Terms of Reference

Consultancy – Scoping Study

Environmental degradation reduces the capacity of ecosystems to provide important services, such as clean water, air or resources, and increasingly impacts their role in reducing risk from disasters. The environment in whole South-Eastern Europe, including Albania, has suffered from activities related to urbanization, agriculture, industry, energy, transport have led to detrimental effects on ecosystems, which in turn influenced provision of their services. Restoring degraded ecosystems is becoming a necessity in many different ways. Ecosystems such as wetlands or forests reduce vulnerability to hazards and increase resilience to hazards by acting as physical barriers that reduce the impact of hazard events; they improve the water and air quality and influence the resilience of the community. Well-maintained and preserved ecosystems not only protect lives and livelihoods, but at the same time offer opportunities for sustenance and good quality of life. Engineering solutions to the natural hazards have showed their limits in times of climate change, and are costly to construct and maintain. Alternative solutions via the delivery of ecosystem services such as flood protection, protection against weather extremes, climate regulation through maintenance and restoration of ecosystems can contribute to significant reduction in costs in avoided damages, and are considered "no-regret" measures.

Ecosystem services are yet to be mainstreamed into decision-making. Many of the sectors that depend on ecosystem services have a huge negative impact on them, but little appreciation of their importance. Inadequate research and data, public education and lack of awareness on the linkages and dependences between ecosystem services and societal well-being at all levels of governance in the region are major issues at present. It is important that ecosystem services are mainstreamed across sectors and to all levels of governance.

This Study will increase knowledge on how ecosystems can be managed for maintaining their services for immediate and long-term resilience of communities as well as ecosystems**,** and bring closer environment and disaster risk reduction community. IUCN's experience on Nature-based Solutions, as an umbrella concept for ecosystem-based approaches, will be used to guide the process.[1 baguyo]

1. Introduction

- Background
- Scope of the study
- Definition of ecosystems, ecosystem services and their roles
- Main stakeholders in field of nature conservation and disaster risk reduction, and their roles

2. Up-to-date information and data on policy and institutional framework in relation to

Indicative Plan of delivery:

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Initial consultations with IUCN ECARO; Desk research	Preparation for country visit and consultations with stakeholders (list of questions, initial ideas for discussion)	Visit to Albania, meeting main stakeholders, gathering necessary data, working on the draft of the Study	Consolidating the draft, sending to IUCN ECARO for comments	Review by IUCN ECARO and main stakeholders	Addressing the comments and preparing the final version of the study	Final version of the study sent to IUCN ECARO	Any remaining issues to address, adoption of the report by IUCN ECARO

Location:
Consultant will be home-based, with visit to Albania (minimum 4 working days)

Deliverables:
Draft Scoping Study in electronic form delivered to IUCN office 20 working days after the signature of the contract.
Final Scoping Study in electronic form delivered to IUCN 35 working days after the signature of the contract, at latest.

Payment:
First instalment of Euro 5,000.00 upon receipt of the signed and initialled contract and invoice by IUCN ECARO
Second instalment of Euro 7,500-0 CID .5(t(. 0.003 f(-.5(O)]1.3(ig)2.6(n)2.2(at)8(s)-48 06(n)-0.8(d)-0.7o)-9.(t)-5.9p)-5.9(rs)-