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# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## Partner country

Republic of Serbia

## Contracting authority

Municipality of Bela Crkva Miletićeva 2, 26340 Bela Crkva, Republic of Serbia

## Country background

The project is implemented within the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme for the period 2021 - 2027. It lays the foundations for using EU funds under the cross - border component of the IPA Regulation, to support cross - border cooperation on the Romanian - Serbian side.

## Current situation in the sector

Protected area Landscape of exceptional features "Karas - Nera" (LEF "Karas - Nera") is located in the northern part of Serbia", in the southeastern part of Vojvodina, just along the border with Romania. It territorially belongs to the South Banat District in the municipality of Bela Crkva. This Danubian border and flatland municipality extends to 353km2. Although it has a specific position, Bela Crkva is well connected with neighboring municipalities, and about 95km away from Belgrade, the capital and the most important center. On a relatively small area that includes the municipality of Bela Crkva, there are numerous natural values, such as SNR "Deliblatska peščara", Ramsar area Labudovo okno, as well as the protected area of LEF “Karas – Nera”. In the immediate vicinity of the Municipality of Bela Crkva there are several protected natural resources: Djerdap Nature Park, National Park Klisura Nera - Beusnica, Semenik National Park - Klisura Karas, National Park Domogled - Dolina Černe. In addition to ecological values, the area of LEF Karas-Nera has a favorable position for establishing ecological connectivity in the region and its practical and efficient implementation.The ecological network is one of the most important instruments for effective protection and has significant political support from many European countries, as well as Serbia. National ecological network is prescribed by the Nature Protection Act ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 36/09) and includes interconnected or spatially close ecological areas of national and international importance. LEF "Karaš-Nera" is a protected natural good of importance on the national and international level (IBA, Ramsar), the river Nera represents an ecological corridor of international significance, which runs along the border of Serbia and Romania, connecting the Carpathians and the Pannonian plains, a habitat known as "Small Sand" is a priority for protection in Central Europe. The area of the Bela Crkva in geomorphological terms is characterized by a specific Banat sandstone, the largest accumulative form of the eolian sand of the south-eastern part of the Panonian Basin. A sandstone with powerful deposits of eolian sand and expressed dune relief is a geomorphologic phenomenon not only in Vojvodina, but also in Europe, thanks to it the name "European Sahara". It represents habitats for many species of flora and fauna, which represent natural rarities in European and world proportions.

The richness of the flora is reflected in the existence of about 900 species of higher plants, many of which are relics and rarities. Due to the presence of a large number of bird species, many of which are rare and endangered, this area is included in the most important bird habitat in Europe - the IBA area.

These habitats are important for many plant and animal species, and their fluvial forms of relief have exceptional scientific, educational, aesthetic, recreational and touristic value.

## Related programmes and other donor activities

This Project is complementary to other national and programmes financed by EU.

# OBJECTIVES& EXPECTED OUTPUTS

## Overall objective

The overall objective of the GREEN-PATH project is to contribute to the joint sustainable development of the local communities neighboring Mlastina Satchinez and Karas-Nera NPAs, involving directly the local & regional stakeholders in planning and managing the environmental issues as: green infrastructure& habitats rehabilitation & accessibility, air & water quality monitoring, developing & promoting a Joint Strategy for pollution management, biodiversity & landscape conservation & the sustainable use of natural resources.

## Specific objective(s)

The contract should support Municipality of Bela Crkva Miletićeva 2, 26340 Bela Crkva, Republic of Serbia in the process of implementation of project ”CBC Network for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources” financed under INTERREG-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme by creating Habitat Assessment Research document Study in a protected area Karas-Nera with all relevant information that will help to develop GREEN-PATH Joint strategy.

## Expected outputs to be achieved by the contractor

The expected outputs of this contract are as follows:

* Habitat Assessment Research Study produced related to Karas-Nera Protected Area

# ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS

## Assumptions underlying the project

Not applicable.

## Risks

Not applicable.

# SCOPE OF THE WORK

## General

### Description of the assignment

This assessment, named as “HABITAT ASSESSMENT RESEARCH - study regarding biodiversity conservation elements, available natural resources, ecosystem services in the Karas-Nera protected area”, aims to evaluate and assess present biodiversity features of Karaš Nera protected area, ecosystem services they provide and the use of natural resources in it. Following issues must be covered by Study

* Habitats map with their main sub-types,
* Lists of all registered species with their conservation statuses,
* List of key species,
* Habitat’s management and restoration manual,
* List of all ecosystem services,
* List of natural resources and
* Socio-economic assessment.
* Other if relevant

### Geographical area to be covered

Municipality of Bela Crkva, Serbia

### Target groups

Public, private and NGO sectors, higher education and research sector and project implementation team.

## Specific work

Study development must include the following:

* Desk research on mapping of habitats with their main sub-types, including assessment of their state in accordance to history of its utilization, conservation status and threats.
* Desk research of species diversity and development, through prioritization process, the list of key species. Further on, information on key species will be shown in detail, with their quantitative assessment, ecological status and threats, distribution maps and action plans for their further conservation and population improvement.
* Development of habitat’s management and restoration manual, showing preferable practices, sustainable-use practices, activities that should be limited or avoided, as well as proposal of practical management tools for habitat and species revitalization.
* Ecosystem services valuation of Karas-Nera PA, resulting in list of all ecosystem services from which list of most important ones will be developed. They will be shown in historical and spatial context. Its mutual relations, as well as dependence on stakeholders, management and legislative will be analysed.
* Development of recommendations for using ecosystem services valuation as a tool for communication with local communities in vicinity of Karas-Nera protected area, possible for use in wider area, in andaround protected areas in whole cross-border area.
* Natural resources and socio-economic assessment to propose measures for the sustainable development of the local communities

In all phases of contract implementation Contractor will be obligated to communicate, consult with workgroup designated by Contracting Authority and get approval for each segment of Study/ service provided. If work group designated by Contracting Authority is not satisfied with service provided no payment will be approved by Contracting Authority.

## Project management

### Responsible body

The Contractor is responsible for all the activities regarding this contract.

### Management structure

The responsible person for implementation of the tasks related to this contract, in the Contracting Authority is Tatjana Kokar, Mayor.

### Facilities to be provided by the contracting authority and/or other parties

Contracting Authority will provide office space with internet connection for facilitation of this service when is necessary for the purpose of meeting and presentations.

# LOGISTICS AND TIMING

## Location

Bela Crkva, Serbia

## Start date &period of implementation of tasks

The intended start date is date of signature of contract by both parties and the period of implementation of the contract will be 14 months. Please see Articles 19.1 and 19.2 of the special conditions for the actual start date and period of implementation.

# REQUIREMENTS

## Staff

Note that civil servants and other staff of the public administration of the partner country, or of international/regional organisations based in the country,shall only be approved to work as experts if well justified. The justification should be submitted with the tender and shall include information on the added value the expert will bring as well as proof that the expert is seconded or on personal leave.

### Key experts

**Key expert 1: Team leader**

Qualifications and skills

* University degree

General professional experience

* 3 years of general working experience

Specific professional experience

* At least 3 years of professional experience in academia research/teaching resulted in developing wide range of studies, research papers, projects etc.
* Experienced in working with local self-governments, academic institutions, international organizations, business sector as well as NGOs.
* Previous experience in socio-economic projects and established knowledge in areas of strategic planning, project management, monitoring and evaluation.
* Serbian and English language active knowledge is mandatory.

**Key expert 2: Sectorial Expert**

Qualifications and skills

* At least BSc degree in Biology or similar

General professional experience

* 3 years of general working experience

Specific professional experience

* At least 3 years of professional experience on environmental issues.
* In-depth knowledge on various habitats, species, habitats management and its restoration as well as relevant regulation.
* Strong analytical skills and established knowledge relevant to practical understanding of the sector as well as protected area.

**Key expert 3: Socio-economic expert**

Qualifications and skills

* At least BSc. level in management or similar.

General professional experience

* 3 years of general working experience

Specific professional experience

* At least 3 years of professional experience in working on domestic and international project relating to socio-economic development issues.
* Experienced in working with local self-governments, business sector as well as NGOs.
* Introduced with regional context of location where is protected area situated.
* Strong analytic and reporting skills.

Important Note: one Key expert may cover one or more required positions if satisfy specific professional experience.

All experts must be independent and free from conflicts of interest in the responsibilities they take on.

### Other experts, support staff & backstopping

CVs for experts other than the key experts should not be submitted in the tender but the tenderer will have to demonstrate in their offer that they have access to experts with the required profiles. The contractor shall select and hire other experts as required according to the needs. The selection procedures used by the contractor to select these other experts shall be transparent, and shall be based on pre-defined criteria, including professional qualifications, language skills and work experience.

The costs for backstopping and support staff, as needed, are considered to be included in the tenderer's financial offer.

## Office accommodation

Office accommodation for each expert working on the contract is to be provided by the contracting authority.

## Facilities to be provided by the contractor

The contractor shall ensure that experts are adequately supported and equipped. In particular it must ensure that there is sufficient administrative, secretarial and interpreting provision to enable experts to concentrate on their primary responsibilities. It must also transfer funds as necessary to support their work under the contract and to ensure that its employees are paid regularly and in a timely fashion.

## Equipment

**No** equipment is to be purchased on behalf of the contracting authority / partner country as part of this service contract or transferred to the contracting authority / partner country at the end of this contract.Any equipment related to this contract which is to be acquired by the partner country must be purchased by means of a separate supply tender procedure.

# REPORTS

## Reporting requirements

The contractor will submit the following reports in English in one original:

* **Interim Report** The contractor will prepare interim reports on the implementation of the tasks, at the 3rd month of contract service implementation after Habitat map with Lists of all registered species and their conservation statuses and List of key species is finished. The report shall contain a sufficiently detailed description of the different options to support an informed decision on service performed. The interim reports report must be provided along with the corresponding invoice. The approval of the interim report by the Contracting
* **Final report** The contractor will prepare final report on the implementation of the tasks, at the end of this contract. The report shall contain a sufficiently detailed description of the different options to support an informed decision on service performed. The final report must be provided along with the corresponding invoice. The approval of the final report by the Contracting Authority will be the basis for issuing final payment as indicated in the Special Conditions.

## Submission and approval of reports

The report referred to above must be submitted to the project manager identified in the contract. The project manager is responsible for approving the reports.

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

## Definition of indicators

The indicator of the successful implementation of the contract is “Services provided in timely, quality and quantity manor, as required in these Terms of Reference”

## Special requirements

Not applicable