

**Terms of Reference
For
International Consultant**

**Sustainable Dam Assessment and Planning Methodology
for the Southern Caucasus**

Work Commence Date <i>(date when the selected candidate is expected to start the work)</i>	11 November 2013
Work Completion Date <i>(date when the selected candidate is expected to complete the work and provide final deliverables)</i>	31 May 2014
Language Required	English
Location / Work Area	Home Office with visits to the Southern Caucasus region
Reporting to	WWF Caucasus Programme Office

I. BACKGROUND

1. Thematic Introduction

The Southern Caucasus is covered by a freshwater network of more than 43,000 rivers. A high number of freshwater lakes of the Ecoregion are located in the Southern Caucasus part and they significantly contribute to reach biodiversity in the region.

Freshwater ecosystems, representing highly important areas for biodiversity conservation, play a vital role in humans' life providing key ecosystem services and benefits. Freshwater ecosystems contain some of the most threatened habitats in the Caucasus Ecoregion due to anthropogenic pressures mainly stemming from unsustainable urban water use, industry and infrastructure development projects, agriculture and increasingly developing hydropower sector. Unsustainable development of dams (hydropower, water security, irrigation) is disrupting environmental flows at river-basin-scale. Key negative impacts on freshwater ecosystems ultimately lead to decreasing the landscape integrity and biodiversity as well as to degrading key ecosystem services and benefits to people.

For the time being the authorities in the Southern Caucasus countries are driven largely by investors. In the absence of good evidence of potential harmful effects of unsustainable developed dams and due to lack of demand for more environmentally responsible approach to hydropower planning and development, some investment projects can result in high level of degradation for the environment, biodiversity and ecosystem services. It is very important to negotiate with key stakeholders, especially governmental institutions and investors, to discuss and agree on more environmentally sound approaches and high standards while planning and developing dams and hydropower plants in the region.

2. Project Background

The given study on the Sustainable Dam Assessment and Planning Methodology is planned to implement in the frame of the regional project – “Promoting Sustainable Dam Development at River-Basin-Scale in the Southern Caucasus” financially supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and led by WWF Caucasus Programme Office, WWF Armenia and WWF Azerbaijan. The regional project aims (i) to demonstrate biodiversity and ecosystem services of freshwater networks in two targeted basins; (ii) to introduce a Sustainable Dams Assessment and Planning Methodology; and (iii) to mobilize key stakeholders, secure their support and launch the Caucasus Sustainable Dam Initiative. The project stresses that joint-effort of key stakeholders and players at the river-basin-scale can promote sustainable dam development in the Southern Caucasus and thereby significantly mitigate cumulative negative impacts of dams on environmental flows, biodiversity and ecosystem services of the targeted river basins.

II. DUTIES AND TASKS

Main Duties are (i) review and analysis of existing sustainable dam assessment and planning methodologies/approaches worldwide; and (ii) selecting and proposing a sustainable dam assessment and planning methodology suitable for the Southern Caucasus.

The main duties of the international consultant shall be performed through the following tasks¹:

1. Develop a methodology to be applied for the assigned duties.
2. Obtain a broad picture of existing sustainable dam assessment and planning methodologies/tools in different regions worldwide (e.g. such as Rapid Basin-Wide Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Tool, Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol, etc.).
3. Review in more details those sustainable dam assessment and planning methodologies that have been successfully applied in practice through multi-stakeholder approach.
4. Obtain a general understanding of national level policies, legislation, standards and procedures related to dam and hydropower development sectors in the Southern Caucasus countries.
5. Visit the region during the study to meet and consult with key stakeholders and reflect their feedback in the review and analysis processes.
6. Based on results of preliminary review/analysis and consultations with key stakeholders select a sustainable dam assessment and planning methodology (ies) suitable for the Southern Caucasus countries.
7. Prepare the first draft report generally explaining the whole review/consultation processes and presenting criteria used for selecting the sustainable dam assessment and planning methodology (ies) suitable for the Southern Caucasus.
8. Present results of the review/analysis and propose selected methodology (ies) at the regional stakeholder meeting² to be organized for discussion and agreement on the sustainable dam assessment and planning methodology suitable for the Southern Caucasus.

¹ All tasks shall be implemented in close cooperation with WWF Caucasus PO.

² In the frame of the respective project, WWF Caucasus PO is planning to organize a regional stakeholder meeting to discuss and agree on a sustainable dam assessment and planning methodology suitable for the Southern Caucasus. The meeting will be held in Georgia in May 2014 (exact venue and precise dates will be confirmed). A main idea of the meeting is the following: based on

9. Consider received feedbacks from the regional stakeholder meeting and make sure it is reflected in the final product as discussed and agreed at the meeting.
10. Develop the final report with more focus on the finally agreed product – the sustainable dam assessment and planning methodology suitable for the Southern Caucasus.

III. MAJOR DELIVERABLES

1. A brief description of a methodology applied for the assigned duties.
2. A first draft report.
3. A presentation delivered at the regional stakeholder meeting.
4. A final report of the study.

IV. WORK SCHEDULE

The planned tasks shall meet the following time-frame:

- ✓ Task 1– by 20th of November 2013
- ✓ Tasks 2 through 5 – by January 2014
- ✓ Tasks 6 & 7– by February 2014
- ✓ Task 8, 9 & 10 – by May 2014

V. PAYMENT MODALITY

Consultancy payment is based on assigned tasks. The consultancy fee shall be finally discussed and agreed with the selected international consultant.

The detailed payment schedule and conditions will be defined by the Contract to be concluded between WWF Caucasus PO and the international consultant.

In addition to the consultancy fee, WWF Caucasus PO will cover all costs (*such as flight tickets, airport transfers, daily allowance, accommodation, and visa fees*) related to Consultant's visit to Georgia and / or Caucasus related to the assigned tasks under the given ToR.

review of existing sustainable dam assessment and planning tools and by taking into consideration the specific conditions of the region, a methodological approach suitable for the Southern Caucasus should be agreed at the regional stakeholder meeting. This methodology will be further shared and lobbied with the authorities and all other key stakeholders as a common understanding of dams three-dimensional sustainability (social, economic and environmental) and creating a multi-stakeholder platform for promoting sustainable planning, design and operation of dams and hydropower projects in the Southern Caucasus.

VI. REPORTING

The international consultant, in close cooperation and coordination with the national consultants, will report in written form to Nugzar Zazanashvili, WWF Caucasus PO Conservation Director (e-mail: nzazanashvili@wwfcaucasus.org) and Maka Bitsadze, Project Regional Coordinator (e-mail: mbitsadze@wwfcaucasus.org), on the status and results of the assigned tasks under the given ToR.

Details on a reporting time-line will be defined by the Contract to be concluded between WWF Caucasus PO and the Consultant.

VII. REQUIRED SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES

- ✓ Minimum Master's or equivalent degree in environmental engineering, environmental resource management, environmental policy or a related discipline.
- ✓ Minimum ten years of working experience in the professional field.
- ✓ Publications in the relevant fields are in plus.
- ✓ Ability to work constructively with different stakeholders in a complex environment and under strictly defined time-line.
- ✓ Strong and proven research and analytical skills.
- ✓ Excellent writing and presentation skills.
- ✓ Excellent command of written and spoken English.