

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: **13 May 2022**

Country: Republic of Moldova

Description of the assignment: National Economist for development of methodology for calculation of tariffs for services provided by State Hydrometeorological Service

Project name: NAP-2: Advancing Moldova's National Climate Change Adaptation Planning Project

Period of assignment/services: June 2022 – October 2022, 50 working days

Contract type: Individual Contract (IC)

Proposals should be submitted online by pressing the "Apply Online" button, no later than **27th of May 2022**.

Requests for **clarification only** must be sent by standard electronic communication to the following e-mail: pavel.gavrilita@undp.org. UNDP will respond by standard electronic mail and will send written copies of the response, including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry, to all applicants.

1. 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. 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.

On the other hand, it is clearly stated in the several reports of relevant international organizations and academic studies that the meteorological, hydrological and climate services provided by the hydrometeorological services significantly impact socio-economic sectors and activities at global, national, and local scales. 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 to have been increasing due to climate change.

By considering the fact that the losses of hydrometeorological and climate disasters can be prevented or mitigated by predicting severe weather and climate conditions causing disasters and 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 to ensure the provision of required products and services for the public and private sectors, and for well-being of whole Moldovan community.

By considering this fact, it will be crucial to integrate the new climate services in the legal and policy framework. This assignment will be implemented concurrently with a closely related activity on socio-economic benefits provided by hydrometeorological services to allocate required resources for improving and maintaining the service delivery capacity of the SHS. He/she will work closely with the respective national partners, including state institutions, local authorities, civil society, and international organizations.

2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ANALYTICAL WORK

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 socio-economic sectors are very much in need of meteorological, hydrological and climate services, which significantly impact all activities and applications of these sectors. This assignment's main objective is to develop the methodology and provide the economical estimation of costs and tariffs for the climate and hydrometeorological services delivered by State Hydrometeorological Service.

Specific tasks:

The National Consultant will work in close cooperation with the Project Team and State Hydrometeorological Service of Moldova (SHS). Under the project manager's supervision, the Consultant will provide methodology and estimate costs of climate and hydrometeorological services provided by the SHS:

- Review of the current costs and tariffs of hydrometeorological service provided by SHS which are specified in the Governmental decision 330/2006;
- Draft the documents that refer to the estimation of costs and tariffs for the newly developed climate services, based on the findings of the market research assignment conducted by the NAP2 project;
- Draft the documents to institutionalise the newly developed climate services within the relevant structures (SHS, the Ministry of Environment);
- Provide the expertise in assessment of the costs and tariffs for the climate and hydrometeorological services, including those included in the Governmental Decision 330/2006 and the newly ones;
- Support the legal expert in adjusting the Governmental Decision 330/2006 regarding the costs and tariffs of the services to be delivered by the State Hydrometeorological Service.
- Assess existing SHS methodologies for services delivery;
- Conduct interviews with SHS staff, representatives of relevant organizations including the Ministry of Environment to identify the current workflow, data, technological needs, and other efforts taken to deliver the existing services;
- Identify in close cooperation with SHS staff allocations of resources, workflow for existing and desired services to be provided by SHS;
- Review staff-time allocation standards for the existing services and develop standards for the newly introduced climate services and include into the Methodology for the Service delivery;
- Draft Methodology for Service delivery based on the information collected and analysis of the best practices;
- Classify provided services by SHS based delivery modalities to the users (e.g., free of charge, partially coverage of cost or full coverage of the incurred costs) in accordance with the national level requirements and international conventions prerequisites (especially the Aarhus Conventions on the Access to the Environmental Information);
- Make calculations of the tariffs to be applied by SHS in close collaboration with the staff from SHS;
- Conduct training for SHS staff on applying the methodology for service delivery and calculation of the tariffs for climate and hydrometeorological services conducted;

- Support the consultation process with the SHS and relevant stakeholders regarding the methodologies for the service delivery of needed and desired climate services, including the Ministry of Environment;
- Support the approval process of the methodology of the service delivery (providing the responses, justifications) throughout the process;
- Provide the inputs for the relevant parts for the Governmental decision on the services delivered by SHS.

For detailed information, please refer to Annex 1 – Terms of Reference.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Academic Qualification:

- University degree in economics, environmental economics, geography or other relevant fields.

Experience:

- At least 6 years of working experience in the environment and/or economic sector;
- Proven experience in calculation of economic costs for environmental/hydrometeorological services.

Competencies:

- Knowledge methodologies estimation of costs and tariffs;
- Knowledge of the national climate-related legal and policy framework, especially in climate change adaptation will be an asset;
- Demonstrates excellent organizational skills and a proven ability for multi-disciplinary analysis;
- Excellent writing, presentation, public facilitation skills.

Language requirements:

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

Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations, in particular, respecting differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status. Please mention in CV if you belong to the group(s) under-represented in the UN Moldova and/or the area of assignment.

UNDP Moldova is committed to workforce diversity. Women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnic or religious minorities, persons living with HIV, as well as refugees and other non-citizens legally entitled to work in the Republic of Moldova, are particularly encouraged to apply.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Applicants shall submit the following **required documents**:

- ☒ Offeror's Letter confirming Interest and Availability, including financial offer, according to 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.

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Lump sum contracts

The financial proposal shall specify a total **lump sum amount**, and payment terms around specific and measurable (qualitative and quantitative) deliverables (i.e. whether payments fall in installments or upon completion of the entire contract). Payments are based upon output, i.e. upon delivery of the services specified in the TOR. In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of financial proposals, the financial proposal will include a breakdown of this lump sum amount (including fees, taxes, travel costs, accommodation costs, communication, and number of anticipated working days).

Travel

All envisaged travel costs must be included in the financial proposal. This includes all travel to join duty station/repatriation travel. In general, UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources.

In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and Individual Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

6. EVALUATION

Initially, individual consultants will be short-listed based on the following minimum qualification criteria:

- University degree in economics, environmental economics, geography or other relevant fields;
- At least 6 years of working experience in the environment and/or economic sector.

The short-listed individual consultants will be further evaluated based on the following methodology:

Cumulative analysis

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- b) having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

* Technical Criteria weight – 60% (300 pts);

* Financial Criteria weight – 40% (200 pts).

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 210 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Scoring	Maximum Points Obtainable
<u>Technical</u>		
University degree in economics, environmental economics, geography or other relevant fields	under-Master's – 20 pts., Master's degree – 40 pts., PhD degree – 50 pts.	50
At least 6 years of working experience in the environment and/or economic sector	6 years – 40 pts., each additional year 5 pts., up to max – 60 pts	60
Proven experience in calculation of economic costs for environmental/hydrometeorological services	Yes – 20 pts.,; No – 0 pts.	20
<u>Interview</u> (demonstrated technical knowledge and experience; communication/ interpersonal skills; initiative; creativity/ resourcefulness).		

Knowledge methodologies estimation of costs and tariffs	limited –<15 pts., satisfactory – <35 pts., extensive – <50 pts.	50
Knowledge of the national climate-related legal and policy framework, especially in climate change adaptation will be an asset	limited –<10 pts., satisfactory – <30 pts., extensive – <40 pts.	40
Demonstrates excellent organizational skills and a proven ability for multi-disciplinary analysis	limited –<10 pts., satisfactory – <20 pts., extensive – <25 pts.	25
Excellent writing, presentation, public facilitation skills	limited –<10 pts., satisfactory – <20 pts., extensive – <25 pts.	25
Fluency in Romanian and English is required for this assignment; knowledge Russian will be an advantage	Romanian and English – max 10 pts. each, Russian– max 5 pts.	25
Belonging to the group(s) under-represented in the UN Moldova and/or the area of assignment ¹	no – 0 pts., to one group – 2 pts., to two or more groups – 5 pts.	5
Maximum Total Technical Scoring		300
Financial Evaluation Scoring		
Evaluation of submitted financial offers will be done based on the following formula: $S = F_{min} / F * 200$ S – score received on financial evaluation; Fmin – the lowest financial offer out of all the submitted offers qualified over the technical evaluation round; F – financial offer under consideration.		200

Winning candidate

The winning candidate will be the candidate, who has accumulated the highest aggregated score (technical scoring + financial scoring).

Important notice:

The applicant's who has the statute of Government Official / Public Servant, prior to 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 entire duration of the Individual Contract.

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

ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1 – TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2 – OFFEROR'S LETTER TO UNDP CONFIRMING INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY

ANNEX 3 – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

¹ Under-represented group in the area of assignment are (men/women). Under-represented groups in UN Moldova are persons with disabilities, LGBTI, ethnic and linguistic minorities, especially ethnic Gagauzians, Bulgarians, Roma, Jews, people of African descent, people living with HIV, religious minorities, especially Muslim women, refugees and other non-citizens.