

ANNEX 1: Description of Requirements

Context of the Requirement	Montenegro has made significant progress in strengthening its biodiversity conservation framework through expanding the surface under the protected areas and establishment of a draft ecological network. At the same time, national biodiversity policy is increasingly aligned with international commitments that emphasise ecological connectivity, landscape-scale conservation approaches, as well as to contribute to biodiversity inclusive spatial planning. These developments require a transition from traditional site-based conservation towards a more integrated, network-based conservation approach. While protected areas remain central to biodiversity conservation, long-term conservation outcomes increasingly depend on ecological connectivity between sites, effective management of ecological networks, and integration of biodiversity considerations into wider landscapes and sectoral decision-making processes. Despite this transition, existing planning, management, and assessment systems remain largely focused on individual sites and are not yet fully equipped to address ecological connectivity, cumulative impacts and network-level conservation objectives. Methodologies, institutional arrangements, technical tools, and capacities required to support network-based conservation are limited, while increasing interactions between conservation objectives and sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water management, infrastructure, tourism, and private land management create additional challenges. In this context, there is a need to strengthen Montenegro's readiness for implementation of network-based conservation approaches. This includes developing methodologies and guidance, strengthening institutional and technical capacities, integrating ecological network and connectivity considerations into protected area management and environmental assessment processes, and establishing enabling conditions for conservation-compatible land use and effective biodiversity conservation at landscape scale.
Brief Description of the Required Services	The selected Company shall provide technical expertise to support the development of enabling conditions and national capacities for implementation of network-based biodiversity conservation in Montenegro. The assignment will assess the extent to which existing planning, environmental assessment, permitting, protected area management, and institutional systems are prepared to support ecological networks and landscape-scale conservation approaches. The Company shall assess existing methodologies, procedures, institutional capacities, and identify key gaps related to ecological network management, ecological connectivity, appropriate assessment, cumulative impact assessment and cross-sectoral coordination. Based on this assessment, the Company shall develop methodologies, practical guidance and recommendations to strengthen implementation of network-based conservation approaches. This shall include guidance on integration of ecological network and connectivity objectives into protected

	area management, environmental assessment, spatial planning, and conservation-compatible land-use practices. The assignment shall also identify options for improving compatibility between biodiversity conservation, property rights, productive land uses, and socio-economic development objectives. In addition, the Company shall facilitate stakeholder consultations and intersectoral dialogue, prepare practical case studies, identify capacity gaps and institutional constraints, and develop recommendations and a roadmap for strengthening institutional readiness for implementation of network-based conservation approaches. The assignment shall include the design and delivery of targeted capacity-building activities focused on zoning systems, land-use decision-making processes, appropriate assessment and cumulative impact assessment, including their application to ecological networks, and protected area management. Capacity-building activities should strengthen the ability of relevant institutions and practitioners to apply these tools consistently within planning, permitting, and management processes and to support more informed and integrated conservation and development decisions.
List and Description of Expected Outputs to be Delivered	• Inception Report – Detailed methodology, analytical framework, work plan, stakeholder mapping, and stakeholder engagement approach. • Baseline Assessment Report - Comprehensive assessment of existing planning, environmental assessment, permitting, protected area zoning systems, and readiness for implementation of network-based biodiversity conservation approaches. The report shall include: • analysis of ecological network and ecological connectivity integration needs; • assessment of existing appropriate assessment and cumulative impact assessment systems; • review of existing protected area zoning systems and protection regimes, including their interaction with and adequacy in relation to different protected area categories, ownership structures, governance arrangements, ecological connectivity objectives, and land-use contexts; • analysis of cross-sectoral interactions, conflicts, constraints, and opportunities; • identification of key gaps, barriers, and enabling conditions required for implementation of network-based conservation approaches. • Capacity Building Programme on Appropriate Assessment, Cumulative Impact Assessment and zoning systems – Design and delivery of capacity-building activities, including training materials, practical exercises, workshops, and recommendations for further capacity development. • Framework and Roadmap for Implementation of Network-Based Biodiversity Conservation – including methodologies, recommendations, implementation approaches, capacity development measures, and institutionalisation pathways for strengthening network-based biodiversity conservation in Montenegro. The document shall include: • guidance on integration of ecological network and ecological connectivity considerations into protected area management, spatial planning, environmental assessment, and land-use decision-making;

	• methodology and practical guidance for appropriate assessment and cumulative impact assessment • recommendations for revision of protected area zoning system and protection regimes in relation to different protected area categories, ownership structures, governance arrangements, ecological connectivity objectives, and land-use contexts; • recommendations for conservation-compatible land use and management of private and productive lands contributing to ecological network objectives; • recommendations for addressing interactions, conflicts, trade-offs, and synergies between biodiversity conservation and other sectoral interests; • recommendations for legislative, policy, institutional, technical, governance, and coordination improvements required to support network-based conservation approaches; • a capacity development framework identifying priority training needs, institutional capacity gaps, and measures for strengthening implementation capacities;
Person to Supervise the Work/Performance of the Service Provider	Project team (Project Manager, Project Chief Technical Specialist, UNDP representatives)
Frequency of Reporting	Monthly
Progress Reporting Requirements	Progress report should be sent by the 5th of each month, based on the tasks and expected deliverables.
Location of work	Home based/Podgorica
Expected duration of work	September 2026 – January 2027 (5 months)
Target start date	September 1, 2026
Latest completion date	January 1, 2027
Travels Expected	It is the Contractor's responsibility to anticipate and plan for necessary travel at their own expense.
Implementation Schedule indicating breakdown and timing of activities/sub-activities	Required
Names and curriculum vitae of individuals who will be involved in completing the services	Required <i>CVs and copies of certificates and licenses for key staff that will be engaged on the Contract meeting the qualifications and experiences indicated in Annex 2 should be submitted with the proposal. The CVs should clearly indicate the qualifications, experience and relevant previous projects undertaken by the staff.</i>
Criteria for Contract Award	Highest Combined Score (based on the 70% technical offer and 30% price weight distribution)
Criteria for the Assessment of Request for Proposal	<u>Technical Request for Proposal (70%)</u> ☒ Expertise of the Company 30% ☒ Methodology, Appropriateness and Timeliness of the Implementation Plan 40% ☒ Qualification of Key Personnel 30% <u>Financial Request for Proposal (30%)</u>

	To be computed as a ratio of the Request for Proposal's offer to the lowest price among the Request for Proposals received by Ministry. <i>*Only Proposals which pass the technical criteria will have their financial proposals considered.</i>
UNDP will award the contract to:	One and only one Service Provider
Annexes to this RFP	☒ Terms of Reference (Annex 2) ☒ Form for Submission of Request for Proposal (Annex 3) ☒ Form for Submission of Technical offer (Annex 4) ☒ Form for Submission of Financial offer (Annex 5)
Other Information [pls. specify]	<i>The bidder shall obtain following documentation:</i> - Proof of registration for performing the relevant activity (Extract from the Central Register of Business Entities – CRPS);