

Vjosa Wild River National park

2023

ToR fundraising expert - VWRNP

Andrej Sovinc
andrej@naravandarave.com

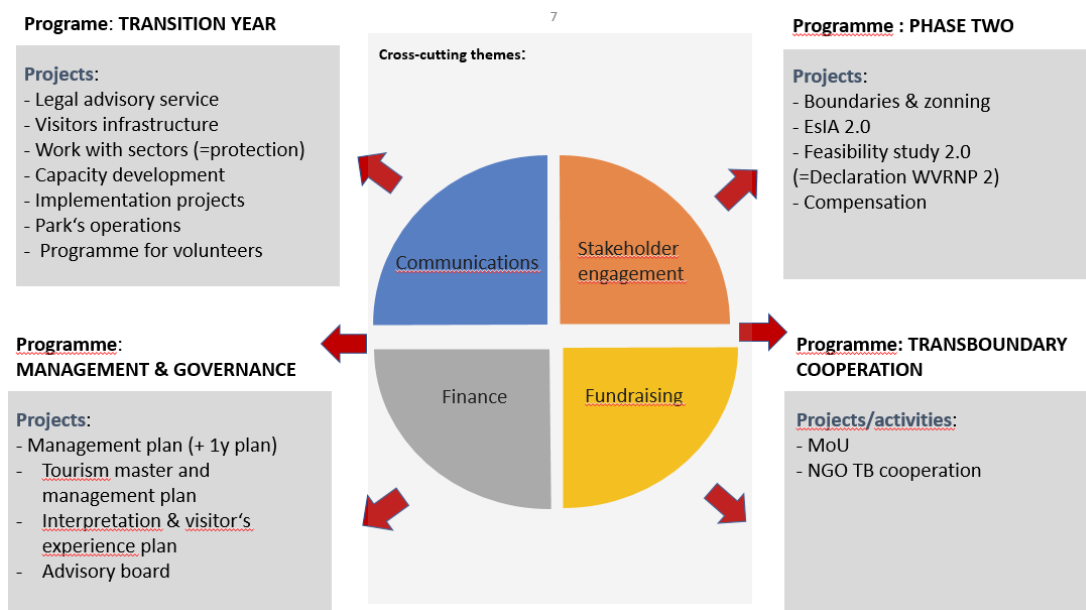
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1 BACKGROUND

In March 2023, the Vjosa Wild River National Park (VWRNP) was formally established, becoming the largest national park in Albania. The VWRNP covers the entire Vjosa River in Albania, from the Greek border to its mouth in the Adriatic Sea, as well as three main tributaries: Drinos, including Kardhiq, Bënçë and Shushicë. In the next phase, all free-flowing tributaries, together with the adjacent most valuable areas with highest biological and geomorphological values, shall be included in the extended area of the National Park. In addition, a procedure has been initiated for the establishment of a transboundary protected area between Greece and Albania, which will ensure adequate protection of the entire Aaos-Vjosa river basin.

The full operation of the VWRNP is expected to start in early 2024. However, the preliminary operation of the VWRNP is planned to start as early as 2023 (transition period). The initial capacity building plan assumes that the limited number of staff currently employed in four RAPA facilities (Vlore, Gjirokastra, Divjaka and Korca) will be temporarily relocated to the area of the newly created VWRNP before a dedicated management authority and staff are appointed in 2024.

Priority activities in 2023 include: facilitating initial management of the VWRNP, including field activities to raise the visibility of the park and to ensure the presence of rangers; supporting process of the needed legal changes for establishing a new management and financing model for VWRNP, securing sustainable funding of the park for the current year and for 2024; preparing for the expansion of the park to include other free-flowing tributaries and the Vjosa delta area; and fostering transboundary co-operation with Greece (Aaos river basin).



In more detail, the work is divided into four programme strands (see map above) and four cross-cutting themes, which are linked to all programme activities.

The basic costs of operating the VWRNP are borne by the government. Patagonia and IUCN have provided their support to date in financing the necessary preparatory work for the establishment and management of the park and have committed to continue to do so. Additional funding is needed for the ongoing work of the VWRNP. It is important to achieve this support through long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with corporate supporters and potential funders, including philanthropy and ODA. With the help of the

consultant, funding proposals should be developed for submission to various funding mechanisms and programmes.

2 OBJECTIVE

The consultant(s) will lead the fundraising work for the Vjosa Wild River National Park to support the on-going multi-year financing of park operations and development, as well as to support specific projects in 2023 and 2024 to build local support for the new national park. The projects would range from philanthropic proposals to in-depth Overseas Development Proposals (ODA).

3 DELIVERABLES AND TIME FRAME

Overview:

The fundraising expert(s) will work closely with the conservation experts, transition park director and financial expert to develop plans and proposals. The key stakeholders will be senior staff from the Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment, the CEO of Patagonia, and the Head of Protected and Conserved Areas, IUCN. The fundraising expert would support and accompany these key stakeholders in fundraising approaches or attend the approaches alone, depending on the circumstances.

The expectation is that fundraising may well require two separate consultants, given the different skills required for ODA and philanthropic fundraising but we would accept applications from one person.

	Tasks/Deliverables	Time
	Inception report (review of existing materials, key stakeholders, top priority projects and opportunities; analysis of suitable funding opportunities/grants with details on requirements and restrictions, target groups and areas of interest for the VWRNP/Albania)	20 May 2023
	7-days study trip to Albania (knowing the area and meeting with stakeholders and potential funders)	8 – 16 June 2023 (provisionally)
	Draft fundraising plan for ODA and for philanthropic sources (separately) which should include short and long term priorities projects for fundraising; priority targets and timelines	30 June 2023
	A minimum of 2 x ODA and 2 x philanthropic completed fundraising proposals and approaches	15 September 2023
	Final fundraising plan, including on whether to set up an endowment fund.	25 September 2023
	A minimum of <i>an additional</i> 2 x ODA and 2 x philanthropic completed fundraising proposals and approaches	30 November 2023

The Fundraiser Philanthropy and Fundraiser ODA positions are two separate positions, the applicant must indicate at the time of application whether he/she is applying for one or both positions.

Each position is for an estimated 2.5 days per week for 70 working days in 2023.

The kick-off expected in May. Contract period expected to be 12 months with possibility of renewal.

The consultant will be entitled to a travel budget up to a maximum of EUR 3.000 on the basis of travel and subsistence receipts issued.

The cost of the seven-day study tour to Albania (international and local transport, accommodation and food) will be covered separately by the client.

4 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERTISE OF THE CONSULTANTS

Overview

- The expectation is that this will be two separate consultants, working 2,5 days a week each, given the different skills required for ODA and philanthropic fundraising but we would accept applications from one person.
- The expectation is that contract would be initially for a year with a 6 months break clause to ensure the relationship worked on both sides. The expectation is that the need for the role will continue for three years.
- The position is home based with occasional international travel, including to Albania.

Candidate Background

- Extensive experience in writing project applications and in participation in multi -partner projects
- Knowledge about EU and other ODA funding schemes
- Knowledge of networks of suitable conservation-orientated philanthropic foundations
- Experience of leading expert and diverse teams, with the ability to project manage and pull together the stakeholders and inputs necessary to deliver powerful proposals.
- Knowledge of environmental and funding sources for the Central and Eastern European region is an advantage
- Relevant education background, eg. Nature conservation, communications, economy

Candidate Skills

- Fluency in English and advanced written and verbal communications skills are essential
- Excellent influencing and interpersonal skills, to coordinate stakeholder teams and to engage with senior stakeholders as well as donors
- Comfort with budgeting and forecasting, as well as working in excel