



Terms of Reference
Sustainable tourism development feasibility study
for the Durres Plepa - Prroi i Agait area

I. Background

Albania's coastline is faced with various kinds of problems. Pollution, sewage discharged in the sea as well as urban waste. Water supply system in certain areas is plagued by problems as rampant construction, urban migration and unregulated connections have damaged the water supplies. These environmental issues are exacerbated by illegal constructions, lack of urban planning and territorial management. Urban management and environmental policies are often not coordinated, implementation is slow, and enforcement is weak.

Such phenomena are often noted and reported in the media and government actions have already taken place. However, these actions tend to be punitive measures and in an ad-hoc basis and unfortunately sometimes in the middle of the tourist season. Instead, proper integrated actions with the involvement of various government institutions at the central and the local level should take place. In order for this to happen, the government has expressed its needs to identify the outstanding issues that are affecting the coastline, analyze them vis a vis the scope of work of local and central government units and their use for public investment programmes as well as donor interventions.

The coastline area in the region of Durres starting from Plepa and ending in Prroi i Agait has been undergoing a drastic environmental degradation process over the last 2 years. The government believes that due to the phenomenon of land erosion has been taking place and the sea has taken up big portions of the sandy beaches. Over the past two decades an overall investment of millions of Euros has been made in this area through private entrepreneurship – a mixture of legal and informal activity. This has produced an uncoordinated urban development in this area. During the summer this area attracts the largest number of tourists – those that use the

building units for summer residency purposes and holiday makers. During the summer of 2010, urban problems in this area became more visible and unfortunately it was only then that these problems attracted the attention of authorities. In order for this area to utilize its full tourist potential, actions are necessary to take place long before the season. Indeed, due to the magnitude and complexity of certain issues such as illegal buildings, capacities of local authorities and investments, some of those actions may need more of a medium to long term approach.

II. Objective of the assignment

Following a request by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, Youth and Sports (MoCTYS), a feasibility study will be prepared with the objective of improving the area by the application of new and environmentally friendly technologies, increasing and consolidating the shoreline and sandy beaches, planning the new waterfront for the development and expanding touristic activities. The study should come up with recommendations for coastal line protection against the erosion and waterfront planning for the Durres area for the government of Albania to review and decide to develop and finance full projects.

III. Requested services, including suggested methodology

UNDP will select a team of consultants composed of 1 project leader and 3 other experts to prepare a feasibility study for the shoreline protection against the erosion, waterfront planning with multifunctional purposes and urban planning for the area Plepa – Prroi i Agait. The study will document the issues that affect the potential of tourism in this area, map the stakeholders and responsible institutions as well as their ongoing and planned interventions in this respect with the intention to identify the gaps and areas of potential investment.

The preparation of the study must take place in a participatory approach involving public administration officials (central and local) and community groups and user services through a combined methodology of desk research and face-to-face in-depth interviews (number of interviews to be agreed with UNDP and MoCTYS).

In order to provide a good basis for the study, a review of the relevant documents will need to be carried out in order to build up a picture of the current state of tourism in the area including any identified issues and available public services. Reports and publications of the government, the World Bank, UNDP as well as any other national and international organizations active in the area will be reviewed. Consultant/s may also research similar experiences in Mediterranean countries and beyond.

Face to face interviews will have to target public officials from central and local administration, such as MoCTYS, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, Ministry of Interior as well as the prefecture, regional council, municipalities, communes and so on. A SWOT analyses will have to be part of the semi structured interviews.

The SWOT analysis will serve to compile a full picture on what needs to be addressed, what are the risks and opportunities for realizing sustainable tourism in the area.

IV. Deliverables

The team will prepare a feasibility study for the improving the shoreline protection against the erosion, waterfront planning with multifunctional purposes and urban planning for the area Durres Plepa – Prroi i Agait.

The study must provide the planning of technologies against (i) the coastal erosion; (ii) the application of environmental friendly materials for the shore line and sandy beaches, and (iii) the consolidation of the shoreline advancement; (iv) the use of green areas through an urban and architectonic study in a complete urban scene.

Consultants will initially be in charge of preparing an inception report that will contain an outline of the study that will be approved by UNDP and MoCTYS. During the implementation stage, consultants will organize interviews and focus groups as agreed with UNDP; process and analyze findings and provide conclusions and recommendations about institutional responsibilities including issues of vertical and horizontal cooperation. Attention needs also to be paid to infrastructure interventions, how to stop and reverse the environmental degradation in the Plepa – Prroi i Agait area with the ultimate objective of how to improve the tourism potential there.

In addition, based on the findings of the feasibility study, consultants are to prepare a list of maximum 5 project ideas that following an agreed format with UNDP will have to include, the rationale for the intervention, the objective, expected outputs, and responsive government entities as well as an indicative budget. Consultants will also be responsible for presenting these project ideas to the MoCTYS and other relevant stakeholders.

V. Timeline

The work will need to be completed within 2 month from the contract signature date.

VI. Profile and expertise

The team must have broad experience in planning and development of similar projects. Generally it must be able to demonstrate:

- High level of experience in shoreline protection, waterfront planning and marine projects.
- Experience in urban planning and improving degraded city and commercial harbour areas for the tourism development and purposes.
- Experience in research and application of environmental friendly and

recycling materials.

- Good understanding of governance, public and local issues.
- Previous experience in the study of public services including the tourism utilities.
- Good knowledge of Albania's development challenges and previous experience in Albania would be desirable.

The team must be composed of 2 international consultants (1 team leader and 1 senior engineer) and 2 other national consultants (1 architect and 1 environmental expert) that will ensure the coherence and deliver the final product for this assignment. The team leader will be responsible to plan, design and finalize the project ideas for the environmental, urban and architectural consolidation and development of tourism in Durres. More specifically the requested experts are expected to perform the tasks and possess the qualifications and expertise as described below:

1. Team Leader – International Consultant (20 working days)

The team leader will be responsible for leading the team of consultants, ensure the coherence and deliver the final product of this assignment. The team leader will be responsible for drafting the report with the inputs of other team members and ensure the formulation process reflects the views of stakeholders. The team leader will be responsible for presenting the final product to UNDP and MoCTYS.

Required profile:

- Academic degree in architecture, urban planning, or in an equivalent discipline;
- At least 15 years of professional experience on management of urban planning policies, industrial design as well as academic and research;
- Expertise in environmentally friendly and recycled materials for urban use;
- Previous participation in EU concourses regarding the application of the innovative technologies in urban planning and improving degraded city and commercial harbours;
- Previous work with international and donor organizations;
- Fluency in English;
- Good knowledge of Albania's development challenges and / or previous experience in Albania would be an asset.

2. International Consultant – Senior Engineer (10 working days)

The senior engineer will be in charge of the engineering dimension of the terms of references. He/she will be assisting the team leader in the writing process and will provide him/her with the necessary information and analysis on any engineering works and their challenges that may be envisaged.

Required profile:

- Academic degree in structural engineering;
- At least 15 years of professional experience urban structure planning policies, costal protection walls and maritime works;
- Good experience in issues for improving of urban and harbours areas;
- Participation in concourses regarding planning of big maritime infrastructures;
- Good experience in public works direction and management of large scale projects;
- Fluency in English.

3. National Consultant – Urban planning expert (20 working days)

The spatial / urban planning expert will be in charge of the urban component of the terms of references. He/she will be assisting the team leader in the writing process and will provide him/her with the necessary information and analysis on the urban planning issues in the area including progress and challenges. The consultant will also be in charge of conducting research and organize meetings relevant to the field of urban planning in the area under consideration.

Required profile:

- Academic degree in architecture, urban planning or in an equivalent discipline;
- At least 15 years of professional experience on management of urban planning policies and costal protection;
- Expertise in architectural waterfront planning and support to port authorities;
- Previous participation in EU concourses regarding the application of the innovative technologies in urban planning and improving degraded city and commercial harbours;
- Previous work with international and donor organizations;
- Excellent communication, moderation and facilitation skills;
- Good knowledge of issues related to tourism development in Albania would be considered an asset.

4. National Consultant – Environmental expert (20 working days)

The environmental expert will be in charge of the environment component of the terms of references. He/she will be assisting the team leader in the writing process and will provide him/her with the necessary information and analysis on the environmental issues in the area. The consultant will also be in charge of conducting research and organize meetings relevant to the field of environment in the area under consideration.

Required profile:

- Advanced degree in environment or related field;
- At least 10 years of professional experience in dealing with environmental issues in Albania including studies, research, assessments and feasibility studies;
- Previous work with international and donor organizations;
- Fluency in English;
- Excellent communication, moderation and facilitation skills;
- Good knowledge of issues related to tourism development in Albania would be considered an asset.