**ALBANIA**

**Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Environmental Specialist of PMT**

**Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**

**Ref. No. AL-MARD-389957-CS-INDV**

1. **Background**

The World Bank is assisting the Government of Albania (GoA) with the financing of the Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development (CRAD) Project. This project aims to increase competitiveness and climate resilience of priority agri-food value chains. The expected outputs from the project are: (i) increased supply/sales to local agri-food businesses, (ii) increased agricultural productivity and production, lower costs and extended production season (iii) improved traceability, farmer’s market integration and the compliance with food safety and quality requirements, (iv) evidence-based decision making for resilience and sustainable agri-food systems.

The Project consists of the following components, which will support the project objective:

1. Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Access to Markets
2. Enhancing Compliance with Food Safety and Quality Standards
3. Strengthening Evidence-based Analysis Capacity of MARD and Municipalities

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the lead implementation agency for this Project (MARD). The MARD will have a project coordination and management as well as safeguards and fiduciary responsibility for the Project through its Project Management Team (PMT). The PMT is headed by the Project Coordinator (appointed MARD staff at the level of General Director) and include: a Project Manager, Component Leaders, Procurement Specialist, Financial Management Specialist, Environmental Specialist, Social Specialist/Gender focal point and Technical Specialist (i.e., engineer, IT, etc.) as deemed necessary to support project implementation. The MARD has appointed civil servants as Project Coordinator, Component Leaders and M&E Specialist. Civil servants of institutions that will be involved in supporting the implementation of project activities will be appointed as focal points for the various activities as deemed necessary.

The PMT will monitor and evaluate the Project results framework and will include core staff responsible for technical, fiduciary and safeguards management.

MARD published this ToR with the aim to recruit a part time individual consultant as Environmental Specialist who will be part (a team member) of the PMT and he/she will support the PMT in ensuring environmental compliance in the implementation of Project activities.

The Environmental Specialist plays a critical role in integrating environmental considerations throughout the project, ensuring sustainable practices and compliance with environmental National and World Bank standards.

This ToR provides a framework for the responsibilities and qualifications required for the Environmental Specialist role within the Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project. It is designed to ensure the project's environmental aspects are managed effectively, promoting sustainability and compliance with relevant environmental standards.

1. **Objectives**

* To integrate environmental considerations in the design and implementation of project activities, ensuring that project activities promote environmental sustainability and comply with national and international environmental standards.
* To support the project team in the development, implementation, and monitoring and supervision of environmental management plans, including the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), ensuring adherence to the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (ESS).

1. **Scope of Work for the Environmental Specialist**

The Environmental Specialist's specific responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

* Work closely with the Project Management Team (PMT) in preparing and/or revising, as needed, relevant project Environmental and Social (ES) instruments, including the ESIA, ESMP (if necessary) and any required environmental permits or clearances.
* Ensure the disclosure and informed public consultation of the prepared and/or revised ES instruments, ensuring stakeholder engagement and compliance with environmental regulations.
* Conduct environmental risk assessments and develop mitigation strategies to address potential negative impacts of any project activities, ensuring the project promotes environmental sustainability.
* Collaborate and work closely with the consultant service in conducting and assessing water pollution used for irrigation in the project foreseen schemes for rehabilitation.
* Collaborate and work closely with the consultant service company for design, implementation and supervision.
* Monitor the implementation of environmental management plans and ES instruments, ensuring compliance with the national regulations in place, World Bank's ESS and other applicable environmental standards.
* Provide technical guidance to the project team on environmental good practices, including waste management, pollution prevention, biodiversity conservation, water use efficiency, pesticides and fertilizers use, Occupation Health and Safety, etc.
* Develop and implement a monitoring system for environmental indicators, ensuring the project's environmental performance is tracked and reported accurately.
* Serve as the project's environmental liaison officer, coordinating with relevant GoA authorities, the World Bank, and affected communities on environmental matters.
* Collaborate and work closely with the consultant service companies for design, implementation and supervision.
* Collaborate closely with the CRAD Social Specialist on risk assessment and take measures to avoid/reduce/mitigate environmental and social negative impacts during project implementation.
* Provide timely support to the PMT, including on environmental requirements at any ToRs/ Technical Specifications/Bidding Documents that require environmental obligations.
* Oversee proper implementation of the ESMP Checklist requirements; eg obtaining environmental, construction and/or other official permits (as required);
* In coordination with PMT Coordinator prepare public consultation with all stakeholders involved during the project design phase;
* Monitor environmental and social impacts as part of overall monitoring of the works implementation address complaints and feedback from project stakeholders and the public, including grievances regarding environmental impacts of works.

1. **Required Experience and Qualifications**

* A bachelor’s degree (or higher) in environmental science, environmental engineering, or a related field.
* A minimum of 5 years of professional experience in environmental management, with specific experience in developing and implementing environmental management plans for projects financed by international organizations, preferably the World Bank.
* Extended knowledge of the national environmental legal framework in place.
* Familiarity with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework and ESS.
* Excellent communication skills, with fluency in Albanian and English.
* Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams.

Applicants that fulfill the minimum qualification requirements will be further evaluated based on the below evaluation grid for the position:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Evaluated expertise | Points |
| General Experience | 30 |
| Adequacy for the assignment | 60 |
| Language and computer skills | 10 |
| Total | 100 |

1. **Reporting Requirements**

The Environmental Specialist will report to the Project Manager and will provide monthly progress reports and a final comprehensive report at the end of the assignment detailing achievements, challenges, and recommendations for future environmental management initiatives.

1. **Duration**

The initial duration of the assignment is 12 months, with a probation period of 3 months, from contract signing and/or entry into force of the contract, with the option of renewal for the entire Project implementation period (60 months), based on satisfactory performance. The Environmental Specialist shall be engaged on a part-time basis, average of 10 working days per month. The type of contract for this assignment is Time Based Contract.

1. **Selection**

The consultant will be selected based on Selection of Individual Consultant (IC). in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in Investment Project Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services July 2016 (revised November 2020), under a time-based contract.