

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

Management Planning 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

The preparation of the extension file for the transboundary World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region" includes work on a management plan to be integrated with other sectoral and development plans and/or operational instruments. A Core Management Planning Team that was established by the Albanian authorities under the project includes representatives of key stakeholders is closely involved in the development of the management plan and extension file for the nomination.

The consultant will provide technical Assistance to the Albanian authorities through the Core Management Planning Team for the elaboration of an integrated management plan based on active cross-sectorial cooperation and participation of key stakeholders. The consultant will draft the management plan in conformity with the World Heritage requirements (such as

the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and other World Heritage related manuals). At the outset of the work the consultant will assist the Core Management Planning Team in the determination of the borders of the potential extension of the existing World Heritage property in Albania, including the preparation of appropriate maps (based on databases and GIS), with particular focus on natural assets.

The management plan should also include subchapters, among other, on monitoring, climate change adaptation, visitor management, business planning, and disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, the management plan should specifically address gender related issues, such as the involvement of women in the management of the property, and also take into account the needs of other vulnerable groups, such as the disabled and youth.

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 of management plans, including for World Heritage properties;
- Strong knowledge and background in capacity building programmes for 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:

- Conduct a series of eight (8) meetings with the members of the Core Management Planning Team and other stakeholders to be consulted on relevant issues in the development of the management plan, including the determination of the borders of the potential extension of the existing World Heritage property Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region in Albania;
- Contribute in the work of three (3) management planning workshops to focus on examining and agreeing management options and also on agreeing management actions;
- Provide advice to a GIS expert in the preparation of appropriate maps to be included in the management plan with particular focus on natural assets;
- Develop an initial draft of the management plan to be subject to public consultation in transboundary context;
- Develop the final draft of the management plan following the results of the consultation process to be considered by the government for approval.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The consultant will be required to deliver the following results and products in close coordination with the Core Management Planning Team, as well as experts from IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS and project managers from the World Heritage Centre (WHC):

- Contribute in the work of three (3) management planning workshops to focus on examining and agreeing management options and also on agreeing management actions by delivering presentations and participation in discussions (December 2015 – June 2016);
- Conduct a series of eight (8) consultation meetings with the members of the Core Management Planning Team and other stakeholders. The schedule for the meetings to be developed in consultation with the Core Management Planning Team, the WHC and the Advisory Bodies: ICCROM, ICOMOS, and IUCN (January – September 2016);
- Provide comments and suggestions on the design and contents of maps prepared by a GIS expert to be included in the management plan with particular focus on natural assets (January– September 2016);
- Initial draft of the Management Plan (June 2016)
- Final draft of the Management Plan (September 2016).

DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The duration of the assignment is estimated to be 90 working days, over the period from December 1, 2015 to October 15, 2016, including 22 working days for 8 meetings with the of the Core Management Planning Team and other stakeholders and 3 management planning workshops. The total available budget for this contract is USD 35.720.

TRAVEL TO TIRANA AND THE STUDY AREA

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

LANGUAGE

All materials shall be produced in English and the project will be responsible to translate them into Albanian. The English will be the working language during the meetings with stakeholder and the project will be responsible to organize simultaneous translation into Albanian, whenever necessary.