REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

**ROMANIA**

**Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project**

**Loan No.: 9505-RO**

**Assignment Title:** *Consultancy Services for supporting the RAPID Project implementation with reviewing and revising the “Code of Good Agricultural Practices for Water Protection Against Pollution with Nitrates from Agricultural Sources” and the “Action Program for the Water Protection Against Pollution with Nitrates from Agricultural Sources”, as well on the preparation of the “Advisory Code of Good Agricultural Practices to Control Ammonia Emissions”*

**Reference No**. (as per Procurement Plan): 03/CQ/2024

The Government of Romania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project (RAPID Project), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The assignment includes specialized consultancy services (“the Services”) of a consulting firm / JV Associations for **reviewing and revising the “Code of Good Agricultural Practices for Water Protection Against Pollution with Nitrates from Agricultural Sources” and the “Action Program for the Water Protection Against Pollution with Nitrates from Agricultural Sources”, as well on the preparation of the “Advisory Code of Good Agricultural Practices to Control Ammonia Emissions”.** The duration of the contract is until the end of December, 2025, or any other period mutually agreed by the parties, as may be necessary. The total input under the assignment is estimated at 3,200 working-hours. The Consultant is expected to commence performance of the services within maximum 10 working days after contract signing.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are attached to this request for expressions of interest.

The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests - Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project, now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

 **I. General qualifications - 20 points**

Consultants shall provide information on: core business and years in business, presentation of services provided which are relevant for this assignment, references.

**II. Specific experience - 80 points**

Consultants shall provide relevant information and a presentation of the similar projects/assignments that they have implemented, which are similar to this assignment, considering its specificity. The Consultants should prove at least 10 years of general experience on preparing policy and/or implementation systems (at the level of public institutions) on EU environmental and/or agriculture areas and at least 5 years of specific experience in providing analysis/assessments/research/studies in the areas of nitrates / ammonia pollution / increase efficiency of chemical fertilisers / manure management, and/or pollution control in agriculture, and/or management of soil and water quality. Elaboration of national-wide methodologies / legislation / guidelines / codes / monitoring systems on pollution control in collaboration with farmers and other stakeholders involved in agricultural, is an advantage. Particular experience on nitrates and ammonia pollution is desirable.

No CVs should be provided at this stage of the selection procedure as the Key Experts requested in the Terms of Reference will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

**The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, 3.17 and 3.21 to 3.24 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations” -** [**https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/178331533065871195-0290022020/original/ProcurementRegulations.pdf**](https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/178331533065871195-0290022020/original/ProcurementRegulations.pdf) **), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest and Eligibility[[1]](#footnote-1).** Interested consultants will **consult all these conditions** and will sign and send together with their Expression of Interest a declaration of no conflict of interest and eligibility, in the format attached to this request for expressions of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In case of a Joint-Venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract in case of award is made to that JV group. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their “association” and the duties of the members and sub consultants in their application. Please note that a firm shall submit only one Expression of Interest in the same selection process either individually as a consultant or as a member in a joint venture***.***

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant’s Qualification-based Selection (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from Monday to Thursday 09:00 to 17:00 hours and Friday 09:00 to 14:30 hours.

Expressions of interest and supporting documents, must be submitted in a written form, in English language, (by e-mail or/and in person or/and by mail) to the address below by 1st October, 2024.

**Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests – Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project**

Attn: **Mr. Mihai CONSTANTINESCU, Director of the PMU**

**Ms. Cătălina CRIVEANU, Procurement Manager**

**Ms. Mădălina TANASOI, Procurement Specialist**

**46-48, Calea Plevnei, Sector 1, Building E, 1st Floor, Room 11**

City: **Bucharest, ZIP Code: 010233, Country: Romania**

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 madalina.tanasoi@mmediu.ro.

**TO:** **Mr. Mihai Constantinescu**, Director of PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT OF THE “Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction”

**Ref. Assignment: 03/CQ/2024** -Consultancy Services for supporting the RAPID Project implementation on reviewing and revising the “Code of Good Agricultural Practices for Water Protection Against Pollution with Nitrates from Agricultural Sources” and of the “Action Program for the Water Protection Against Pollution with Nitrates from Agricultural Sources”, as well on the preparation of the “Advisory Code of Good Agricultural Practices to Control Ammonia Emissions“

**DECLARATION**

Dear Mr. Constantinescu,

I, the undersigned, **………………………………....** the authorized representative of the Consultant [*insert name of the Company or JV Association, as the case may be*], confirm our availability to provide the services under the **assignment 03/CQ/2024**, in accordance with the requirements in the Terms of Reference and for the duration specified thereto.

I also confirm that our hiring, in case we are selected, would not create a conflict of interest or eligibility issue as per the provisions of Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, 3.17 and 3.21 to 3.24 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”).

**Name of the Consultant / JV Association:**

**Authorized Representative:**

Signature

Date:

1. **Special attention is drawn to the State-owned enterprises (SOEs) or institutions of the Borrower’s country with regard to the provisions of paragraph 3.23. (b) of the Procurement Regulations. Such entities are requested to provide within their Expressions of Interest the appropriate documentation and status documents demonstrating and supporting the assessment of their eligibility.**  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)