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| MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT  **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR**  **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS SPECIALIST**  **Position: Environmental Risk Management Specialist**  **Project Fostering and Leveraging Opportunities for Water Security Program (Project 1) (P169150)**  [Date] |

1. **BACKGROUND**

Kosovo is a country with limited water resources and is divided into four main river basins (Drini i Bardhë, Ibri basin, Morava e Binçes and Lepenci basin). Majority of the project investments are located in Kamenica and Raniluge municipalities, which are part of the Morava e Binces basin located in the east of the country bordering Serbia. Morava e Binces is a transboundary basin shared by Kosovo, Serbia, North Macedonia and Bulgaria.

Morava e Binces though is the driest basin and suffers from significant flood and drought risks causing profound damages to people and country's economy. The basin is suffering from hydrological drought, ecosystem degradation, and reduction of ecosystem services, increased and new forms of pollution and water-related diseases.

Kosovo FLOWS Project (the “Project”) will take a two-pronged approach, with on the one hand developing sector capacity for strategic planning and development of Kosovo’s water resources; and in the selected basin area, to improve integrated land and water resource planning and management practices, water storage investment and management, drinking water and irrigation services, and agricultural production and environmental status of watersheds. It will thus combine foundational initiatives aiming to develop a longer term programmatic approach for water security, with a catalytic investment program that support learning in implementation and delivers immediate tangible benefits.

1. **Overview of the Project’s ES Risks and their Management**

The Project includes investments for design and construction of multi-purpose large dam, and investment planning for infrastructure to support irrigation, water supply, erosion control and flood management, on-farm modernization watershed management, environmental protection and tourism support. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is prepared for all proposed investments and specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for dam construction.

The Project is likely to generate positive impacts on human population and environment. The Project is neither located in environmentally sensitive area nor does it intrude into any Natura 2000 sites marked in the country. The potential environmental impacts could be medium to large scale but majority of them would be predictable. Some inpacts, e.g. on river hydrology and aquatic ecology, would not be reversible, but the ESIA has determined the acceptability of residual impacts. . Some of the project activities can be classified green field including construction of large dam, creation of new/ improve existing irrigation and water supply infrastructures, and flood management and erosion control infrastructure, for example. The Project is also likely to result in cumulative and transboundary impacts; with potential transboundary environmental impacts associated with water quality and quantity issues particularly during construction of the dam, as well as during the operational period. The scale of construction, particularly at the dam sites may result in serious temporary risks and potential adverse impacts on human health of workers and neighboring communities resulting from work related accidents, increased traffic, including heavy machinery, or inadequate waste management. Proposed on-farm investments for agricultural modernization could also result in the increased use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, though it may not be very significant in relative terms.

1. **PROJECT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

The Ministry of Economy and Environment (MIE) is the agency responsible for the implementation of the project. Several other Ministries and municipalities along with HydroMorava Water Company will also partner MIE in the project implementation. The Ministry has had implemented, directly or in support to other Ministries, several World Bank funded projects in the past and is therefore familiar with the Bank's Safeguards Policies. For Kosovo FLOWS project, the Government will establish an organizational structure, Project Management Unit (PMU) with qualified staff to support management of environmental and social risks in accordance with new World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). One full-time Environment Specialist is required to be engaged as permanent staff within the PMU to support management of environmental risks of the Project. She / he would be reporting directly to the Director of the PMU.

1. **OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The Specialist will serve as the National Environmental Specialist for the Kosovo FLOWS Project. The Specialist will be an integral part of the Project Management Unit (PMU) housed at the Ministry of Economy and Environment at Regional River Basin Authority. The Specialist will assume primary responsibility to ensure that all Project activities at all Project sites are carried out in compliance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of the Project, other relevant Project documents, the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and its 10 ES Standards (ESS), as well as applicable and relevant policies and regulations of Kosovo.

1. **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Specifically, the Consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

* Lead and supervise the PMU’s environmental management obligations in all aspects of environmental risk management, including providing guidance to project and site personnel on technical issues, implementation of environmental risk management practice, documentation and quality assurance.
* Ensure that the environmental safeguard screening is carried out for all relevant Project activities, and that the applicable environmental safeguards instruments (EIA/ESIA, Environmental Code of Practice (ECOP), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and Corrective Action Plans) are adequately prepared and implemented as per the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).
* As needed, conduct the screening/ assessment and the preparation of relevant environmental risk assessment and management instruments (applicable mainly under contexts requiring simple safeguards instruments during the early stages of project implementation), in close consultation with the Project’s technical specialists (e.g. hydrology, dam safety, hydrotechnical engineering, civil engineering…) and World Bank ES and technical Specialists;
* Lead and supervise the PMU’s Teams in the environmental management and oversight of civil construction works conducted on the Project and identify gaps, if any, from the requirements of the ES management instruments and prepare measures to address them.
* Ensure environmental and social assessment and management instruments and processes are incorporated into, and reflected in bidding documents and/or contracts.
* Supervise the design and implementation of Safeguard Related Technical Assistance and studies including environmental baselines, application of simple and practical implementation tools such as checklists, standard operating procedures, codes of practice; and others;
* Support the preparation and implementation of the Environmental Safeguard Training Programs for the Project participants, including Contractors, and develop annual environmental training plans, in coordination with World Bank Task Team, and with other safeguards capacity building initiatives taking place in Kosovo;
* Provide on-the-job training of environmental risk assessment and management skills personnel from the PMU team, the contractors, supervising engineers and other relevant parties with roles in project design / planning and / or access to / influence on the project sites;
* Provide technical inputs and ensure quality of Environmental and Social Monitoring reports, including timely information on the implementation of relevant ES management instruments, and status of analytical work;
* Prepare the reporting procedures, implement the process and be responsible for the environmental safeguards aspects of the reports;
* Support the PMU in a regulatory dialogue with the domestic environmental agency / regulator to ensure alignment between ES procedures and standards in place for the Project, and the prevailing domestic regulatory framework;
* Liaise with the environmental and social specialists of the World Bank;
* Liaise with the Project’s responsible staff for occupational health and safety (OHS) as well as community health and safety; follow the Project’s and contractors’ grievance redress mechanisms and ensure compliance with WB requirements.
* Organize and participate in Project-related missions and workshops, and ensure that World Bank recommendations are integrated in the implementation of environmental safeguards and adequately reported;
* Other environmental safeguard-related activities as required.

1. **OUTPUTS**

* **Inception Report**: Within one month of contract signing. The Inception Report shall confirm the scope and objectives of the assignment, proposed any necessary adjustments, and layout the work plan.
* **Quarterly Progress Reports**: These periodic Reports shall provide a detail of all ES risk assessment and management activities undertaken by the Project (including screening, preparation of environmental safeguards instruments, development and implementation of training plans), issues encountered, actions proposed to address these, and specify the detailed work plan for the upcoming period.
* **Final Report**: The Final Report will be provided at the end of the assignment, summarizing the Consultant’s inputs, outputs, expenses, results, and lessons learned.

1. **CONSULTANT EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS**

* At least a Master´s degree in environmental management, environmental engineering, or related fields;
* At least 5 years of experience in environmental risk management in Kosovo; exposure to international work would be an advantage;
* Experience with World Bank environmental safeguard policies and the WB’s ESF is a strong advantage;
* Fluency in English and Albanian language and strong report writing ability and communication skills are essential;
* Excellent communication and interpersonal skill with gender sensitivity, respect for local culture and results oriented attitude;
* Reliable, independent and dynamic worker with high social competency and good team spirit; and
* Willing and able to travel extensively to Project areas.

1. **DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

This is a fulltime position for one year, extendable for the duration of the project. The position is renewable annually based on the business needs, performance and mutual agreement.

1. **REPORTING**

The ES specialist should directly report to the PMU’s project director. Elaborate further