



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job title:	International Consultant to conduct market research for introducing new climate services in the Republic of Moldova
Type of Contract:	Individual Contract (IC)
Duty station:	Home-based
Section/Unit:	Environment, Energy and Climate Change Cluster
Languages requirement:	English
Contract Duration:	June 2021 – February 2022, 60 working days
Payment arrangements:	Lump sum contract (payments linked to satisfactory performance and delivery of outputs)
Evaluation method:	Interview of shortlisted candidates

I. BACKGROUND

Climate change is already profoundly impacting the conditions for resource availability and agricultural activities. Over the last decade, the country has experienced several extreme events, such as droughts and major floods, along with the cumulative effects caused by increased mean temperature and the uneven distribution of precipitation throughout the year, which have had negative consequences on the country's economy, and its population wellbeing and health. Severe droughts are recurring more frequently, causing significant economic losses. The increasing scope and intensity of extreme events have also resulted in increased frequencies of high-risk situations. By 2050, an increase of 2–3°C in the average temperature, an additional 32 days that exceed the current maximum temperature by 10%, and another 12 days with zero precipitation are projected.

The Government sees the National Adaptation Planning (NAP) process as key to achieving the adaptation objectives outlined in its 2014 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Moldova and its 2020 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), as well as the continued mainstreaming of climate change considerations into its policies and budgeting processes. Therefore, the proposed project supports the Republic of Moldova's Government in advancing the second cycle of its National Adaptation Planning process (known as NAP-2). The outcomes of the NAP-2 national adaptation planning processes are:

- **Outcome 1:** To strengthen and operationalize the national steering mechanism for climate change adaptation (CCA);
- **Outcome 2:** To improve the long-term capacity on planning and implementation of adaptation actions through CCA technologies;
- **Outcome 3:** To improve the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation through the increased alignment of national development priorities in the priority sectors (forestry, health, energy, and transport).

The project will contribute to UNDAF, 2018-2022 outcome #3 (The people of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from enhanced environmental governance, energy security, sustainable management of natural resources, climate, and disaster-resilient development). Additionally, the project will contribute to the UNDP Country Programme Output 3.3 (National and sub-national governments have improved capacities to integrate resilience to climate change and disasters into development plans and practices to reduce population's vulnerability). Other than that, the project will contribute to the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030" by ensuring resilience to climate change by reducing risks related to climate change and by facilitating adaptation in six priority sectors - agriculture, water resources, health, forestry, energy, and transport.

The preliminary work under the first cycle of the NAP (known as NAP-1) supported developing a NAP as a process, conceptualizing and developing its elements, including the national steering mechanism, and laid down the groundwork towards long-term adaptation planning. Despite the progress, significant gaps remain in integrating climate change considerations into many of the national priority sectors' development policies and their associated budget priorities. National appropriations for CCA remain limited.

The NAP-2 goals will be achieved within two parallel implementation tracks. The first track implemented by UNDP expands and deepens the national approach developed under the NAP-1 and strengthens synergies both vertically, at different levels of the governance, and horizontally, between the sectors affected by climate change to reduce duplication of efforts, pool scarce resources for efficient use, and ensure a coherent and comprehensive approach to the integration of CCA responses into development planning. In contrast, the second track will focus on adaptation in the agriculture sector and will be concurrently implemented under FAO's auspices.

The National Designated Authority has coordinated with the UNDP and the FAO country offices to ensure the complementarity and congruency of the activities and exchange, as appropriate. By its very nature, the NAP-2 will facilitate the integration of CCA into existing strategies, policies, and programs and establish a strong foundation for the integration of methods, tools, and information systems in day-to-day planning activities to inform decision-makers on the climate risks effectively and to enable the informed formulation of resilient projects and financing strategies.

Statistical analyses show that the loss of life and property caused by hydrometeorological disasters has increased in recent decades. It is also reported that the frequency and severity of the weather, climate, and water-related hazards causing disasters have been increasing due to climate change. The losses from hydrometeorological and climate disasters can be prevented or mitigated by predicting severe weather and climate conditions causing disasters by issuing early warnings for decision-makers, disaster managers, and the public.

Furthermore, it must be considered that the assessment of the meteorological, hydrological, and climate data, products, and services, particularly long-term climate statistics, as the decisive criteria for all sectoral planning and applications will provide extreme contribution for risk reduction, increasing the structural and social resilience against disasters, and sustainable development of the country.

It is obvious that the service delivery capacity of the State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) must be improved by making necessary investments in human resources, technological infrastructure, and research capabilities in order to ensure the provision of required products and services for the public and private sectors, and for the wellbeing of whole Moldovan community.

By considering this fact, it will be crucial to make the relevant government authorities and decision-makers fully understand the socio-economic benefits provided by hydrometeorological services to allocate required resources for improving and maintaining the service delivery capacity of the SHS.

This assignment will increase the awareness of the importance of hydrometeorological services for all socio-economic sectors and activities among the government authorities, decision-makers, and public. For this purpose, the project will contract an international consultant to conduct a socio-economic assessment of the hydrometeorological services based on the products and services provided, particularly potential climate services, by considering the impact of climate change on socio-economic sectors. In addition, he/she will work closely with the respective national partners, including state institutions, local authorities, civil society, and international organizations.

II. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED DELIVERABLES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

In line with the increasing needs of the developing world, it has become necessary to provide high-quality meteorological, hydrological, and climate services for the users who are demanding these services. Today, all activities and applications of socio-economic sectors are very much in need and could benefit from meteorological, hydrological, and climate services. This assignment's main objective is to increase awareness of the importance of hydrometeorological and climate services for the country's economic development and to introduce new climate services on the market.

Specific tasks:

The consultant(s) will work in close cooperation with the Project pool of consultants and Team Leaders. Under the project manager's supervision, the consultant(s) will conduct a socio-economic analysis and benefits of hydrometeorological services, particularly for the climate services delivered for the users. The specific tasks are presented below:

- Develop a working plan indicating the main activities and timeline;
- Develop a conceptual framework for the study by considering the study's purpose, services provided by SHS, main sectors to be assessed, and methodology to be used;
- Identify the demand for climate services, including the current and potential users, analyzing the needs within various economic sectors;
- Analyze the existing SHS capacities to deliver the proposed services, integrate users in the co-creation process of climate services, and identify needs/actions to cover existing gaps;
- Analyze the gaps in the existing services provided by the SHS by considering the needs for the sectors as well as the best practice examples from the other countries and international organizations;
- Produce the Report for the existing climate services that are delivered by SHS, including several case studies from the countries that have advanced in climate service delivery and can be an example for the Moldovan SHS;

- Identify the current supply side for the climate services delivered by SHS: provided as regular services for public and special services prepared and provided upon request of specific users;
- Identify opportunities for introducing new climate services on the market. Assess the socio-economic benefits and make the cost-benefit analysis for the proposed climate services;
- Review the current level of users' involvement in co-creation/development of climate services and proposes options for embedding this activity into the SHS institutional setup;
- Organize three consultation workshops to understand the sectoral utilization and needs of current users and non-users of main stakeholders in selected sectors and make them fully aware of the importance and benefits of hydrometeorological services for their applications;
- Develop the Report on new potential climate services/cluster of services, including the feasible implementation plan and estimative costs for its implementation;
- Produce a final report on the implementation of the assignment, including lessons learn and the way forward.

No	Deliverables	Timeframe
1.	A conceptual framework for the study and a working plan for performing the assignment	June 2021, 2 w.d.
2.	Consultation workshop on strategic directions (sectors level) for development of climate services	September 2021 3 w.d.
3.	Report on existing climate services, social-economic gaps and needs, and potential climate services/cluster of services approved by the Project Manager	September 2021, 12 w.d.
4.	Report on how to utilize the weather radar data from the existing radar of the SHS to improve the climate services, approved by the Project Manager	October 2021, 5 w.d.
5.	Report on international best practices on climate services from the other countries applicable for Moldovan context, approved by the Project Manager	October 2021, 5 w.d.
6.	Consultation workshop on potential climate services/cluster of services	November 2021 3 w.d.
7.	Draft report on new potential climate services, including socio-economic benefits, cost-benefit analysis, implementation plan and required investment proposals, approved by the Project Manager	January 2022, 15 w.d.
8.	Validation workshop for introducing new climate services with main stakeholders, presentation of socio-economic benefits and cost-benefit analysis, validation of the implementation plan and associated budget	January 2022 4 w.d.
9.	Final Report on introducing new climate services, including socio-economic benefits and cost-benefit analysis, approved by the Project Manager	February 2022 9 w.d.
10.	Final Report on the Implementation of assignment, including the lessons learned and the way forward, approved by the Project Manager	February 2022, 2 w.d.

This is a part-time consultancy. The timeframe for the work is planned for June 2021- February 2022.

Management Arrangements:

The consultant will work in cooperation with the Team Leaders and under the supervision of the Project Manager. All communications and documentation related to the assignment will be in English. The Project Manager should approve the Deliverables.

Financial arrangements:

Payments will be disbursed in several installments upon submission and approval of deliverables and certification by the UNDP Moldova Project Manager that the services have been satisfactorily performed.

Confidentiality:

Materials provided to the Individual Consultant and all the proceedings within the consultancy contract shall be regarded as confidential, both during and after the consultancy. Violation of confidentiality requirements may result in immediate termination of the contract.

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATION

Academic Qualification:

- University degree in meteorology, hydrology, climatology, economics, or other fields relevant to the assignment.

Experience:

- At least 10 years of progressively responsible professional experience in public or private agencies providing hydrometeorological services;
- Proven professional experience in assessing the value of the hydrometeorological services;
- Proven experience in the assessment of the benefits of the hydrometeorological services on risk reduction and improving resilience for weather, climate, and water-related disasters;

Competencies:

- Extensive knowledge of the climate-related political framework, especially in climate change adaptation.
- Demonstrates excellent organizational skills and a proven ability for multi-disciplinary analysis;
- Familiarity with reports and guidance documents prepared by international organizations on the socio-economic benefits of the hydrometeorological services.

Language requirements:

- Fluency in English is required for this assignment; knowledge of Romanian or Russian will be an advantage.

IV. PAYMENT MODALITIES

Payment to the individual contractor will be made based on the actual number of days worked, deliverables accepted, and upon certification of satisfactory completion by the project manager.

V. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants shall submit the following documents:

- ☒ Offeror's Letter confirming Interest and Availability with the financial proposal (in USD, specifying the total lump sum amount). Financial proposal template prepared in compliance with the template in Annex 2.
- ☒ CV, including information about experience in similar assignments;
- ☒ Brief description of why the individual considers him/herself the most suitable for the assignment.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Important notice:

The applicants who have the statute of Government Official / Public Servant before the appointment will be asked to submit the following documentation:

- a no-objection letter in respect of the applicant received from the Government, and;
- the applicant is certified in writing by the Government to be on official leave without pay for the individual contract's entire duration.

A retired government official is not considered, in this case, a government official, and as such, may be contracted.

VI. ANNEXES TO THE TOR

Annex 1- Individual Consultant General Terms and Conditions

Annex 2- Offeror's Letter confirming Interest and Availability including the financial proposal