

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

Republic of Moldova

Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP)

Project No.: **P173076**

Credit No.: **7027-MD**

Assignment Title: **Development of the Biodiversity Assessment Study and Biodiversity Management Plan for Soroca Sanitation Sub-project**

Reference No.: **MD-PIU-NORLD-457361-CS-CQS**

Date: **November 08, 2024**

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the development of the Biodiversity Assessment Study (BAS) including the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP). The Biodiversity Assessment Study aims in identifying potential impacts on flora, fauna and the habitats and to suggest relevant compensatory and mitigatory measures to protect/conservate biodiversity in the likely impacted area along the main pipeline route and the WWTP construction site due to the project activity. To achieve this the Consultant shall carry out a comprehensive study on biological, socio-economic aspects along the proposed route and site limited to affected biodiversity area and assess the potential impacts and risks (direct as well as indirect/induced) due to the project activities and shall suggest appropriate measures for compensating & mitigating measures for managing the same.

This study will describe the biodiversity values present on the development site and the impact of the project activity on these values and also identify reasonable measures and strategies that can be taken to avoid and minimize impacts on biodiversity.

In preparing this Terms of Reference, the Client has estimated that approximately 100-120 man-days of key professional staff input will be required to carry out the activities defined in the scope of services. The duration of the assignment will be about 6 months from the date of commencing the services, including development and submission of deliverables, their examination and approval by the Client / World Bank / Republic of Moldova Environmental Agency, acceptance of services and payments according to contact terms.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: <https://www.ondrl.gov.md> (link: <https://ondrl.gov.md/categorie/proiectul-saasm/anunturi-saasm/>) or can be obtained at the email address given below.

The Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

General experience:

- Copy of the organization registration certificate, any available license, permit, professional qualification certificate available.

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- Have been in continuous operation for at least five (5) years, being specialized implementing environmental projects of different kind.
- Experience in managing the environmental components of infrastructure projects.

Specific Experience:

- Specific experience in at least two (2) successfully developed Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Studies (at least one (1) ESIA shall be the one assessing the impact on natural and social environment of a construction / or major rehabilitation of water supply and/or sanitation project).
- The Consultants should demonstrate the availability of the human resources for the performance of the services described in the TOR. *Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.*

The scores that will be assigned to the consulting firms at the evaluation of the Expression of Interest are: 40 points for general experience and 60 points for specific experience, in total 100 points. Passing score is 70 points.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers", dated November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Consultant's Qualification-based Selection** method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 09.00 to 17.00 local time in the Republic of Moldova.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **November 22, 2024, 16:00 local time in Moldova**, indicating the assignment title in subject line (when sent by e-mail).

Contract address:

P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development,
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (PIU)

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See below Attachment 1: Terms of Reference

**P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development
Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project**

**Terms of Reference
For
Consultancy Services**

***to develop the Biodiversity Assessment Study and Biodiversity Management Plan
for Soroca Sanitation Sub-Project***

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 MOLDOVA WATER SECURITY AND SANITATION PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Government of Moldova (GoM) is currently implementing a project supported by the World Bank (IDA) financing the Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project (MWSSP). The Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project directly supports the Government's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal No.6: to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030 through its Action Program and the National Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy 2014-2028.

The World Bank's Water Security Diagnostic and Future Outlook showed that there are several pressing challenges to Moldova's water security, such as (i) inequalities in access, inadequate quality of water supply in small towns and weak performance of service providers; (ii) poor environmental health and environmental pollution due to lack of sanitation and wastewater collection and treatment; (iii) weak institutions, fragmented financing streams and unresolved reform areas which hinder programmatic delivery of services.

Access in water supply and sanitation (WSS) is constrained by large coverage gaps in rural areas, compounded by income status. Compared to other countries in the Danube region, the share of population with access to basic water and sanitation services in Moldova is low. The gap between urban and rural remains one of the largest in Europe and is one of the key water security issues the country is facing. Based on JMP-data, gains were made in rural water supply access to drinking water services from piped networks, from 33 percent in 2000 to an estimate 40 percent in 2017, while urban piped service remained almost stable at 85 percent.

Household Budget Survey (HBS) (2018) data provides the picture on national access to a public piped water supply being 70 percent, with urban access at 92.4 percent and rural access at 52.2 percent. However, the water quality of rural piped system is often compromised and below drinking water quality standard. Those not served by public centralized systems rely on so-called self-supply, through private shallow wells. Around one in three people rely on self-supply for their drinking water with 80 percent of wells not compliant with drinking water norms (e.g. nitrates, e-coli). The poorest quintile of the rural population faces the largest obstacles to get connected to a public system and is least able to invest in private piped supply by wells (9 percent), with 42.2 percent of the poorest households collecting water with buckets or carts. In 2018, out of a total of 1,220 centralized water systems, 1,168 were functional, although performance data is not systematically available.

In response to these challenges, the Project Development Objective (PDO) of the MWSSP is to increase access to safely managed water supply and sanitation services in selected rural areas and towns, and to strengthen institutional capacities for water supply and sanitation service delivery. Strengthening institutional capacities for water supply and sanitation service delivery refers to both national level planning and sector development capacities, as well as to improved operational efficiency and delivery at utility level.

The Project have four components:

Component 1: Increasing access to safely managed WSS services in selected rural areas and towns. This component will develop new and rehabilitate existing WSS infrastructure and WASH facilities in rural areas and towns, thus expanding access and quality of services for households, businesses, and public institutions and supporting resilience. Component 1 supports climate adaption through (a) providing reliable centralized water supply protecting vulnerable households from drought and poor water quality; (b) improving wastewater systems, sanitation, and WASH facilities, reducing environmental exposure to pathogens exacerbated by flooding, particularly in towns facing frequent flooding; and (c) ensuring climate-resilient design of all infrastructure for robust functioning under extreme weather events. It consists of two subcomponents:

Subcomponent 1.1: Expanding access and quality of WSS services. This subcomponent will finance climate-resilient investments in towns and rural areas. This includes the following:

(a) Water supply investments: Expansion and rehabilitation of the regional water systems for water supply production and distribution, and service connections for LPAs in selected districts, including the preparation of

relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision; and citizen engagement activities. This refers to water supply infrastructure in two preliminarily identified subprojects, that is, regional water system expansion for LPAs in Cahul District and the ATU of Gagauzia and a regional water supply system with a surface water treatment plant in Riscani District. Many LPAs, particularly in the south (Cahul) as well as in the northern part along the Prut (Riscani), face shortages of water in the summer, with shallow wells/springs posing a challenge such as in the Prut cluster villages, in the Vulcanesti town, and other villages in Cahul District.

(b) Wastewater investments: Expansion and rehabilitation of wastewater systems in selected towns, including the construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks and service connections, and the construction of new wastewater treatment plants, including the preparation of relevant technical studies and management documents; technical supervision; and citizen engagement activities. This refers to two preliminarily identified subprojects in Soroca and Comrat towns. There are areas in the Comrat town that face frequent flooding, and the Soroca town is also vulnerable directly on the right bank of the Dniester. The project will support the assessment of flood risk and impact at the household level and, in addition to ensuring resilient design of infrastructure, provide measures to reduce the impact of floods where possible.

(c) Pilot for on-site household sanitation: selected rural or peri-urban villages, will benefit from the improvement of on-site household sanitation following a demand-led approach through the provision of technical assistance, the implementation of information campaigns, and the carrying out of civil works. The pilot will be co-financed through the ADA grant. This pilot will demonstrate the use of climate-resilient low-cost technologies for rural sanitation.

Subcomponent 1.2: Improving resilient WASH facilities in public social institutions. This subcomponent will finance works, goods, consulting services, non-consulting services and training/workshops to realize climate-resilient WASH facilities in HCFs and education institutions and implement hygiene education and behavior change communication program.

Component 2: Strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels for WSS service delivery. This component focusses on institutional capacities of national and subnational entities and WSS operators for management, planning, regulation and reform implementation, and performance improvement of service providers for green, resilience, and inclusive service delivery. At the national level, development of plans, policies, and regulatory documents will support climate adaptation through climate-resilient planning, and at the local level, performance improvements will deliver climate benefits through reduction of NRW and improvement of energy efficiency. It consists of two subcomponents:

Subcomponent 2.1: Building national institutional capacity for WSS. This subcomponent aims to strengthen critical functions of facilitating and implementing WSS sector reform, investment planning and monitoring, and sector modernization and build capacities to this end of the assigned lead unit/entity within MIRD's structure. It finances goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and training/workshops for activities that strengthen institutional capacities for planning, financing, economic regulation, performance monitoring, professional development, and the revision and development of new policies and normative documents.

Subcomponent 2.2: Improving performance of WSS service providers Subcomponent 2.2 will finance works, goods, consulting services, non-consulting services, and training to support the implementation of a prioritized rolling multiyear PIP of selected WSS operators involved under Subcomponent 1.1. WSS operators will carry out annual assessments on PIP implementation and KPIs, including publication of results and feedback rounds with customers. The financing for selected WSS operators will be allocated based on results. Investments and TA activities identified in the PIPs are based on utility diagnostics and include, but are not limited to, the following: improving technical and commercial operations, improving financial management (FM), HR management, and organization and strategy aspects, including improving asset management systems and inventories, energy efficiency, NRW reduction programs, water metering practices and equipment to improve climate resilience, water safety, and business continuity, and enhancing responsiveness to customers.

Component 3: Project management and coordination. This component will finance operational costs, consulting services, non-consulting services, goods, and training to finance the overall project management cost, including the project team at the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), implementation support consultants at the regional level within MIRD’s RDAs for environmental and social standards implementation, and, at the national level, MIRD as the project implementing entity (PIE). It will finance training costs, including for capacity building in procurement, environmental, and social standards, specialized short-term implementation support consultants, financial audits, project communication and citizen consultations, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Component 4: Contingent emergency response component (CERC). A provisional zero-amount component is included, which will allow for rapid reallocation of credit/loan proceeds from other components during an emergency under streamlined procurement and disbursement procedures. This component allows the Government to request the World Bank to recategorize and reallocate financing from other project components to cover emergency response and recovery costs.

1.2 SOROCA SANITATION SUB-PROJECT

The Feasibility Study, namely *Consulting Services to develop the Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Assessment for Soroca Sanitation Sub-Project* was pre-selected as part of Component 1.1 (b) to further proceed with the development of the Detailed Engineering Design (DED) documentation. The DED development activities are foreseen to start within the first quarter of the year 2025, as part of the Contract for Plant design, supply and installation.

It is to be mentioned that this investment has been identified as part of the chapter of Water and Sanitation Services (WSS) of the Socio-Economic Developing Strategy of Soroca Rayon. The overall objective of the Strategy is to provide the population of Soroca Rayon with high quality water supply and sanitation services.

As shortly mentioned above the Soroca Sanitation Sub-Project is already developed to the point of an available Feasibility Study, ESIA / ESMP and announced procurement for Plant Design, Supply and Installation type of contract.

However, some of documents mentioned above are now out of date (ESIA, having been completed in 2021 by *Seureca Consulting (France)* and require review and updating due to the changed institutional and legal context in Moldova. Table 1 shows draft results from the scoping assessment.

Table 1. Soroca Sanitation Sub-Project: Implementation process – existing and missing steps

Project title	Preliminary studies and survey	Feasibility Study	ESIA	Additional Study and survey	Detailed Engineering Design	Permits (environmental)	BoQ (social / environmental)	Bidding Documents
Soroca Sanitation Project	available	available	Outdated	available	Not available	Not available	Partly available	available

The Soroca Sanitation Sub-Project has three main components: design and construction of two new wastewater pumping stations “Centre” and “South”, design and construction of wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) as well as design and construction of pressure sewer transmission line, such as untreated wastewater will no longer be discharged into the Dniester River.

This works on sanitation network will be:

- A new main Pumping Station, at the place of the current central pumping station, close to the Soroca fortress.
- A new Pumping Station, at the place of the current southern pumping station, close to the central bus station.
- A new wastewater transmission pressure line connecting two above-mentioned wastewater pumping stations to the wastewater treatment plant.
- A newly designed and constructed wastewater treatment plant.

The WWTP will be located near the commune of Vasilcău, not far away from the limit of the commune of Trifauti, at the South-East of Soroca, on a plot in the forest located in the riparian protection strip of the Dniester River. The plot is currently occupied by wood and grassland, has a total surface of 2.14 ha and is situated between the Dniester River and the village of Inundeni (see the scheme in Annex A). The proposed route for main sewerage transportation pipeline connecting the main Pumping Station to the WWTP is presented in Annex B.

In autumn 2023 the Moldovan Law 86/2024 on Environmental Impact Assessment has been amended by introducing in the Law the provision on mandatory conduction of the biodiversity study in case the project area cross or is in vicinity with so called Emerald sites. Due to the fact that the Soroca Sanitation Sub-Project area is totally located within the Emerald Site “the Cliffs of Dniester River” (Code MD0000014) a Biodiversity Assessment Study (BAS) including the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) has to be conducted to up-date the already developed by Seureca ESIA, mentioned above, as well as the BMP implementation costs estimates and obtain the environmental permit (Acord de Mediu) from Environmental Agency - a precondition to start the Detailed Engineering Design work.

The proposed BAS / BMP shall be conducted in line with requirements of both Moldovan Law 86/2014 as well as the ESS6 standard of the World Bank. In case of conflict of provisions, the stricter one will prevail.

1.3 DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE

The following documentation is available at the PIU Office and could be provided free of charge, in electronic format, upon request.

Documents available:

- Feasibility Study, namely *Consulting Services to develop the Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact assessment for Soroca Sanitation Sub-Project*.
- Proposed location of the WWTP and the proposed route of main sewerage collector connecting the city of Soroca to the WWTP (schemes, drawings).
- Employer’s requirements (Technical Specifications) for the bidders (Plant Design, Supply and Installation type of contract) to implement the Soroca Sanitation Sub-Project.
- Geological Survey of the Project Area
- Topo Survey of the Project Area
- Guideline to conduct the biodiversity study in line with the requirements of Moldova Law 86/2024 on Environmental Impact Assessment.

1.4 THE CLIENT

The Client for the current assignment is the P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development (NORLD) acting through its subordinated fiduciary unit - MWSS Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The Biodiversity Assessment Study aims in identifying potential impacts on flora, fauna and the habitats and to suggest relevant compensatory and mitigatory measures to protect/conservate biodiversity in the likely impacted area along the main pipeline rout and the WWTP construction site due to the project activity.

To achieve this the Consultant shall carry out a comprehensive study on biological, socio-economic aspects along the proposed route and site limited to affected biodiversity area and assess the potential impacts and risks (direct as well as indirect/ induced) due to the project activities and shall suggest appropriate measures for compensating & mitigating measures for managing the same.

This study will describe the biodiversity values present on the development site and the impact of the project activity on these values and also identify reasonable measures and strategies that can be taken to avoid and minimize impacts on biodiversity.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES: PHASING AND KEY TASKS

3.1 PHASE I: COLLECT, COLLATE AND SUMMARIZE EXISTING INFORMATION AND DATA

The Consultant shall carry out all necessary activities to thoroughly assess the existing situation and identify key issues / challenges. This should include amongst other activities, the following:

1. To thoroughly check the FS / ESIA document and other relevant documentation to identify the key project parameters with anticipated environmental and social impacts. Baseline study will be conducted in order to determine what flora & fauna species of concern might be found along the route in such sensitive areas through review of data from secondary sources like important data base (IBAT Business), IUCN Red data lists, national Red Book data, other literatures/publications, various notifications/ gazette, forest/wildlife management plans and other studies, if available.
2. Site visits and field investigations and collection of primary data along the route in on key parameters like those listed - but not necessarily limited to the points a) – e) - below:
 - a. Details of flora & fauna with special reference to endemic/threatened species population reported from the study area.
 - b. Description of habitat for such endemic/threatened species, ecology and like threat including the breeding, foraging pattern and its conservation plan/biodiversity action plan undertaken, if any.
 - c. Biodiversity values of the affected area.
 - d. Description of natural protected areas, Emerald network and others protected areas.
 - e. Consultations with forest/wildlife officials, local communities, technical & managerial staff of utility and survey team.
3. Elaborate the Draft BAS / BMP **Inception report** and the **Project Implementation Plan**.
4. Conduct the Public Consultation meeting for BAS / BMP and publish the draft BAS / BMP on web pages of Soroca Regional Council and Soroca Mayoralty.

3.2 PHASE II: DEVELOP THE BAS / BMP

The Consultant will develop the BAS that as a minimum has the following content:

Part I. Description of The Planned Activity

- a) description of the planned activity and its objectives;
- b) location of the planned activity, specifying the geographical coordinates;
- c) the physical changes arising from the planned activity and which may take place during the various stages of implementation of the planned activity;
- d) the natural resources necessary to implement the planned activity;
- e) the natural resources to be exploited from the Emerald sites to be used in the implementation of the planned activity;
- f) the emissions and waste generated by the planned activity (in water, in the air, on the surface where the waste is stored) and the method of their elimination;

- g) the requirements related to the use of the land, necessary for the implementation of the planned activity (land surfaces that will be temporarily/permanently occupied by the planned activity, for example access roads, technological, road embankment, trenches and retaining walls, drainage effects, etc.);
- h) the additional services required by the implementation of the planned activity (decommissioning/replacement of pipes, high voltage lines, etc., the necessary construction means), respectively the way in which accessing these additional services may affect the integrity of the Emerald sites;
- i) the duration of construction, operation, decommissioning of the planned activity and the staggered implementation period of the planned activity;
- j) activities that are expected to be generated as a result of the implementation of the planned activity;
- k) description of the technological processes of the planned activity.

Part 2. Emerald sites that could be affected by the implementation of the planned activity

- a) data on the Emerald sites (surface area, types of ecosystems, types of habitats and species that may be affected by the implementation of the project, etc.);
- b) data on the presence, location, population and ecology of the species and/or habitats of the Emerald sites present on the surface and in the immediate vicinity of the planned activity;
- c) description of the ecological functions of the species and habitats of the affected Emerald sites (surface, location, characteristic species) and their relationship with the neighboring protected natural areas of community interest and the distribution of those areas;
- d) the conservation status of the species and habitats present in the Emerald sites;
- e) data on the structure and dynamics of populations of affected species (numerical evolution of the population within the Emerald sites, the estimated percentage of the population of a species affected by the implementation of the planned activity, the area of the habitat is large enough to ensure the long-term maintenance of the species);
- f) the structural and functional relationships that create and maintain the integrity of the Emerald network;
- g) conservation objectives of Emerald sites, where they have been established by management plans;
- h) description of the current protection status of Emerald sites, including developments/changes that may occur in the future;
- i) other relevant information regarding the protection of Emerald sites;

Part 3 Analysis of the potential cumulative significant impact of the planned activity separately and/or in combination with other existing, proposed or approved activities, in particular if they:

- a) may damage the state of natural habitats in general or the habitats of plant and animal species for whose protection the Emerald site has been designated;
- b) may have a significant impact on the species for whose protection the Emerald site has been designated;
- c) may damage the integrity of the Emerald sites and the links between them;

Part 4. as the case may be, information regarding the fulfilment of the conditions stipulated by Law no. 94/2007 regarding the ecological network, in accordance with art. 1011 para. (2) of this law.

The Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) will indicatively be covering the following:

Objectives, based on the findings of the biodiversity baseline and recommendations of the ESIA.

Activities to be carried out, along with any specific project requirements needed to achieve the intended BMP objectives. BMP activities may include, for example, new or expanded protected areas; site-specific habitat restoration, enhancement, or improved management; community benefit-sharing; livelihood restoration activities, management interventions; monitoring of project implementation or biodiversity outcomes; or support for increased financial sustainability of conservation actions.

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Project requirements that the implementing entities follow to achieve BMP objectives, such as biodiversity-related prohibitions or specific restrictions for civil works contractors and project workers. These may cover, for example, the clearing or burning of natural vegetation; off-road driving; hunting and fishing; wildlife capture and plant collection; purchase of bushmeat or other wildlife products; free-roaming pets (which can harm or conflict with wildlife); and/or firearms possession. Seasonal or time-of-day restrictions may also be needed to minimize adverse biodiversity impacts during construction or operation. Examples include (i) limiting blasting or other noisy activities to the hours of the day when wildlife are least active; (ii) timing of construction to prevent disturbance during the nesting season for birds of conservation interest; (iii) timing of reservoir flushing to avoid harming key fish-breeding activities; or (iv) curtailment of wind turbine operation during peak bird migration periods.

An Implementation Schedule for the key BMP activities, taking into account the planned timing of construction and other project activities.

Institutional responsibilities for BMP implementation. Description of the role of involved institutions in implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the BMP.

Cost estimates for BMP implementation, including up-front investment costs and long-term recurrent costs. The BMP also specifies the funding sources for plan implementation as well as recurrent operating costs.

The Consultant will conduct the Public Consultation meeting for BAS / BMP presentation for stakeholders and general public publishing the draft BAS/BMP on the initiator of the study (Soroca Regional Council as well as Soroca Mayorality) web-page providing the public a 30 days' time for feedback. This shall ensure that all interested and affected stakeholders, according to the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), are involved in the BAS / BMP development process and their views are incorporated into the final BAS/BMP as well as the updated ESIA report.

3.3 PHASE III: APPROVAL OF THE BAS / BMP

It is the responsibility of the Consultant to provide assistance to the beneficiary to obtain the approval of the BAS / BMP at the Environmental Agency (presumably the Agenția de Mediu Nord).

4. REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The Consultant shall prepare and submit to the Client reports covering all aspects of the scope of services discussed above, as per the schedule in the Table 2 below. Reports shall be submitted in both electronic (Word, Excel, pdf files etc.) and printed formats. Reports shall be submitted in the numbers and language detailed in the Table below, and in accordance with the implementation schedule.

The services will be implemented under a Lump Sum contract and payments will be made against satisfactory delivery and acceptance of the key final reports, as outlined in the form of contract and as summarized in the Table below.

Table 2. Reporting / Delivery Schedule

No.	Deliverable	Submission timeline	No. of Copies to Client
1	Inception Report	3 weeks after the date of signing the contract	3 copies in English, 3 copies in Romanian + electronic
2	Draft BAS / BMP Report	End of Month 2	3 copies in English, 3copies in Romanian + electronic
3	Final BAS / BMP Report with report on Public Consultation attached.	1 month after the approval of the Draft BAS report	3 copies in English, 3 copies in Romanian + electronic
4.	Approval of the BAS / BMP Report	1 month after the approval of Final	Notification of approval from NEA

		BAS/BMP Report.	
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The inception report shall be prepared according to the norms and include: (1) a summary of inception activities, (2) a review of documents and data collected, (3) establishment of implementation arrangements for the assignment, (4) presentation of updated work plan and more detailed methodologies for carrying out the activities under each phase, (5) team inputs / staffing schedule, (6) identification of any potential issues affecting the implementation of the assignment, (7) and a summary of any preliminary findings relevant to the assignment.

5. RESOURCING REQUIREMENTS

In preparing this Terms of Reference, the Client has estimated that approximately 100-120 man-days of key professional staff input will be required to carry out the activities defined in the scope of services.

The Consultant interested to implement the proposed TORs shall demonstrate: (i) at least 5 years of experience in implementing environmental projects of different kind, (ii) experience managing the environmental components of infrastructure projects, (iii) at least 2 successfully developed Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Studies (at least one ESIA shall be the one assessing the impact on natural and social environment of a construction / or major rehabilitation of water supply and/or sanitation project).

It is proposed that the implementation of the current TORs will require experts as listed in the table 3 below. At the same time the Consultant is free to propose additional key experts to better reach the expected results framed into the present TORs.

Table 3: Staff Minimum Qualification Requirements

No.	Position	Minimum Qualifications
1	Biodiversity Expert - Project Team Leader	The Team Leader should have a University degree in Biology / Ecology or equivalent. He/she must be a self-starter who should be able to provide strategic leadership to the team and ensure high quality work within the agreed time frames. He/she should have been a Team Leader for at least two (2) comparable BAS or ESIA Studies. Working experience in international donor-funded projects is an added advantage.
2	Ecologist	He/she should be a licensed, University degree ecologist. He/she must be a professional with minimum 5 years' experience in environmental study / research. Experience with at least one impact assessment and mitigation plan preparation.
3	Zoologist	He/she should be a licensed, University degree zoologist. He/she must be a professional terrestrial zoologist with minimum 5 years' experience in research of biodiversity research, dynamics of population of animal and birds. Experience with at least one impact assessment on biodiversity and mitigation plan preparation required.
4	Botanist / Forestry specialist	He/she should be a licensed, University degree botanist or forestry specialist. He/she must be a professional with minimum 5 years' experience in research of plant / trees species diversity research, dynamics of vegetation / forest communities. Experience with at least one impact assessment (in charge with Biodiversity chapter development - on impact on vegetation communities and preparation of impact mitigation plan required).
	Non-key personnel for Biodiversity Assessment Study	The Consultant may propose additional staff to ensure successful completion of the task.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers", dated November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

6. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

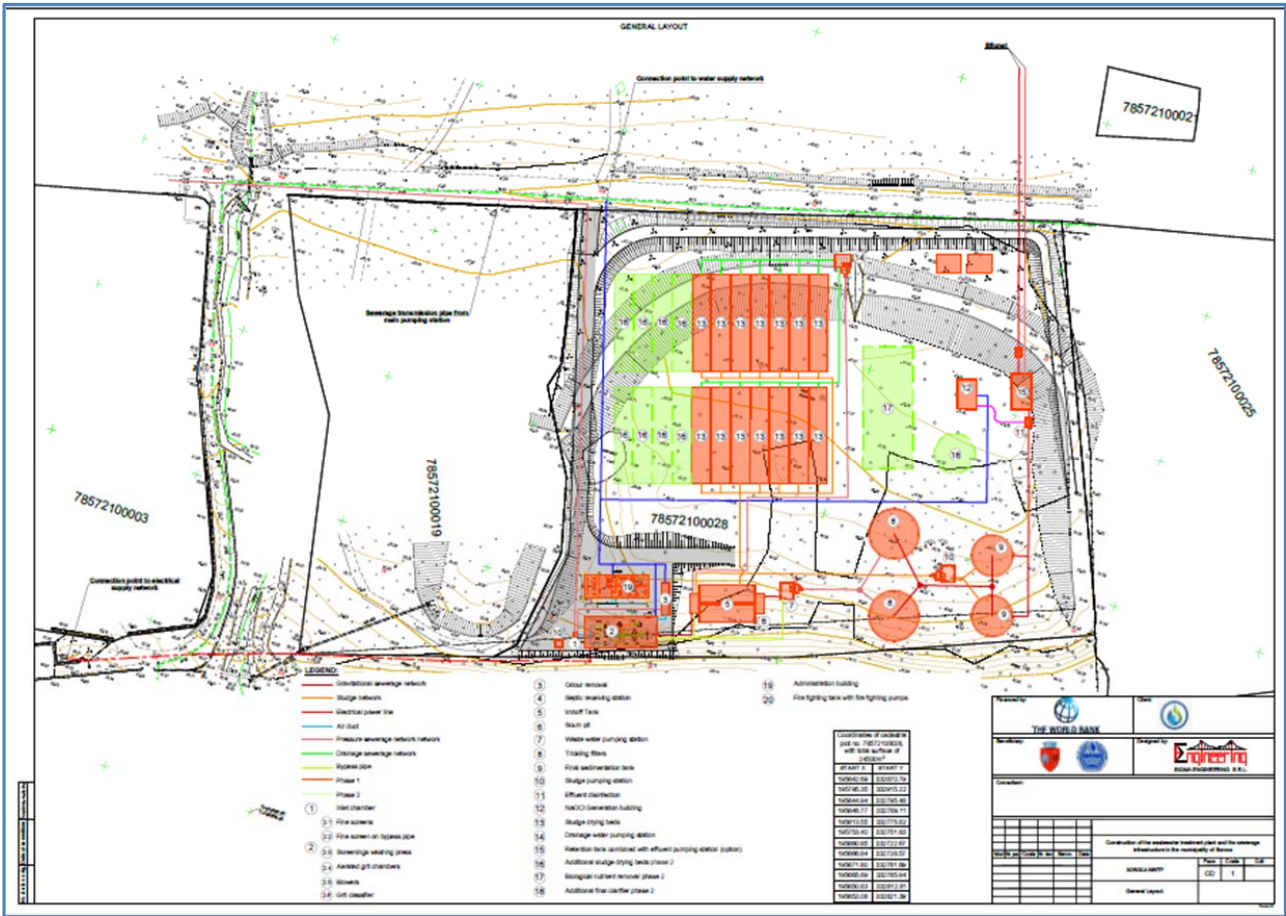
The Consultant's activity will be carried out in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the delegated persons from Project Implementation Unit / NORLD.

The Consultant's deliverables will be approved for financing only as a result of the signing of an Acceptance Certificate signed by P.I. National Office for Regional and Local Development in the role of institution with fiduciary responsibilities (the Client), and the Consultant as a service provider.

7. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Please address any request for clarification and other communication to the following address: tender@ondrl.gov.md.

ANNEX A: DESIGNED WWTP SOROCA



ANNEX B: THE DESIGNED MAIN SEWERAGE PIPELINE ROUTE FROM SOROCA TO WWTP

(more detailed drawings – by sectors – are available upon request with the TOPO Report).

