TOWARDS STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE OF THE SHARED TRANSBOUNDARY NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE LAKE OHRID REGION

Integrated Management Planning Capacity Building Expert

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

Lake Ohrid has long been recognized as a superlative natural phenomenon. With a geological and biological history of over one million years, Lake Ohrid stands out as one of the oldest lakes in Europe and a remarkable biodiversity hotspot of global importance. It has been estimated that it is the lake with the highest biodiversity in the world, taking into account the number of endemic species per surface area. The catchment area also supports equally rich and important biodiversity with exceptionally high number of endemic species. These natural phenomena are matched by significant cultural heritage in the form of some of Europe’s earliest human settlements and heritage routes bordering the lake. Two-thirds of Lake Ohrid, and a significant part of its watershed located in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have been inscribed on the World Heritage List as the property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region”.

The Upstream pilot project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region” is designed to address the main threats affecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region shared between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It aims to strengthen transboundary cooperation over the region’s cultural and natural heritage, help recognize and profile the transboundary area by assessing its values and sustainable development opportunities, and improve capacities for the effective management of natural and cultural heritage. The project will also support integrated management planning based on active cross-sectorial cooperation and public participation and the preparation of an extension file for the World Heritage property to cover the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid Region (hereinafter: “the Study Area”). The project is managed by UNESCO and financed by the European Union under its assistance to pre-accession countries in the field of Environment and Climate Change.

SCOPE OF WORK

Effective management of natural and cultural heritage of Lake Ohrid region is a precondition for the long-term conservation of its values. To this end the project entails development and implementation of an integrated capacity-building programme with particular emphasis on management effectiveness, transboundary cooperation mechanisms and suitable management responses to existing and emerging threats to fragile cultural and natural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region. The capacity building programme shall be designed in a way to secure the long-term effective management of the natural and cultural heritage of Lake Ohrid in its transboundary context, addressing all relevant stakeholder groups, including national, regional and local authorities, resource managers, experts, the private sector, civil society, etc. It shall be based on the best available knowledge and international management standards such as the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2011), the
The capacity-building programme shall cover the management planning process that includes a series of 5 two-day workshops: a) Establishment of core team and Management plan preparation statement; b) Property vision and Management Objectives; c) Stakeholder consultation and Management options; d) Management Measures; and e) Management actions. Two management planning workshops have been conducted since the beginning of the project, focusing on the establishment of a core management planning team and development of a draft vision for the Lake Ohrid region.

In addition, the capacity building program shall cover specific themes including, but not limited to the following:

- a) management and monitoring of transboundary World Heritage properties (sites);
- b) climate change adaptation;
- c) visitor management and site interpretation for the promotion of tourism;
- d) business planning;
- e) disaster risk reduction;
- f) waste management.

The existing World Heritage property is a mixed property, inscribed under both cultural and natural criteria. The consultant will therefore be responsible to develop and implement an integrated capacity-building programme, in close coordination with international experts from ICCROM and ICOMOS. More specifically, the consultant shall develop a capacity-building programme to be implemented through a variety of learning environments but particular emphasis will be given to a series of thematic training workshops, potentially to take place as five two-day events in the 2015-2016 period. The programme shall cover approximately 60% of the workshop timeline, focusing primarily on natural values of World Heritage properties. Experts from ICCROM and ICOMOS shall cover about 40% of the workshop timeline, focusing primarily on the cultural values. To reflect the entire spirit of this Lake Ohrid project, it is vital that the natural and cultural heritage capacity building works as a single coordinated programme and many learning areas will be common.

While addressing the specific themes mentioned above, the consultant shall take into account the work that have been accomplished through the workshop series on the management planning and the activities to be implemented in subsequent stages of the management planning process.

A Local Facilitator responsible to provide local support to project activities tasked to the Advisory Bodies within the frame of the project (i.e., IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS), will assist the consultant in the preparation and execution of the workshops, including preparation of workshop reports.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Bachelor's degree (or higher) in a subject related to nature conservation or environmental management;
- At least 7 years of proven experience in development and implementation of capacity building programmes for protected area management;
- Strong knowledge and background in protected area management;
• Sound knowledge of management of World Heritage sites;
• Excellent command of written and spoken English is essential. Knowledge of Albanian and Macedonian will be considered an asset.

SPECIFIC TASKS

The consultant will be required to conduct the following specific tasks:

• Develop a Capacity-building Programme aligned with the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy and tailored to strengthen management effectiveness, transboundary cooperation mechanisms and suitable management responses to existing and emerging threats and opportunities faced by natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region.
• Conduct training for at least 40 experts on natural and cultural heritage and natural resource management, including 20% young professionals under 40 years old, through a series of 5 two-day workshops. The training activities shall cover about 60% of the workshop timeline, focusing primarily on natural heritage of World Heritage properties. Experts from ICCROM and ICOMOS shall cover about 40% of the workshop timeline, primarily focusing on cultural heritage.
• Prepare a set of training materials focusing primarily on natural heritage of World Heritage properties.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The consultant will be required to deliver the following results and products in close coordination with IUCN project team and with cultural heritage experts from ICCROM and ICOMOS:

• Develop a joint draft Capacity-building Programme (September 15, 2015);
• Prepare a set of training materials focusing primarily on natural heritage of World Heritage properties for each of the thematic training workshops (September, 2015 through September, 2016);
• Conduct the first two-day thematic training workshop on management and monitoring of transboundary World Heritage properties (September/October 2015);
• Develop the final joint Capacity-building Programme (December 15, 2015);
• Conduct the remaining four thematic training workshops on topics identified in the Final Capacity-building Programme in the period from January to December 2016, in coordination with the project team;
• Contribute to the preparation of a short report following each thematic training workshop to be compiled by the Local Facilitator to the Advisory Bodies and reviewed by the partners and UNESCO World Heritage Centre;
• Prepare a report on the results of the implementation of the joint Capacity-building Programme.
**DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The duration of the assignment is estimated to be 50 working days, at a daily fee rate of $396.83, over the period from August, 2015 to December 2016, including 10 working days for conducting the training workshops.

**TRAVEL TO TIRANA AND THE STUDY AREA**

All related travel and subsistence costs to the Lake Ohrid Region will be covered by the project.