

Request Form and Terms of Reference for Individual Contractor (IC)

National or International consultants: National Consultant

Description of the assignment (Title of consultancy): Responsible tourism and Biodiversity Specialist

Project Title: GEF PPG for the Preparation of a Project on: Land Degradation Neutrality of Mountain Landscapes in Lebanon

Period of assignment/services: 20 working days between April 2017 – December 2017

1. Background

Current land management practices in Lebanon are not sustainable as they continue to erode the country's natural resource base (soil, water, green cover, and landscape). While traditional practices such as terracing, controlled grazing and forest management have helped protect the land, modern practices have significantly altered the natural and social make-up of the land including perceptions of natural resources. Population growth, the continued loss of arable land and biodiversity, concerns about food security and the expanding infrastructure due to population growth and urban sprawl are major factors impacting land resources and the natural environment. Land degradation has been flagged as a serious environmental problem in Lebanon, resulting in losses estimated at US\$132 million yearly. This is bound to be an underestimate due to the incomplete data, and damages and associated costs of environmental degradation are certainly higher and further exacerbated because of the Syrian conflict on the Lebanese environmental resources. Unsustainable growth is having a heavy toll on Lebanon's natural resources with losses in forest cover, biodiversity and natural ecosystems, degradation of rangeland and desertification.

UNDP Lebanon in partnership with the Ministry of Environment is preparing a project proposal to be submitted to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) which aims to work towards land degradation neutrality – restoring degraded land and preventing new degradation. The project plan is to survey and identify degraded land in mountain lands and high country environments of the North Lebanon and Mount Lebanon governorates and analyze the losses associated with this degradation in terms of lost agricultural productivity, deforestation and other loss of vegetation, loss of biodiversity habitats, reduction in environmental quality for ecotourism and outdoor recreation, reduced ecosystem services and ultimately unsustainable land use and impacts on society and communities. The project will assess why the baseline scenario is not working as it should and seek technical and institutional remedies which will be applied at a pilot scale to real-life impacts and problems.

2. Scope of work, responsibilities and description of the proposed analytical work

Objective of the Consultancy

This consultancy is one of a number being set up by UNDP to formulate the project document and related documentation leading to project implementation. The Objective of this consultancy is to carry out the necessary survey work, assessments, consultations and other data gathering, and contribute to building the elements of the project document on responsible tourism and biodiversity.

3. Expected Outputs and deliverables

Under the leadership of the Team Leader and the overall guidance of the Head of the Energy and Environment Portfolio in the UNDP Lebanon Country Office, and in collaboration with other members of the Project Preparation Team, the Responsible tourism and Biodiversity Specialist will support in putting together the elements related to responsible tourism, ecosystem valuation and biodiversity of the project.

More specifically, the Responsible tourism and Biodiversity Specialist will carry out the following tasks:

1. Review available data on the Lebanon Mountain Trail and other areas in Lebanon that are used for responsible tourism and ecotourism purposes, including but not limited to protected areas. Consider ecosystem valuation potential and benefits to conservation and local development based on the literature available and on interviews to be conducted with relevant stakeholders.
2. Conduct an assessment of current biodiversity resources and values in the mountainous region in Lebanon, including protected areas, and taking into account ecosystem services, so as to establish a baseline for the project in line with the GEF relevant indicators related to land degradation. Provide UNDP with literature, resources and information gathered.
3. Starting from the information provided in the Project Identification Form (PIF), determine national needs to protect and upgrade areas being used for responsible tourism in the mountain areas of Lebanon. Determine legal, technical and community-based planning options available, quantify the interventions and determine estimated costs that can then be used in the design of the full project. Additionally, a SWOT analysis ought to be carried out highlighting criteria for the successful implementation of such projects, or the lack of thereof.
4. Based on international best practices and models, propose innovative initiatives and approaches to be investigated or incorporated in the project to promote the development of the responsible tourism and eco-tourism industry and improve livelihoods in the targeted areas.
5. Assist the Team Leader and other Specialists in surveying potential stakeholders and beneficiaries (especially community leaders) at the local level and assess their level of interest and willingness to engage with the project. Potential collaboration mechanisms

with these stakeholders ought to be proposed to be incorporated in the project design – to be further investigated in the project implementation phase.

6. Participate fully in the formulation of the project Objective, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities as well as Baselines, Targets and Indicators; contribute to sustainability and replication plans, stakeholder participation plans, and budgets.
7. Provide support and backstopping in the field for the International Consultant (Team Leader) who may not be able to conduct a country visit. This may include various data gathering and analyses according to templates and guidance to be provided by the International Consultant as well as carrying out consultations with prospective partners and stakeholders and providing full and detailed reports.

The key deliverables of the Responsible tourism and Biodiversity Specialist will be:

First Deliverable – A Report on the findings and results from Tasks 1-3.

Second Deliverable – A Report on the findings and results from Tasks 4-7.

| Deliverables/ Outputs | Estimated Duration to Complete | Target Due Dates | Review and Approvals Required) |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Deliverable 1: Report on tasks 1 - 3 | 8 working days | 1.5 months from contract signature | Jihan Seoud, Programme Analyst |
| Deliverable 2: Report on tasks 4 - 7 | 12 working days | 3 months from contract signature | Jihan Seoud, Programme Analyst |

4. Institutional arrangements

- The Consultant will be working under the overall guidance of the International Team Leader that is heading the preparation of the project proposal and will report to the UNDP Lebanon Energy and Environment Programme Analyst/Manager. The Consultant will also coordinate closely with the other national consultant(s) working on the preparation of the project and the UNDP team members that are supporting in this assignment.
- The approach will be participatory, involving stakeholders to the extent possible. Information and data will be gathered through three main activities, namely:

- Review (desk study) of all relevant documents and websites identified by the Specialist and recommended by the Team Leader and UNDP.
 - Field visits to project localities (North Lebanon and Mount Lebanon) as directed by the Team Leader) for the collection of baseline data as needed.
 - Consultations with relevant organizations and individuals as identified by the Specialist and as recommended by the Team Leader and UNDP. In particular, this will include national and local decision-makers and other personnel, local government, relevant NGOs, community groups especially those affected by the project, potential beneficiaries and potential partners.
- The Consultant will also participate in and contribute to all meetings, discussions, focus groups, and public workshops that may, from time to time, be organized by the Team Leader.
 - UNDP will ensure transport to and from meetings and logistical support during the visit of the Team Leader (expected at the end of April 2017). All other transportation and logistics need to be arranged and covered by the Consultant. Facilities will not be provided except for meeting to be held within UNDP premises.

5. Duration of work

The assignment will be **20 working days** spread out over the period from April 2017 – December 2017. Estimated time for receipt of feedback on reports (review time) is 5 working days.

6. Duty station

Duty station is in Beirut with field visits field visits to project sites in the North Lebanon and Mount Lebanon mountain range, with timing to be agreed with the Energy and Environment Programme Analyst, UNDP-Lebanon, and with the concurrence of the Team Leader.

7. Requirements for experience and qualifications

I. Academic Qualifications:

- Graduate degree in natural science, environment management, biodiversity, ecosystems science, agriculture or related field. Relevant trainings and certifications are an asset.

II. Years of experience:

- At least 7 years of relevant work experience in protected areas management, biodiversity assessments, responsible tourism or environmental research/consultancy.

III. Technical experience:

- Demonstrated adequate technical experience and know-how to undertake the necessary baseline surveys and assessment work.
- Adequate knowledge and/or experience of Lebanese responsible tourism sector and biodiversity/protected areas as well as knowledge in related national legal systems.
- Familiarity with UNDP, its rules and regulations and its operational procedures.
- Experience with GEF project design, implementation or evaluation is an asset

IV. Competencies:

- Ability to function successfully as a member of a multi-disciplinary team, contributing from area of expertise and cooperating on common activities.
- Ability to accept responsibility for area of specialization and take initiatives without supervision, but with the judgment of knowing when to ask for advice.
- Excellent English and Arabic language writing and speaking skills.
- Access to efficient electronic communication

8. Scope of Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments

The contract will cover the amount payable for fees and foreseeable expenses, including all approved travel to the site.

Contract payments will be based on agreed deliverables and made subject to the deliverables being acceptable to the Team Leader and UNDP. Payment will be made in the following manner:

- A First payment (40% of the total) on delivery and acceptance of the first deliverable as above.
- A Second payment (60%) on delivery and acceptance of the second deliverable as above.