

Position Title: Selection of a National Consultant for Mid-term Evaluation under the UNDP/GEF project *Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process* (Rio Conventions Project)

Duty Station: Sofia, Bulgaria

Duration: 20 working days within a period of 7 weeks.

Deadline: 10 September, 2008

Start Date: 20 October (mission dates 3rd to 7th November 2008)

Apply to: Please send your application, for the announced position of a **National Consultant**, containing the following information: a recent CV in UNDP format (P11 Form), a Letter of Interest, a brief outline of the approach and methodology to be used for the evaluation (max 3 pages), period of availability and daily rate in USD (excluding travel and DSA expenses, which shall be negotiated according to UNDP rules and procedures, if such travel is involved) to: Natalia Dimitrova, Rio Conventions Project Manager, Integrating Global Environmental Issues into Bulgaria's Regional Development Process (Rio Conventions Project), 17-19 St.st. Kiril and Metodii Str. floor 6, room 601 A Sofia 1202, BULGARIA, E-mail natalia@rioconventions.org, with a copy to Pavel Gospodinov, UNDP Programme Analyst on e-mail pavel.gospodinov@undp.org.

Submission Format: Complete Terms of Reference (ToR), as well as the required CV format are published at the following web sites: <http://www.rioconventions.org/bg/Assignments.html> and <http://www.undp.bg/about.php?id=22>.

Background

The project objective is to build capacities for mainstreaming global environment into the formulation and implementation of regional and local development, as well as spatial planning policies. This will be achieved by the project strategy that is to promote 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. This will be done by developing the capacity of MRDPW and MOEW to integrate global environmental objectives into the regional and local development policies and practices, as well as into spatial planning documents.

Description of responsibilities

This Mid Term Evaluation is initiated by the UNDP Bulgaria as the Implementation Agency for the Rio Conventions project and it aims to provide managers (at the Project Administration, UNDP Bulgaria Country Office and UNDP/GEF levels) with strategy and policy options for more effectively and efficiently achieving the project's outcomes and for replicating the results. It also provides the basis for learning and accountability for managers and stakeholders.

The objective of this Mid Term Evaluation is to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of project activities in relation to the stated objective so far, and to produce possible recommendations on how to improve the management of the project until its completion in end of June 2010.

The evaluation report will play a critical role in the future implementation of the project

The **National Consultant** shall work in a team with the UNDP selected international Team Leader and will among others: review relevant project background documents; organize the mission programme and provide translation/interpretation when necessary; participate in the design of the evaluation methodology; conduct an analysis of and draft related parts of the evaluation report; assist the Team Leader in finalizing the evaluation document through incorporating suggestions received on his/her assigned sections.

Qualifications

The **National Consultant** to be selected for the Mid-term Evaluation should possess:

- (i) Recent experience with result-based management evaluation methodologies;
- (ii) Experience with multilateral or bilateral-supported, capacity development projects for at least 5 years;
- (iii) Project evaluation experiences within United Nations system will be considered an asset
- (iv) Competence in Adaptive Management, as applied to capacity development natural resource management, spatial planning and regional development projects;
- (v) Recognized expertise in the cross-cutting area of environmental protection and regional development / spatial planning for at least 5 years;
- (vi) Familiarity with SEA, regional development and spatial planning policies in Bulgaria is an asset;
- (vii) Demonstrable analytical skills;
- (viii) Excellent English communication skills.
- (ix) The evaluator must be independent from both the policy-making process and the delivery and management of assistance and cannot have had any direct involvement with the design or implementation of the project so far.