INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: 18th of April 2022

REF No.: IC/012/22

Country: Uzbekistan

Description of the assignment: National Consultant to support Terminal Evaluation of full-sized UNDP-GEF project

Project name: UNDP Uzbekistan for the UNDP/GEF Project: Sustainable natural resource and forest management in key mountainous areas important for globally significant biodiversity (Mountain Ecosystems project)

Period of assignment/services (if applicable): Part-time Assignment, May – October 2022 (100 working days)

Duty station: Tashkent (with travel to project sites)

Expected travel site: possible trips to project sites – Tashkent, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya regions

Application Process:

Interested candidates need to apply online at www.jobs.undp.org and upload requested documents in Part 4 of Procurement Notice no later than April-30, 2022 (New York time). Please combine all your documents into one (1) single PDF document as the system only allows you to upload a maximum one document. Your on-line application submission will be acknowledged to your email address provided in application. If you do not receive an email acknowledgement within 24 hours of submission, your application may not have been received. In such cases, please resubmit the application, if necessary.

Link to application at the UNDP Job Site - https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=106106 (cut and paste into browser address bar if the link does not work).

You can review detailed Procurement Notice, Terms of Reference and download templates from the UNDP Procurement Notices Site following the link: http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=90241 (cut and paste into browser address bar if the link does not work).

Applications submitted via email, incomplete applications or received after the closing date (April-30, 2022) may not be given consideration.

For more detailed information about UNDP Uzbekistan please visit our website at www.uz.undp.org

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified female candidates, people with disabilities, and minorities are highly encouraged to apply. UNDP Balance in Manage Policy promotes achievement of gender balance among its staff at all levels. Requests for clarification must be sent in writing to pu.uz@undp.org, ensuring that the reference number above is included in the subject line. UNDP shall endeavor to provide such responses to clarifications in an expeditious manner, but any delay in such response shall not cause an obligation on the part of UNDP to extend the submission date of the Proposals, unless UNDP deems that such an extension is justified and necessary.
Uzbekistan is globally and regionally important in terms of its biodiversity due to its location between the European, Middle Eastern, and Asian biogeographical regions. Its varying landscapes of high mountain ranges, wide steppes, deserts, riparian wetlands, and the Aral Sea has results in a wide diversity of habitats. UNDP, for many years, have supported the Government of Uzbekistan in tackling environmental challenges, including in the area of biodiversity.

UNDP/GEF and Republic of Uzbekistan project on “Sustainable natural resource use and forest management in key mountainous areas important for globally significant biodiversity” will further support the country in addressing biodiversity conservation challenges, specifically with focusing on mountain ecosystems such as the western-most outliers of the western Tian Shan (Chatkal, Pskem, Ugam and Kuramin ranges) and Pamir-Alai (Gissar, Turkestan and Zaravshan ranges), which are home to the endangered snow leopard, and provide important habitat for its key prey species.

The project objective is ‘To enhance the conservation, and sustainable use, of natural resources in the biodiverse high-altitude mountain ecosystems of Uzbekistan’, and the project is structured into four components, with each component comprising a complementary suite of two to three outputs:

i) Component 1: Landscape level planning and management decision-making;
ii) Component 2: Strengthening key biodiversity areas;
iii) Component 3: Sustainable economic development incentives for communities;
iv) Component 4: Promoting cooperation and collaboration.

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full- and medium-sized UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects are required to undergo a Terminal Evaluation (TE) at the end of the project. This Terms of Reference (ToR) sets out the expectations for the TE of the full-sized project titled “Sustainable natural resource use and forest management in key mountainous areas important for globally significant biodiversity” (ATLAS#00090383, PIMS 5438) implemented through the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental protection (Goscomecology). The project started on the 21 September 2017 and is in its sixth (final) year of implementation. The TE process must follow the guidance outlined in the document ‘Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects’. The project implementation period is 2017-2022. The time is based on activities that will provide implementation of best practices, their assessment and primer dissemination of recommendations on their replication in other similar regions of Uzbekistan. Building of sufficient capacity and practical know-how within essential state institutions and local authorities will take too long to allow project sustainability. One of the main lessons learned by UNDP and other development partners in Central Asia in the last 15 years is that to change and reform existing institutions and mind-sets is an extremely time-consuming process if it is to be achieved effectively. This has been a clear lesson from most of UNDP and other development actors’ initiatives in the area and a key reason for many projects to not achieve the full results expected. Thus, it is of paramount importance that in the project a realistic timeframe for the systematic implementation of the various project activities is planned in order to mitigate this risk. This is an additional reason why the timeframe of 5 years has been considered necessary.

The project budget planned for the period of implementation is given in the table below. The actually used donors’ funds are indicated by UNDP and GEF (6, 509,863$).

The TE report will assess the achievement of project results against what was expected to be achieved, and draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. The TE report promotes accountability and transparency, and assesses the extent of project accomplishments.

The purpose of the evaluation is to provide an independent external view of the progress of the project at its completion, and to provide feedback and recommendations to UNDP and project stakeholders.

The objectives of the Terminal Evaluation is to:

• Identify potential project design issues;
• Assess progress toward achievement of expected project objective and outcomes;
• Identify and document lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP and GEF programming in the region;
• Make recommendations necessary to help consolidate and support sustainability of the project results.

The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities, which require a management response prepared by the project team, which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

The TE must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful. The IC will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Environmental & Social Safeguard Policy, the Project Document, project reports including Annual Project Review/PIRs, project budget revisions, lesson learned reports, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based review). The IC will review the baseline GEF focal area Tracking Tool submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement, and the midterm GEF focal area Tracking Tool completed at MTR.

The IC is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), the UNDP Country Office(s), UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisers, and other key stakeholders.

This TE is initiated by UNDP CO in Uzbekistan as the Implementing Agency of the Mountain Ecosystems Project. For the effectiveness of common TE and in accordance with the project document requirements, the UNDP CO in Uzbekistan is hiring a National Consultant for Terminal Evaluation. He will assist the team leader of TE in the performance of TE in the country.

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1 For ideas on innovative and participatory Monitoring and Evaluation strategies and techniques, see UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results, 05 Nov 2013.
2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WORK

The National Consultant will provide inputs and support International Consultant/ Team Lead for the Terminal Evaluation throughout this process including translation and accompaniment to meetings/ KII and etc. as necessary. Specifically, the National Consultant will perform tasks with a focus on:

- Review project-related documents and make them available to the international team leader (with summarized translations into the English language, if necessary);
- Provide inputs to the TE Inception Report;
- Prepare a list of the outputs achieved under the project; Assist the project team in organizing the TE mission programme and take part in the TE mission in Uzbekistan;
- Perform translation/ interpretation if and where necessary in support of the TE;
- Provide inputs to the presentation of initial findings;
- Provide translation/interpretation when necessary;
- Contribute to the design of the evaluation methodology;
- Draft specific parts of the evaluation report to be agreed upon with the international TE team leader and make inputs to other sections of the report in coordination with the TE team leader;
- Provide support in circulation of draft TE report for comments;
- Assist International TE Team Leader in finalizing the evaluation report through incorporating suggestions received on draft related to his/her assigned sections.

For more detailed information, please refer to Annex 1 – Terms of Reference for Individual Consultant

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

I. Academic Qualifications:

- Advanced university degree or higher in Environmental or Agricultural Economics, Natural Sciences, Land use Management, Biology, International Relations, Economics, Public Administration, Social sciences.
- Experience with applying participatory monitoring approaches is an advantage;
- Recent knowledge of the International Monitoring and Evaluation Policy is an advantage;
- Recognized expertise in the cross-cutting area of environmental protection and environmental planning and management;
- Familiarity with environmental planning and management policies in Uzbekistan is an asset;
- Work experience in relevant areas (national and regional development planning, environmental management and planning) for at least 5 years;
- Good analytical skills
- Experience with multilateral or bilateral supported capacity development projects;
- Project evaluation experience within international organizations (UNDP, GEF, USAID and others) will be considered an asset.

II. Competencies and other:

- Ability to meet strict deadlines and work under stressful conditions
- Ability to work in close collaboration with a group of national and international experts, to meet strict deadlines and plan the work according to priorities. Strong interpersonal and communication skills. Good analytical and writing skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal and facilitation skills; ability to be flexible, respectful, and effective while working with others from diverse backgrounds

III. Language requirements:

- Fluency in English, Russian and Uzbek.
4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

Proposal:
- a) Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability using the template provided by UNDP as attachment to this notice;
- b) CV with indication of the e-mail and phone contact or Personal History Form (P11 form), but successful consultants will be requested to submit, fill in and sign a Personal History Form (P11 form) before contract issuance.
- c) Brief description of approach to work/technical proposal on how s/he will implement and complete the assignment; (max 1 page);
- d) Financial Proposal – specifying a total lump sum amount for the tasks specified in this announcement. The financial proposal shall include a breakdown of this lump sum amount and in accordance with the table provided in Annex 3 to this notice;

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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

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<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Output-based payments</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Payment Condition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Report on: (i) project documents review and findings; (ii) inputs provided to the TE Inception Report and evaluation methodology; (iii) findings of the TE mission.</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>July 31, 2022</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td>Report on: (i) comments received on the draft TE report; (ii) inputs provided to the TE report (both draft and final) in coordination with the TE team leader.</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>September 30, 2022</td>
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6. EVALUATION

Cumulative analysis

When using this weighted scoring method, the award of the contract should 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 predetermined set of weighted technical (70%) and financial criteria (30%) specific to the solicitation.

* Technical Criteria weight -70% of total evaluation (70 points)
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<th>Educational requirements (desk review)</th>
<th>10%</th>
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<td>B.</td>
<td>Years of professional experience in the area of a project’s focus:</td>
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<td>At least 3 years of experience in relevant field</td>
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<td>More than 8 years – 20 points</td>
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<td>5-6 years – 16 points</td>
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<td>3-4 years – 12 points</td>
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<td>Less than 3 years is not acceptable (desk review)</td>
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<td>C.</td>
<td>Experience with implementing evaluations at the national and/or sectoral levels, experience in evaluating project in Central Asia (desk review)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>D.</td>
<td>Fluency in written and spoken English and knowledge of Russian and Uzbek languages is mandatory</td>
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<td>E.</td>
<td>Experience and strong knowledge of UN Development Group and UNDP Evaluations Standards is a strong asset</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 49 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Financial Criteria weight: 30% of total evaluation (30 points)

Total Score = Technical Criteria (max. 70 points) + Financial Criteria (max. 30 points)

ANNEX

ANNEX 1- TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ANNEX 3- Offeror’s letter to UNDP confirming interest and availability for the Individual Contractor (IC) assignment and financial submission form (breakdown of costs supporting the all-inclusive financial proposal)