



Terms of Reference

Job Title: National Consultant for assistance in developing the project proposal on supporting the Moldovan authorities in the sustainable management of the Dniester River

Duration of Employment: January 14 - March 10, 2022

Contract type: Individual Contract

Expected workload: 35 working days, home based, Republic of Moldova

BACKGROUND:

Following the snap parliamentary elections from July 2021, a series of structural-political changes took place in the country. In this regard, a new Government has been appointed in August 2021, which in its turn has reintroduced in its composition the Ministry of Environment - an institution committed to protect the environment and sustain the management of natural resources. Among the listed priorities of the newly created Ministry, is the proper management of water resources, in compliance with the principle of integrated water management along with the transboundary aspect. In addition to the development of water policy and regulatory framework, the Ministry of Environment, with the supports of its subordinated institutions, has the responsibility to ensure ongoing dialogue with neighboring countries on the sustainable management of transboundary rivers, with ultimate goal of ensuring the quantity and water quality for environmental and socio-economic needs of the country.

The importance of the Dniester River is indisputable for the Republic of Moldova. This is the largest river in the Republic of Moldova, covering 70% of the country's water consumption needs, thus being considered a strategic resource of surface waters for environmental and socio-economic security of the Republic of Moldova.

The need for joint management of the Dniester River has been acknowledged by the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities since '90s when the Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin was signed. Considering the need to coordinate specific activities in the Dniester, a Dniester Commission has been institutionalized in 2017 by the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin, signed in Rome in 2012.

A topic of major importance for the Republic of Moldova in relations with Ukraine is the impact of the operation of the Dniester Hydropower Complex (DHPC) on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and its plans to expand its capacity. By means of the project "Study of social and environmental impact

assessment of the Dniester Hydropower Complex (DHPC) "funded by the Swedish Embassy and implemented by UNDP during 2018-2021, it was possible to capture and quantify the impact on the environment and identify other negative consequences of DHPC operation downstream the Dniester River. The results of the study were presented at the meeting of the Dniester Commission on 28 October 2021 and were debated with the Ukrainian side. The results of the study will continue to serve as a source of reliable and scientifically based information for the representatives of the Republic of Moldova in the negotiation process of the Agreement on Functioning of Dniester Hydropower Complex.

In addition to the transboundary perspective, the sustainable management of the Dniester River depends on the adequate strategic planning and the strengthening of the institutional capacities of the responsible authorities. At this point, environmental institutions are in a full process of functional analysis in order to streamline the structure of central public administration in the field of environment and related sub-domains (air, biodiversity, etc.). During this procedure, the functional responsibilities of the institutions in the field of water will be examined and will be estimated the institutional capacities necessary to carry out the functions in this field.

The Republic of Moldova, as an EU partner country, has harmonized its national water legislation with the Water Framework Directive of the European Union. The main purpose of this exercise was to ensure the application of the regulation of integrated water resources management by managing water resources based on a basin approach, taking into account the natural limits of river basins and taking over the European best practices in achieving a good condition of all water resources and their protection by preventing deterioration and ensuring good ecological status.

In conformity with the Water Framework Directive and national legislation, basin river management plans are developed for 6-year cycles.

In order to address the above concerns, UNDP is seeking to hire a national consultant to develop the project proposal to support the Government's efforts in achieving sustainable management of the Dniester River.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

The main objective of this assignment is to develop a full-fledged project proposal to ensure sustainable management of the Dniester River, based on collected data and information, as well as discussions of priorities with potential beneficiary institutions.

The project proposal should be in line with the Water Framework Directive, national water legislation, international dialogue and cooperation treaties between Moldova and Ukraine on the Dniester River, it shall design the necessary measures to improve Dniester water status and should be prepared in close cooperation with ministries, institutions and civil society involved in the implementation of water projects.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSIGNMENT INCLUDE:

Under the leadership of the UNDP Moldova, Environment, Climate Change and Energy Cluster, and following a thorough analysis and research, the consultant will develop the project proposal, as per the UNDP's template which will consist tentatively (but not limited) of the following chapters:

- Development Challenge
- Strategy of the project

- Results and Partnerships
- Project activities
- Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement
- Project Management arrangements
- Results Framework
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Work Plan
- Governance and Management Arrangements
- Risk Management

The project proposal should be in line with the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, the main strategic documents at national and sectoral level and reflect the national dialogue and cooperation agreement between Moldova and Ukraine on the Dniester River and the measures needed to improve water quality. It should be prepared in close cooperation with the ministries, institutions and civil society involved in the sustainable management of the Dniester River.

In order to develop a sound and comprehensive project proposal the consultant is expected to carry out bilateral discussions with the key actors involved in the negotiations with the Ukraine: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Academia representatives, research institutions working in the areas, NGOs, donors and other relevant partners.

DELIVERABLES:

Deliverables	Indicative timeframe
<u>1. Conducting bilateral discussions with the key stakeholders on the inputs required for the project and desk analysis of the relevant resources.</u>	January, 2022
<u>2. Development the draft project proposal based on the discussion with stakeholders.</u>	January - February 20, 2022
<u>3. Development of final project proposal with the required Annexes and TORs following the collected comments and recommendations for improvement from UNDP and donor.</u>	March 10, 2022

Deliverables and final timeline can be amended or specified for the purpose of the assignment.

DURATION: 35 working days, through January 14 - March 10, 2022

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Payment will be disbursed in one instalment, upon submission and approval of deliverables, and certification by UNDP Portfolio Manager, that the services have been satisfactorily performed.

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS:

This is a part-time consultancy. The consultant will be given access to existing relevant information necessary for execution of the tasks under this assignment. The consultant will work under the guidance and technical supervision of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change Cluster Lead from UNDP Moldova. The implementation of this assignment foresees close work with the main national partners, such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Academia representatives, research institutions working in the areas, NGOs, donors and other relevant stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the Consultant:

- The consultant should have the needed skills to carry out the assignment
- He/she will be responsible of all logistics while conducting the interviews and/or meetings with relevant stakeholders
- He/she will be responsible for the follow-up on obtaining all documents as needed to perform this assignment
- The consultant will assume overall responsibility for the quality of the deliverables and timeliness of their submission
- Ensure briefing and debriefing with UNDP CO

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Academic Qualifications:

- Minimum BA degree in environment management, environment diplomacy or environment related science, legal or administrative or other related fields is required, etc.

Professional Experience:

- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience in technical assistance project design and implementation in the environment related area, preferably in integrated water management;
- At least 5 years of experience in cooperation with the national environment authorities and/or international organizations in the strategic planning and project implementation in the environment and climate adaptation related area, preferably in integrated water management;
- Excellent knowledge of EU water related acquis and relevant international legal instruments;
- Experience in working with UNDP, UNEP, WB and/or EU-funded project or other international organization would be an asset.

Competencies:

- Strong analytical and report writing skills demonstrated by previous assignments;
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, ability to work in a team, demonstrated by previous assignments;
- Ability to work under pressure and stressful situations, and to meet tight deadlines demonstrated by previous assignments;

- Good communication and time management skills;
- Ability to work under pressure and stressful situations.

Language requirements:

- Proficiency in English. Knowledge of Romanian and/or Russian will be an asset.