of the protected area system to include under-represented ecosystems in Moldova. The project is structured into two **outcomes:**

Outcome 1 Improving representativity and coverage of the Protected Area System.

Outcome 2 Strengthening the capacity of Protected Area institutions to effectively manage the protected area system.

The project assisted the re-validation of Protected Areas, and their protected area status, within the national PAS. This includes the collation of biodiversity and management data and the assimilation of this data into the national environmental information system. In this context the project finalized the evaluation process of the current biodiversity status in all 312 Protected Areas which form the Moldova system of Protected Areas.

Scope of the assignment:

The consultant will be responsible for assisting the Ministry of Environment in completing the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scorecard (in English) showing the effectiveness of the management activities of the protected area. The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) was developed to help measure changes in protected area management effectiveness over time. The METT has been used to monitor progress towards the targets for improved management effectiveness established under the GEF project interventions. The methodology is a rapid assessment based on a scorecard questionnaire. The scorecard includes all six elements of management identified in the IUCN-WCPA. Framework (context, planning, inputs, process, outputs and outcomes), but has an emphasis on context, planning, inputs and processes. It is used to enable park managers and donors to identify needs, constraints and priority actions to improve the effectiveness of protected area management.

The Scorecard will be completed based on field visits and PA revalidation results of the individual protected areas. The consultant will:

1. Assist the Protected Area staff of the 6 Protected Areas to complete the METT scorecards based on the field visits and their best knowledge. The protected areas are: Codrii Scientific Reserve, Plaiul Fagului Scientific Reserve, Prutul de Jos Scientific Reserve, Padurea Domneasca Scientific Reserve, Wetland of international importance Nistrul de Jos, Orhei National Park *
2. Complete the METT Scorecards for the rest of protected areas making up the national protected area system (except veteran trees) based on data capture form reflecting the re-validation results, provided by the UNDP/GEF Protected Area System Project management unit.
3. Compare the METT Scorecard results from the baseline, and mid-term and provide explanations of any significant trends or deviations

Note: The Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) Scorecard blank will be provided by UNDP/GEF Protected Area System Project management unit.

Deliverables and Timeframe:

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| METT Scorecards for the following Protected Areas filled in and submitted: | |
| 1. Codrii Scientific Reserve, Plaiul Fagului Scientific Reserve, Prutul de Jos Scientific Reserve, Padurea Domneasca Scientific Reserve, Wetland of international importance Nistrul de Jos, Orhei National Park; | 5 May, 2013 |
| 2. METT Scorecards for the rest of Protected Areas making up the national protected area system filled in and submitted | 31 May, 2013 |

Management Arrangements:

The national consultant will work under the guidance and direct supervision of Project Manager. The consultant will report to the Project Manager.

Financial arrangements:

Payment will be disbursed in one instalment upon submission and approval of the final documents as specified under 'Deliverables and Timeframe' section and certification by the Project Manager and Portfolio Manager that the services have been satisfactorily performed.

* The METT scorecard for Orhei National Park will be filled in based on the results of the field visits, coordination with managers of the protected areas included in the park, local authorities and/or forest enterprises, existing public information and coordination with UNDP/GEF Protected Areas System Project team.

Qualifications

Education:

- University Degree in biodiversity conservation, botany, biology, forestry, or other relevant fields.

Experience:

- At least 5 years of professional experience in biodiversity conservation, botany, biology, forestry, or other relevant fields;
- Experience in Protected area management or protected areas monitoring is a strong asset;
- Work experience on projects financed by international organizations is an asset.

Abilities:

- Ability to analyze and generalize;
- Ability to work in a team;
- Excellent communication and writing skills in the field of activity;
- Excellent PC skills, ability to use Internet;
- Fluency in Romanian and Russian. Working knowledge of English is a strong advantage.

Personal qualities:

- Responsibility, creativity, promptness and punctuality.

* The METT scorecard for Orhei National Park will be filled in based on the results of the field visits, coordination with managers of the protected areas included in the park, local authorities and/or forest enterprises, existing public information and coordination with UNDP/GEF Protected Areas System Project team.