



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: 14 June 2022

REF No.: IC/019/22 (re-advertisement)

Country: Uzbekistan

Description of the assignment: International Consultant for conducting a feasibility study on designing a Master Plan on Afforestation in Uzbekistan

Project Title: Environment and Climate Action Cluster, UNDP Uzbekistan

Period of assignment/services (if applicable): 60 working days during June – October 2022

Duty station: Home-based *with a possible 5-day Mission to Tashkent (TBD)*

Application Process:

Interested candidates need to apply online at www.jobs.undp.org and upload requested documents in Part 4 of the Procurement Notice no later than June-24, 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 of one document. Your online application submission will be acknowledged to your email address provided in the application. If you do not receive an email acknowledgment within 24 hours of submission, your application may not have been received. In such cases, please resubmit the application, if necessary.

Link to the application at the UNDP Job Site

- https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=107266 (cut and paste into the 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=92325 (cut and paste into the browser address bar if the link does not work).

Applications submitted via email, incomplete applications, or received after the closing date (June-24, 2022) may not be given consideration.

For more detailed information about UNDP Uzbekistan please visit our website at <https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan>. 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 the 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.

1. BACKGROUND

Uzbekistan faces major challenges caused by climate change including desertification, water scarcity, more frequent draughts, and depletion of the Aral Sea. Climate risks are exacerbated in the country by both the average temperatures rising and mountain glaciers, a vital source of drinking water, melting at a faster pace than the global averages. While forests account for only 7.7 percent of the country's territory according to the UN FAO, they play a major role in reversing desertification, protecting biodiversity and landscapes and are a vital storehouse of carbon.

To combat the negative impact posed by climate change, the Government of Uzbekistan has put forward an afforestation initiative, called Yashil Makon/Green Nation in November 2021. This nationwide afforestation program was added to the Strategy for Developing the New Uzbekistan during 2022-2026 and envisages expansion of forest cover area in the country by planting 200 million trees annually. The Green Nation Programme foresees a comprehensive scheme of greening efforts with engagement of various public agencies and research community. In order to realize this ambition, the Government anticipates establishment of the Green Nation Fund that is set in the newly drafted National Development Strategy (2022-2026).

At the same time, it is essential to conduct a **thorough feasibility study and subsequently prepare a comprehensive Greening Master Plan** prior to any massive afforestation/revegetation. This is particularly necessary to identify important ecological zones, types of ecosystems, expected roles and services of the restored ecosystems to define planting targets, deciding which locations are suitable for planting trees, shrubs, or grass, setting up the monitoring system, determining the land ownership issues, planning the watering infrastructure, identify future-proof tree species etc. In addition, such a masterplan would feed into a forest and even urban management plan with clear targets. Ideally, it should also give an indication/estimate of required resources required for its implementation - financial and human resources investment and logistics.

Moreover, an **efficient coordination system** is needed to align the efforts of various stakeholders. With different institutions involved in different phases of the program implementation, such as planting, infrastructure development, maintenance and management, financing, monitoring, there is a critical need to ensure that all actions are well synchronized and coordinated. A strong leadership and coordination system needs to be in place to achieve the goals of the program.

Finally, a well **established financing model** needs to be in place for this program, its management to be funded in the long term as planned. The Government has established the Green Nation Fund that will be aimed at supporting the afforestation program. Yet, the ambitions of the afforestation program are high. This means that government investment alone cannot meet the needed funds, especially for the maintenance of the restored ecosystems. The issue is complex, and investment and financing sources must be broadened to raise more non-governmental funds including international financing, private

domestic financing into forestry to meet the needs for sustainable forest management and forestry development. Introducing carbon offset trading will help to further easing the burden from the government.

The current position aims at conducting a feasibility study to design a comprehensive Master Plan for the Uzbekistan's Green Nation Program and possibly other afforestation/revegetation activities through covering the following work:

- Review the existing national policies and regulations on afforestation and urban greening activities.
- Review the country's zoning plans including ecological zones and ecosystem/forest types
- Review the classification of suitable plant species compositions.
- Review the challenges and opportunities in implementing the afforestation/revegetation and urban greening activities, including increase of pressure to limited water resources, and potential environmental benefits and risks.
- Identify key interests, parties and areas of afforestation /revegetation and urban greening activity.
- Assess key land ownership/tenure issues (legal, regulatory, financial, etc.) related to afforestation and greening activities.
- Assess the required resources: short, medium, long-term – starting with current situation: financial resource estimate for a 5-year massive afforestation and regeneration project; existing water infrastructure and possible future watering infrastructure needs, regeneration material production (nurseries)- current and future needs; available and possible future human (including education) and technical resources, and available and future needs in tree care services.
- Propose a basic concept of a Master Plan with potential structure, governance mechanism, a monitoring system, resources and commitments.
- Explore potential coordination mechanisms for implementation of a Master Plan.

The International Consultant will be responsible for the accomplishment of the following tasks and activities under the direct supervision of the Programme Manager, Environment and Climate Action Cluster Leader in UNDP Country office

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

For detailed information, please refer to Annex 1 – Terms of Reference for International Consultant for conducting a feasibility study on designing a Master Plan on Afforestation in Uzbekistan

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

- University degree (Masters or above) in in the field of Economics, Development Economics, Forestry or forest management, Public Policies, Environment, Social Policies, Development Studies, or other relevant fields

Experience:

- At least 5 years of experience in sustainable forest management, monitoring and/ planning, the management of afforestation programs/projects and wide nation campaigns in high-quality policy advisory roles, including advisory roles on environmental issues, biodiversity conservation, economy, sustainable development.
- Good understanding of policymaking, governance, and related mechanisms and tools.
- Some knowledge of work related to combatting desertification, dust and sandstorms by afforestation and related activities such as soil and sand dune fixation, water harvesting, pasture development, etc.
- Some practical experience in biodiversity conservation projects.
- Excellent understanding of green standards and principles is required.
- Good understanding of gender aspects and gender mainstreaming into the development and business processes is required.
- Proven experience in preparation of assessments and feasibility studies is required.
- Previous experience with a development partner or government will be an asset.

Skills:

- Strong analytical and advisory capacity, including the ability to analyze and advise innovative solutions
- Strong data collection, communication, research, and writing skills
- Client-orientation and excellent interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills
- Ability to use information and communication technology as a tool and resource

Language requirements:

- Fluency in written and spoken English is required,
- Working knowledge of Uzbek or Russian would be an asset.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS.

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

1. Proposal:

- (i) **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the template provided by UNDP (Annex 3);
- (ii) **CV** with indication of the e-mail and phone contact or Personal History Form (P11 form), but successful consultant will be requested to submit filled in and signed a [Personal History Form \(P11 form\)](#) before contract issuance

2. Financial proposal that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price and all other travel related costs (such as flight ticket, per diem, etc), supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template attached to the Letter of Confirmation of Interest template. If an applicant is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the applicant must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP (Annex 3).

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5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The financial proposal shall specify a total lump sum amount. Payment will be made in lump sum in four instalments upon completion of the tasks/works indicated in the TOR and their acceptance by the Programme Manager Environment and Climate Action Cluster Leader, UNDP Uzbekistan as well as submission of payment documents (PEF, CFP, etc.). 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 travel, per diems, 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

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:

- responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- Lowest evaluated offer of technically qualified candidates.

* Technical Criteria weight; [70 points]

* Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 49 points (70% of technical score) would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Weight	Max. Point
<u>Technical</u>		
<p><i>At least 5 years of experience in sustainable forest management, monitoring and/ planning, the management of afforestation programs/projects and wide nation campaigns in high-quality policy advisory roles, including advisory roles on environmental issues, biodiversity conservation, economy, sustainable development.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less than 5 years in not accepted ▪ 5-10 years – 15 ▪ more than 10 years - 20 	20%	20

<p><i>At least three year in the field of working with international and national experts and institutions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Less than 3 year in not accepted</i> ▪ <i>3-5 years – 5</i> ▪ <i>6 and more – 10</i> 	10%	10
<p><i>Experience of work in other aforestration and/or biodiversity projects and activities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>1 project – 5</i> ▪ <i>2 projects – 10</i> ▪ <i>3 and more – 15</i> 	15%	15
<p><i>Consultant experience in Central Asia region (projects, researches, publications etc.).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>1 project (publication, policy review) – 5</i> ▪ <i>2 and more – 10</i> 	10%	10
<p><i>Fluency in written and spoken English. Knowledge of Russian would be an advantage.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>English - 10</i> ▪ <i>English and Russian – 15</i> 	15%	15

ANNEX

ANNEX 1- TERMS OF REFERENCES (TOR)

ANNEX 2- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS (available at <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/documents/procurement/documents/IC%20-%20General%20Conditions.pdf>)

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