



Проект „Интеграция на глобалните проблеми по околна среда в процеса на регионално развитие в България“

Project Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process

Project No: 51783

Invitation for Expression of Interest to National Consultants in Regional Development, Spatial Planning, GIS and Environmental Protection

I. Background information

The GEF-funded Rio Conventions Project (full title: *Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process*) aims at promoting a proactive integration of global environmental issues into the very process of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning, both of which are managed by Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW). The project will support the integration of three UN conventions¹ – UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), or otherwise known as the Rio Conventions - into regional development and spatial planning processes in Bulgaria. This would be achieved by developing the capacity of MRDPW and Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) to integrate global environmental objectives into the regional and local development policies and practices, as well as into spatial planning documents.

A National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) and subsequent discussions with key stakeholders during the Project Development Phase, identified that proactive integration of global environmental issues into the very process of regional and local development in Bulgaria is still not in place. One of the reasons for this gap is the lack of uniform data and indicators which could facilitate the processing of information, monitoring and reporting on progress towards meeting global environmental objectives in Bulgaria's regional development planning and policy-making.

One of the primary tasks under the Rio Conventions Project's (RCP) Output 1.3 "Set of uniform indicators and guidance for application are established for measuring the contribution of regional development policy and spatial planning to meeting global environmental objectives" is to address this issue by developing and testing a set of indicators. Prior to engaging in implementation of the planned activities under Output 1.3, the project intends to compile a database of national consultants for the implementation of forthcoming assignments. The assignments shall involve: review and analysis of national, regional and local level plans, strategic documents and databases, indicators development and application of GIS in the following areas: regional development, spatial planning, and environmental protection.

II. Period of implementation of assignments

All assignments under Output 1.3 shall be implemented in the period September 2007 – December 2009.

III. Duration of the assignment

Forthcoming assignments will be with an average duration of 3 to 6 months, but no more than 12 months.

¹ <http://www.riocconventions.org/en/The-Rio-Conventions.html>



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IV. Scope of work under the forthcoming assignments

Forthcoming assignments might involve (indicative list only):

1. Identification, review and analysis of appropriate domestic organizations and data sources relevant to the development and application of a set of indicators to be used for monitoring the integration of global environment (GE) into regional development (RD) and spatial planning (SP).
2. Elaboration of a set of indicators with clear spatial (geographical) content for measuring the impact of regional development policy towards the achievement of the objectives of the Rio Conventions and develop a GIS (geographic information system) based algorithm/guidelines for spatial interpretation of the selected indicators;
3. Review and analysis of the existing GIS used by MRDPW and other regional development bodies and elaboration of recommendations regarding the necessary modifications in the used GIS technologies in RD&SP, required additional training and if necessary, the purchase of additional GIS software for making it effectively available to regional development bodies and stakeholders;
4. Development of GIS database containing basic geographical datasets (such as digital elevation model, hydrography, settlements, land use, roads, administrative divisions etc.), which shall be used for implementation and spatial interpretation of the proposed indicators by MRDPW and regional development bodies;
5. Assessment of regional and municipal capacity to use GIS-based indicator system.
6. Development of methodology and a Guidebook for implementation of GIS and non-GIS based indicators in the decision-making processes in regional and local planning;
7. Preparation of Terms of Reference and other background documentation for review and update of one Regional Development Plan in order to pilot test the set of indicators mentioned under point 2 above.
8. Preparation of Terms of Reference and other background documentation for review and update of one municipal spatial plan in order to pilot test the set of indicators mentioned under point 2 above.

V. Terms and conditions for provision of the services

All Consultants shall be hired in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures for short-term external subcontractors. Submission of an Expression of Interest does not automatically guarantee involvement into forthcoming assignments under the project. All submissions shall be kept in a database and applicants shall be contacted when concrete assignments arise.

VI. Qualifications required

The consultants should have at least five years domestic and international experience in at least in one of the following areas: (1) application of different types of impact assessments into Bulgaria's regional development and spatial planning; (2) design of indicator systems for monitoring the implementation of district and municipal plans and strategies in areas such as: regional and spatial planning; sustainable development; environmental protection; (3) use of GIS and relevant indicator systems for regional and municipal planning.



Министерство на регионалното развитие и благоустройството



Глобален екологичен фонд



Програма на ООН за развитие (ПРООН)



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The consultants must have the capacity to manage multi-disciplinary surveys and assignments. The consultants must be able to provide assignment outputs of high quality in Bulgarian and English. Acquaintance with the Bulgarian administrative and local governance structures, as well as design and implementation of regional development and spatial/environmental planning policies and/or impact assessments will be an advantage. Access to computer and printing facilities and good internet connection is a must.

VII. Format for submission of Expressions of Interest:

All national consultants interested in the assignment should prepare and submit in English the following set of documents:

- (i) a recent CV indicating appropriate educational background and past experience in at least one of the three areas mentioned in point VI above;
- (ii) a letter of interest indicating which of the consultant's skills and experience are relevant to the implementation of Project's Outcome 1.3 and in which of the three areas of focus mentioned in point VI above the consultant is particularly interested to work;
- (iii) a list of relevant publications in at least one of the three areas mentioned above;
- (iv) a short description of 3 to 5 assignments (implemented by the consultant after 2000) in one or more of the three areas relevant to the project, containing a short description of the implemented assignment, period of implementation, client and contact details.

VIII. Deadline for submitting of Expressions of Interest:

Expressions of Interest from interested national consultants should be sent by email to assignments@rioconventions.org to the attention of Mrs. Natalia Dimitrova, Rio Conventions Project Manager at the latest by **14 September, 2007**.



Министерство на регионалното развитие и благоустройството



Глобален екологичен фонд



Програма на ООН за развитие (ПРООН)