



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Elaboration of a Green Infrastructure (GI) Funding Measure at transnational level (with input from project experts)

Within the framework of the project: SaveGREEN “Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube basin”

Work Package: Policy, capacity building, networking (T3)

Project Number: DTP3-314-2.3

Contract beneficiary: WWF Romania

SUMMARY OF FUNCTIONS

The Consultant will be in charge of elaborating a Green Infrastructure (GI) funding measure and/or GI funding interventions proposal at transnational level, with input from project experts with the purpose to be adapted and used in the national advocacy work aimed at influencing the integration of such measures in relevant funding programmes in Partners’ countries. The proposal of the measure will contain elements to be agreed with WWF Romania (WP Lead) and project experts, such as: specific objective, type of action, intervention field, territorial focus, beneficiaries, form of support, funding mechanism(s), budget, indicators, etc.

CONTEXT OF THE ACTIVITIES

For the Danube Region, it is of great importance **to safeguard, enhance or restore the functionality of ecological connectivity in the surroundings of planned or existing wildlife passages along linear transport infrastructure**. This can be done by involving concerted efforts of the various sectors that are managing, or have an interest in the land use needed including agriculture, forestry, spatial planning, water and wildlife management and by ensuring an integrated policy framework and funding opportunities. The proposal of GI funding measure/interventions is a response to the fact that while often sufficient EU funding



is allocated to GI type of activities, the bottleneck for spending funds on GI is the lack of specific measures under the funding programmes as a prerequisite for opening calls.

In all project countries there is policy expertise and capacity within the project team and eg. in countries such as Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, the Project Partners (PPs) are already actively engaged in policy advocacy due to previous and current projects and for other reasons. In some cases, such as Romania, WWF is in dialogue with the relevant authorities and participating in the relevant committees and working groups for the elaboration of the future cohesion and agriculture funds. The project will create the framework for an efficient and unitary coordination at regional level to strengthen joint messages and learn from each other's advocacy success. In Ukraine, the focus will be on influencing funding policies of International Financial Institutions (IFIs). The development of the funding measure proposal followed by adaptation to the national needs is one of the sub-activities included in WP 3 "Policy, Capacity Building, Networking" (Activity A.T3.2."Develop recommendations towards the integration of mitigation measures/GI into sectoral policy and decision making") of the project together with:

- the elaboration of a road map based on national calendars for the next EU programming period 2021-2027 and on advocacy opportunities with IFIs in UA, as a coordination tool; and
- the ongoing advocacy work on integration of GI approach in policy and decision making (establishment of WGs, presentations on case studies and project results, dissemination of briefing papers, national and EU level meetings, etc).

Also, during the project implementation, bilateral and cross-sectoral meetings at national level will be facilitated by partners with the participation of relevant ministries and key stakeholders promoting integrated spatial planning.

PROJECT CONTEXT

Many valuable ecological corridors of the Carpathian and other mountain ranges in the Danube region are impeded or threatened by economic development such as linear transport infrastructure construction or intensive agricultural, forestry, or water management practices. The reason for this conflict is that they are not sufficiently planned with the goal to maintain ecological connectivity and flow of multiple ecosystem services that these Green Infrastructure elements provide. Mitigation measures such as renaturation of intensive agricultural polders or green bridges are often missing or dysfunctional because of inadequate design, location and inappropriate management of surrounding land use by e.g. agriculture or forestry. The impacts are traffic-kills and lowered reproductive success of key species dependent on functional corridors. The project aims to demonstrate ways of



designing appropriate mitigation measures and maintaining or improving the functionality of ecological corridors through integrated planning. It thereby builds on key results of the DTP projects TRANSGREEN, ConnectGREEN, and HARMON. Monitoring the impact of such measures will help us to learn and derive proper recommendations for follow-up action and policy design. We will foster cross-sectoral collaboration, build capacity for replication of pilots and upscale results through improved policy frameworks.

GEOGRAPHICAL & SECTOR SCOPE

The focus of the project will be on critical ecological corridors of the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor, SW-Carpathians, Zakarpattia, Beskydy, Lyulin and Balkan mountains impacted by linear transport projects and unsustainable land use. The partnership covers the following countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, and Slovakia.

The project partnership covers key sectors to be involved in integrated planning of mitigation measures: nature conservation (ministries, agencies, authorities, NGOs), research and education (universities, research institution), transport (ministries, motorway companies) and consultancy business (limited company) and Associated Strategic Partners from complementary sectors in Partners' countries, but also France, Germany, Greece and Ukraine.

CONTENT SCOPE

The Consultant is expected to complete the following activities:

1) Design of a questionnaire on the current EU funding policies implemented at national level, as well as on funding needs identified for the next programming period at national/ regional level, and on the relevant calendars. The questionnaire will be addressed to project partners and experts.

This activity involves the following actions from the Consultant:

- Elaboration of a draft questionnaire in English to be presented to the project partners& experts.
- Participation in a virtual meeting organized by WWF with project partners and experts where the Consultant will present the draft questionnaire and collect suggestions for improvement of the final version.



2) Elaboration of a report containing an analysis of funding needs collected from project partners/experts:

For the preparation of the report, information collection on the current EU funding policies implemented at national level, as well as on funding needs identified for the next programming period at national/ regional level, and the relevant calendars, will be conducted in each partner country by relevant PPs, based on a questionnaire designed by the consultant. The responses received will be centralized by WWF and the Consultant will analyse the information and develop a report referring to each country from which information was received, as well as to the more general EU framework. The report will also contain conclusions regarding the overall GI funding framework and identified needs, in the project region.

This activity involves the following actions from the Consultant:

- Desk research and, if necessary interviews of project partners;
- Participation in virtual meetings (to be agreed with WWF).
- Presentation of the draft Report/analysis with conclusions to Project Partners and coordinated discussion on findings, within a meeting organized by WWF; the purpose of the meeting is to gather input/discuss with project experts and partners from different levels and sectors on the findings of the analysis and conclusions;
- Integration of feedback received for elaboration of Report;
- Elaboration of Report containing analysis with conclusions.

Deliverable 1: Report (analysis with conclusions for each country and general EU framework) on the GI funding contexts and needs. The Report will be elaborated in word format, in English.

Deadline for Deliverable 1: End of November 2020

3) Elaboration of a GI funding measure / interventions at transnational level with input from project partners and experts with the purpose to be adapted and used in the national advocacy work aimed at influencing the integration of such measures in relevant funding programmes in Partners' countries. The proposal of the measure will contain elements to be agreed with project experts, such as: specific objective, type of action, intervention field, territorial focus, beneficiaries, form of support, funding mechanism(s), budget, indicators, etc.

The GI Funding Measure will be tailored for:

1) Dissemination by project team at EU, regional level and international level to: EUSDR structures and players, Carpathian Convention, IFIs, European Commission.



2) Adaptation and dissemination by relevant Project Partners at national level to management authorities of funding programmes, ministries, national and sub-national planning and protected areas management authorities. Recommendations concerning options for developing and adapting the measure / interventions to national needs in order to be included in the next funding programmes, will be further discussed with potential partners.

This activity involves the following actions from the Consultant:

- Desk research and, if necessary additional interviews of project partners and other experts.
- Participation in virtual meetings (to be agreed with WWF).
- Presentation of the draft GI Funding measure / interventions to Project Partners, followed by discussion, within a second regional meeting organized by WWF
- Integration of feedback received for elaboration of the GI Funding measure / interventions.
- Elaboration of GI Funding measure / interventions.
- Providing to relevant PPs recommendations concerning options for developing and adapting the measure / interventions to national context and needs, to be included in the next EU funding programmes.

Deliverable 2: Green Infrastructure funding measure/interventions and guidance/ recommendations for developing and adapting the measure to national needs. The document will be elaborated in word format, in English and Romanian.

Deadline for Deliverable 2: End of December 2020

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications in providing analytical research and consulting activities in the field of preparation of programming documents, architecture of operational programmes and cohesion & agriculture policies, mobilising funding for sustainable socio-economic development and natural resource governance and management are required. Experience in elaborating similar funding measures, involving a range of stakeholders and target audiences is also very important. The following specific qualifications must be met:

- Relevant academic background (graduate qualification as minimum) in the fields of sustainable development (from either environmental or socio-economic perspective), environmental and resource management or other related fields;
- Proven experience in undertaking studies of similar or related topics, including funding mechanism and programmes;



- Experience in working with secondary data and obtaining primary data, especially through in-depth and structured interviews, with a variety of stakeholders;
- Knowledge, understanding, and practical implementation of EU funding policies, mechanism and programmes;
- Solid analytical and conceptual skills and the ability to think critically;
- Attention to detail with ability and sense to synthesize both quantitative and qualitative information and paint a coherent overall picture;
- Flawless mastery of the English language both verbally and in written;
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity to cultural differences.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

All proprietary or private information obtained by the Consultant from WWF Romania and third parties, including SaveGREEN project partners, shall not be disclosed or otherwise used for purposes other than the activities from these Terms of References. The rights to all content including the two deliverables are reserved and will be handled in accordance with the rules and requirements of the Danube Transnational Programme and SaveGREEN project.

Maximum available **budget**: for this service is 4.201,68 EUR (VAT excluded/no taxes included).

Duration of contract: 5 months (November 2020, to March 2021)

Starting date: November 2020

Selection criteria: The contract will be assigned to the service provider that fulfills all the criteria mentioned in the ToRs and has the lowest financial offer.

Deadline for offers:

Please send your complete offers until 3th of November 2020, 10:00 pm. You may send the offer either via email to iismail@wwf.ro or via post to WWF Romania, 29 Tudor Vladimirescu Blvd, Afi Tech Park 1, Sector 5, code 050881, Bucharest, Romania. Phone: +4021 317 49 96 / Fax: +4021 317 49 97.