

ANNEX 1: Description of Requirements

Context of the Requirement	<p>Montenegro is developing a National Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP) under the GEF using the UNDP BIOFIN methodology to strengthen biodiversity financing by reducing harmful expenditures, realigning financial flows, improving spending efficiency, and mobilizing new public and private funding. While the BFP provides the policy and financial framework, there is growing demand from multilateral development banks, EU financing instruments, bilateral donors, and private investors for clearly structured, investment-ready pipelines of nature-positive infrastructure. This reveals a gap between biodiversity finance planning at the policy level and the availability of concrete investment opportunities suitable for capital deployment.</p> <p>To address this gap, Montenegro will develop a National Nature Investment Plan (NIP) as a complementary instrument to the BFP and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NIP will focus on identifying and structuring a national portfolio of investable nature-positive infrastructure and value-chain assets rather than repeating policy analysis or finance gap assessments. The development of the NIP will be carried out under the project “Biodiversity mainstreaming into Sectoral Policies and Practices and Strengthening Protection of Biodiversity Hot-spots in Montenegro.”</p> <p>Montenegro provides a strong context for piloting this approach because, as an EU candidate country aligning its legislation and infrastructure planning with the EU acquis, it is expanding investments across sectors such as transport, renewable energy, wastewater, waste management, agriculture, tourism, and regional development. However, biodiversity and nature-based solutions are not yet systematically integrated into public capital investment planning, while EU and MDB financing increasingly require compliance with EU Taxonomy and “Do No Significant Harm” (DNSH) standards.</p> <p>The NIP will therefore support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into public capital expenditure planning, structure nature-positive investment opportunities suitable for blended finance, sovereign loans, grants, municipal borrowing, and private participation, and develop a replicable methodology that can inform similar plans in other countries. It will identify investments across ecological infrastructure, nature-positive built infrastructure, and anchor value-chain assets that support sustainable sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Individual investments are expected to start from approximately €1–2 million and may be aggregated into larger Strategic Investment Programs to achieve financing scale. The assignment will also document the methodology, lessons learned, and recommendations for replication, contributing to the evolution of biodiversity finance from policy planning toward structured investment programming.</p> <p>Further details on the scope of work and requirements are provided in Annex 2: Terms of Reference.</p>
Brief Description of the Required Services	<p>The assignment aims to support the Government of Montenegro, under the leadership of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development and the Ministry of Finance in developing a National</p>

	<p>Nature Investment Plan (NIP) that integrates biodiversity and nature-positive infrastructure into Montenegro’s Reform Agenda investment pipeline and capital planning framework. The NIP will complement the National Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) by translating biodiversity priorities into clearly defined, investment-ready opportunities aligned with national development planning and financing mechanisms.</p> <p>The selected Service Provider will lead the technical preparation of the NIP by developing a methodological framework, mapping Montenegro’s investment and institutional landscape, and identifying approximately 50 nature-positive investment opportunities across ecological infrastructure, nature-positive built infrastructure, and anchor value-chain assets. These opportunities will be structured at concept level and organized into Strategic Investment Programs (SIPs) to enable programmatic financing and aggregation. The assignment will also produce a ranked shortlist of priority investments suitable for engagement with multilateral development banks, EU financing instruments, bilateral donors, public budgets, and private sector investors.</p> <p>For each investment opportunity, the Service Provider will prepare a high-level investment profile including strategic rationale, biodiversity and climate contribution, indicative capital cost range, implementation considerations, and potential financing pathways. The work will focus on structured investment identification and strategic programming, rather than detailed feasibility studies or engineering designs. In addition, the assignment will develop a Methodology Blueprint and Lessons Learned Report to document the approach and support replication in other countries building on BIOFIN processes.</p> <p>The Service Provider will work closely with the Ministry of Finance and relevant national institutions, facilitate stakeholder consultations, and organize validation workshops to ensure institutional alignment and endorsement of the National Nature Investment Plan.</p>
<p>List and Description of Expected Outputs to be Delivered</p>	<p>Expected Outputs and Deliverables:</p> <p>Inception Report – Detailed methodology for identifying, screening, aggregating, and prioritising investment opportunities; proposed ranking criteria and scoring system; proposed structure of Strategic Investment Programs (SIPs); stakeholder engagement plan; workplan and timeline; risk assessment; structure of the final NIP and Methodology Blueprint. (Within 4 weeks of contract signing; reviewed and approved by IP);</p> <p>Investment Context and Financing Landscape Analysis – Review of Reform Agenda priorities and national capital planning frameworks; mapping of sectoral investment pipelines; identification of biodiversity-positive retrofits; mapping of financing instruments (MDBs, EU, national, municipal, private); preliminary identification of Strategic Investment Programs. (Month 3; reviewed and approved by IP);</p> <p>Longlist of Nature-Positive Investment Opportunities – Structured longlist of approximately 50 investment opportunities; concept-level investment profiles including strategic rationale, biodiversity contribution, alignment with Reform Agenda, indicative capital cost range, institutional lead, potential financing pathways, aggregation potential, and risk considerations; delivered in database format. (Month 5; reviewed and approved by IP);</p>

	<p>Strategic Investment Programs (SIPs) and Ranked Shortlist – Structuring of 5–10 SIPs; aggregated program envelopes; application of prioritisation methodology; ranked shortlist of priority investments with justification; validation workshop to confirm priorities. (Month 7; reviewed and approved by IP);</p> <p>Draft National Nature Investment Plan – Consolidated draft NIP including executive summary, methodology, investment context, SIPs, longlist, ranked shortlist, financing alignment analysis, and institutional recommendations. (Month 8; reviewed and approved by IP);</p> <p>Methodology Blueprint and Lessons Learned Report – Documentation of screening and prioritisation framework, aggregation logic, financing tagging approach, institutional coordination model, and replication recommendations; analysis of implementation insights, challenges, and data gaps. (Month 9; reviewed and approved by IP);</p> <p>Final National Nature Investment Plan Package – Final validated NIP including investor-oriented executive summary, structured investment database, Methodology Blueprint, Lessons Learned Report, and presentation materials for Government and financing partners. (Month 10; reviewed and approved by IP).</p> <p>Further details on the expected outputs and specific deliverables are provided in Annex 2: Terms of Reference.</p>
Person to Supervise the Work/Performance of the Service Provider	Project team (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	April 2026 – February 2027 (10 months)
Target start date	15 April 2026
Latest completion date	1 February 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	<p>Technical Request for Proposal (70%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expertise of the Company 30% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Methodology, Appropriateness and Timeliness of the Implementation Plan 40% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Qualification of Key Personnel 30% <p>Financial Request for Proposal (30%)</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>*Only Proposals which pass the technical criteria will have their financial proposals considered.</i></p>
UNDP will award the contract to:	One and only one Service Provider
Annexes to this RFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terms of Reference (Annex 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form for Submission of Request for Proposal (Annex 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form for Submission of Technical offer (Annex 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form for Submission of Financial offer (Annex 5)
Other Information [pls. specify]	<p><i>The bidder shall obtain following documentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof of registration for performing the relevant activity (Extract from the Central Register of Business Entities – CRPS);