



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË

MINISTRIA E BUJQËSISË
DHE ZHVILLIMIT RURAL

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)

ALBANIA WATER RESOURCES AND IRRIGATION PROJECT

Assignment Title

**“Preparation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
of River Basin Management Plan for Drini-Buna & Semani river”**
(Ref. No. MEFWA/CS/001a)
(as per Procurement Plan)

Project ID: No.: P121186
IBRD Loan: No.: 8211 – AL
Grant: No.: TF014255

This Request for Expressions of Interest (REoIs) follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in *Development Business* online on May 25, 2010 and the GPN Update published on December 20, 2012, DB Reference No. WB5260-12/12.

The Government of Albania has received financing in the amount of EUR 34.4 million equivalents from the World Bank toward the cost of the Water Resources and Irrigation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds for Consulting Services.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) seeks engagement of a qualified company to carry out the Consulting Services (“*the Services*”) for the “*Preparation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of River Basin Management Plan for Drini-Buna & Semani river*” (Ref. No. MEFWA/CS/001a).

Main Goal of this Assignment

The River Basin Management Plan for Drini-Buna & Semani river (RBMPs) should be supplemented by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in order meets the requirements of the Albania Law No. 91/2013 “*On Strategic Environmental Assessment*” and of the Helsinki and Espoo Conventions that relate to the management of transboundary waters, which Albania has signed and ratified. The SEA’s objective is to ensure that key Environmental issues associated with the RBMPs are identified

and assessed, key institutional enablers and barriers are identified, and clear recommendations are presented for more sustainable RBMPs.

The SEA process is also required to ensure and pay particular attention to carrying out consultative meetings with key stakeholder groups belonging to neighboring river basins, and include exchange of information, views and possible approach to achieve additional benefits and synergies between the adjoining river basins, where relevant.

Specific tasks

It is expected that the Consultant will undertake the tasks which comprise this assignment within the duration of the assignment as specified in the respective Terms of Reference (ToRs), estimated at 3.5 months. It is also expected that the Consultant Company to be available to start shortly after the contract signing and make all possible efforts for timely completion of the services.

The main focus of the Consultancy Services shall be concentrated on the two separate SEAs of the RBMPs for Drini-Buna and Semani rivers. The Scope of Work of the Consultancy Services shall comprise, but not necessarily be limited to the following tasks.

The SEA study will include:

- (i) *an environmental baseline study;*
- (ii) *an identification and assessment of the potential environmental impacts, constraints, risks and opportunities;*
- (iii) *an analysis of the M&E framework including performance indicators;*
- (iv) *an assessment of the institutional capacities to address environmental challenges;*
- (v) *stakeholders engagement; and*
- (vi) *conclusions and recommendations;*

The SEA study will provide:

- Environmental Assessment of the RBMP of the Drini-Buna and Semani rivers, taking into account the key environmental risks (including transboundary when applicable), constraints and opportunities linked to the plan, the potential key environmental impacts of its implementation and its consistency with Albania's environmental policies and objectives;
- Recommendations for the RBMPs finalization formulation, including performance indicators, to improve the environmental sustainability of the RBMPs.

Key Qualifications

The tasks under the Consulting Services for the “*Preparation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of River Basin Management Plan for Drini-Buna & Semani river*” will be undertaken by a Consultant Company, qualified and experienced in the similar assignment. Since SEA is a relatively new approach, in particular, the qualifications and experience in the Strategic Environmental Assessment of plans, policies and programs must be clearly specified for each expert. The Consultant Company shall contain expertise on stakeholder engagement and have working knowledge in English and Albanian languages. In addition, experience in the water sector, specifically, in developing RBMP, as well as, similar assignments in the region or in Albania is meritorious. High degree of the flexibility and ability to meet strict deadlines would be appreciated.

It is anticipated that the Consultant Company proposed for these services would establish a core team of 3 (three) experts with specific required qualifications and experiences.

The proposed staff to carry out the tasks entrusted to the Consultant comprises of:

- ✓ **Team Leader (TL);**
- ✓ **1 (one) Environmental Expert (Local);**
- ✓ **1 (one) Institutional Expert (Local);**

The Team Leader of the Consultant Company will be responsible for the overall quality and consistency of all reports and documents produced and delivered.

Timing

It is envisaged that the implementation period for the required Consulting Services will be 3.5 months.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) now invites eligible Consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants must provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experiences to perform the Services (*Documents showing Legal status of the Consultant, core business and years in business; Consultant organization: professional and managerial and its capacities; Adequacy for the assignment: description of similar assignments, even in the region; list the projects name and scope, contract value, implementation’s time and source of financing; Experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, familiarity with the related conventions (Helsinki and Espoo); brochures, etc.*).

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a Joint Venture or a Sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

The shortlisting criteria are:

- ✓ Core Business of the Consultant, organization and its capacities (in case of the JV Core Business of Lead Company and its associates, as well as, organization and their capacities);
- ✓ Adequacy for the assignment: extensive experience in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and proper experience in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- ✓ Sound experience working with National and Local Governments and Albanian Institutions;
- ✓ Proven experience in the assessment of the Institutional capacities and stakeholders engagement;
- ✓ Experience in similar projects in the region or in Albania and familiarity with the related conventions (Helsinki and Espoo);

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: *Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* ("Consultant Guidelines"), January 2011, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consulting Firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank’s *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers* (January 2011), based on the “**Consultant’s Qualifications**” selection method (CQS).

Interested Consultants may obtain further information concerning the Terms of Reference (ToRs) at MoARD' website: www.bujqesia.gov.al or to the address below during office hours 08:00 am - 16:30 hours (Monday to Thursday) and 08.00am - 14.00 on Friday (Local time):

Mr. Ilirjan Lame

Project Manager

Water Resources and Irrigation Project

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

**Address: Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Nr. 2, kp. 1001
Tirana, Albania**

Tel: + 355 4 2226243 – 75129; e-mail: ilirjan.lame@bujqesia.gov.al

Expressions of Interest (EoIs) must be delivered no later than **December 12, 2017 (Tuesday)**: hardcopy (in person or by mail) to the address below, within office hours, and electronically at the above e-mail address.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Protocol office)

**Address: Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Nr. 2, kp. 1001
Tirana, Albania**

**Attn: Ms. Aurora ALIMADHI
General Secretary**