

Terms of Reference: Expert for Strategic Conservation Initiatives: Action Plan and Protocols for Priority Habitats and Species

1. Background:

The National Agency of Protected Areas, through the PONT Grant on the Albanian Alps National Park, following the operational plan agreed for this protected area, is committed to monitoring and conserving indicator species as a key component of overall management of the protected area along with the key habitats. To ensure the effectiveness of our conservation efforts, we are seeking an experienced expert to deliver a training and a preliminary report in regard with the “Strategic Conservation Initiatives: Action Plan and Protocols for Priority Habitats and Species” according to the METT Assessment for the AANP (Key Species: *Canis lupus*, *Ursus arctos*, *Rupicapra rupicapra*, *Salmo farioides*, *Tetrao urogallus* and key habitats: Rocky habitats, Fagus forests, Pastures, Coniferous habitat, Quercus associations), and specifically for the *Ursus arctos* and old growth forests in Gashi River.

2. Objectives:

The primary objective of engaging the expert is to deliver a training to the RAPAs and produce a report about: Habitat Characterization, monitoring protocol development in relation with the *Ursus arctos* and Fagus forests.

3. Scope of Work:

The expert will be responsible for:

The scope of the expertise is to deliver a training about the understanding of habitat characteristics and monitoring protocols for the old growth forests in Gashi River and *Ursus arctos* and deliver a training about the preselected habitat of old growth forests in Gashi River and of the *Ursus arctos*.

4. Duration and Location:

The consultancy is expected to begin on 14 November and conclude on 24 November. The majority of the work will be conducted in Tirana, with 2 days of travel to the sites.

5. Deliverables:

The expert is expected to deliver the following:

- a. Training module and materials on monitoring protocol for old growth forests in Gashi River and the *Ursus arctos*.

b. Report on monitoring protocol for the old growth forests in Gashi River and *Ursus arctos*.

6. Reporting:

The expert will deliver a report to the National Agency of Protected Areas together with recommendations as long as the training materials for the aforementioned species and habitat.

7. Qualifications:

The ideal candidate should possess:

- a. 10 years of experience in the field of biodiversity expertise
- b. Demonstrated expertise in the habitat and species composition of the Albanian Alps National Park
- c. Proven experience in designing and conducting training programs.
- d. Strong communication and facilitation skills.
- e. Familiarity with the ecological context of the project area.

8. Budget:

The budget for the consultancy is referred to the budget lines:

- **Activity No. 2.1 “Study on 5 key habitats and their monitoring protocols” with the approved budget of 1,300 euro divided as follow:**
 - Experts for conducting the study on key habitats and the monitoring protocol with the approved budget of 600 euro
 - Training and Meeting costs with the approved budget of 700 euro.
- **Activity No. 2.2 “Action plan for the 5 habitats of high priority” with the approved budget of 2,400 euro divided as follow:**
 - Expert conducting the action plan based on the habitats study”, with the approved budget of 900 euro
 - Meeting costs with the approved budget of 1,500 euro.
- **Activity No. 2.3 “Study on key species and their monitoring protocols” with the approved budget of 2,100 euro divided as follow:**
 - Experts for conducting the study on key species and the monitoring protocol”, with the approved budget of 600 euro
 - Training and Meeting costs” with the approved budget of 1,500 euro.

Making the total value of this consultancy 5800 Euro including the 15% of taxes.

9. Application Process:

Interested candidates should submit a proposal outlining their approach to the task by 13 November 2023. Submissions should be sent to info@akzm.gov.al

10. Deadline for Applications:

The deadline for receiving applications is 13 November 2023. Selected candidate will be contacted by email to proceed with the next steps.