

Terms of Reference

Development of Strategy for Dighomi Floodplain Rehabilitation

1. Background

Since November 2016, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has supported the Government of Georgia (GoG) to mainstream an integrated and participatory approach to urban development by improving strategic planning of selected urban area clusters to achieve a more balanced regional development by preparing Integrated Urban Action Plans (IUAPs). Building on this, the government has prioritized crucial urban investments for ADB to take forward through feasibility studies and safeguards due diligence. These include integrated solutions that bring co-benefits to the citizens in the development of urban clusters including water supply, sewerage and sanitation (including off-network solutions), urban transport and mobility (including non-motorized and public transport), solid waste management, economic corridors, cultural and historical heritage conservation, flood control and drainage, urban safety and resilience and others.

Georgia has received financing from ADB in the form of a loan towards the cost of the Livable Cities Investment Program (LCIP) Project Readiness Financing (PRF) to prepare the investment loan for the Livable Cities Investment Project for Balanced Development (LCIP) to improve urban and tourism infrastructure and services across Georgia and Tbilisi. LCIP will help improve the livability of urban area clusters through the following interlinked outputs: (i) improved adequacy and efficiency of urban infrastructure and services; (ii) improved accessibility, connectivity and attractiveness of regional tourism clusters; (iii) enhanced institutional capacity for implementing and managing urban infrastructure and services; (iv) improved access to quality pre-school infrastructure, i.e. improved environment: new playgrounds increasing gross motor skills of children; safe building - considering fire alarm and safety systems; clean and updated sanitary infrastructure including water closet and kitchen; (v) improved planning of the kindergarten building; increased space per child and per teacher; energy efficient kindergarten buildings; (vi) improved educational and working conditions for children and teachers in kindergarten; (vii) improved access to inclusive child-friendly quality education; and (viii) social impact – increased income of population during implementation of the project (employment of workers), and after the construction phase.

Section 2, Schedule 1 (Description of Project Readiness Financing [PRF] Activities) of the Loan Agreement states that: “Unless otherwise agreed between the Borrower and ADB, the PRF Activities are expected to support preparation of the Ensuing Projects in urban and tourism infrastructure and service that satisfy the following selection criteria: (a) Relevance: In line with the priorities of the Borrower and ADB for urban sector development, as outlined in country partnership strategy, or are listed in the country operations business plan. (b) Safeguards: Meet the requirements of ADB’s Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS). (c) Technical: The executing agency(ies) agree to carry out the needed detailed climate change risk analysis and include climate change resilience measures as part of the detailed design activities as required. (d) Governance: The proposed executing agency(ies) have been assess sufficient for having the capacity to undertake the required financial management and procurement activities. If the capacity of the proposed specific executing agency or implementing agency will be required to agree to include the mitigation measures proposed by ADB; and (e) Sustainability: the executing agency(ies) and/or implementing agency(ies) agree to include measures to improve project sustainability as part of the project scope.”

Arrangement of Municipal Park in Dighomi Floodplains, city of Tbilisi is one of the subprojects to be implemented under the Livable Cities Investment Program. The subproject aims at improving

the ecological value and provision of the recreational and civic amenities for city of Tbilisi because of its unique location along the Mtkvari River.

Tbilisi Development Fund (TDF) of Tbilisi City Hall (TCH) is to commence implementation of infrastructural project in Tbilisi. Arrangement of Municipal Park in Dighomi Floodplains, city of Tbilisi is one of the subprojects to be implemented under the Livable Cities Investment Program. The subproject aims at improving the ecological value and provision of the recreational and civic amenities for the city of Tbilisi because of its unique location along the Mtkvari River. As one of two prominent rivers in Georgia, the Mtkvari River should be celebrated and protected. With its multifunctional themed spaces and its unique natural features, the Park is planned to be a preferred public gathering place.

The subproject is expected to occupy 8,4 ha of the Dighomi floodplain. Implementation of the subproject will trigger the process of organized development of entire area of Dighomi Flood plain. The Dighomi floodplain and the surrounding area extend on the terrace of both banks of the Mtkvari River¹, and the total floodplain area corresponds to the area indicated on the Tbilisi Subsequent Planning Map, determined by the Resolution of the Municipal Council N 39-18 on Approval of the General Plan of Land Use of the Capital². The land occupied by the Dighomi Floodplain is in private and state ownership (determining the exact boundaries, area and status of ownership of the Dighomi Floodplain is subject of this assignment).

2. Purpose

The Dighomi Floodplain is distinguished by a unique ecosystem that is typical for floodplain forest and not usual for the cities. The forest is dominated with the following species: Aspen, Oak, Willow. The floodplain is the habitat for wild flora and fauna, even the Red List species and species of high conservation present in this area, one of the examples is the *Lutra lutra*.

The Dighomi Floodplain area covers the Otter Island that is nominated to be designated as an Emerald site in frame of Bern Convention. The Tbilisi Otter Island is assessed as Critical Habitat in accordance with IFC PS6 and GD 6.

Importance of riparian forest is significant in prevention of natural disasters. They reduce the risk of flooding by absorbing the water and mitigating the impact of the on the landscape. The riparian forest protects river from erosion, reduces contamination and improves the quality of surface water.

Biodiversity value of the Dighomi Floodplain is increased by the numbers of lakes that are present in the area. They represent habitat of species which are common for wetland environment.

During elaboration of Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) report for the Subproject "Arrangement of Municipal Park in Dighomi Floodplains, Tbilisi Municipality", it was revealed that forest cover of the floodplain has been significantly reduced, and unique ecosystem is being degraded. IEE public disclosure process showed high interest of stakeholders in the Dighomi Floodplain development perspective.

TDF, with support from ADB, initiated the process of development of the Dighomi Floodplain strategy that will be long-term view of and strategic plan for restoration of the Dighomi floodplain, which needs to be aligned to LCIP and linked to subprojects implemented under the LCIP. The strategic plan shall include short-, medium- and long-term development concepts. The core

¹See Annex - Dighomi Floodplain Area Location Map, area is marked with a red line

²See <https://www.matsne.gov.ge/document/view/4508064?publication=0>

principle of the strategy shall be environment protection and preservation of unique characteristics of the riparian forest.

3. Objective and Scope

The objective of the assignment is to elaborate the strategy document for development of the Dighomi Floodplain that will:

- Overview the importance of the riparian forest and floodplains for the city ecology;
- Overview the Georgian legislation and international standards (including ADB environmental and social safeguard policy) about protection of environment, biodiversity, forestry etc. Special attention shall be paid to international treaties and convention which Georgia is committed to implement. The Legal framework shall cover spatial and urban planning regulations of Georgia;
- Scientifically describe role of the riparian forest and floodplains in mitigation of the climate change impacts and their contribution in the fulfilment of the Georgian commitments towards United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Paris Agreement; Kyoto Protocol; UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development etc.;
- Provide scientific, historic data on the Dighomi floodplain ecosystem, geology, hydrology etc.
- Describe in details baseline data of the Dighomi floodplain:
 - ✓ Location, area and legal status (areas of private and state-owned lands);
 - ✓ Land use categorization according to the Resolution of the Municipal Council N 39-18 on Approval of the General Plan of Land Use of the Capital³;
 - ✓ Socioeconomic arrangements (social, demographic and economic data of the city, particularly nearby municipalities and the project area; legal and illegal businesses presented in the area etc);
 - ✓ Nearby developments (existing and planned projects and businesses);
 - ✓ Tree inventory (number, species, conditions, status);
 - ✓ Biodiversity study (including flora, fauna, ichthyology. Special attention to be paid to Red List species and vulnerable species);
 - ✓ Geology;
 - ✓ Hydrology;
 - ✓ Quality of air and surface water pollution with identification of sources of pollution;
 - ✓ List of the lakes presented in the area, including locations, sizes and origins (are they artificial or natural), significance for flora and fauna and their recreational value;
 - ✓ Importance of the area for migrant species;
 - ✓ Waste inventory;

³See <https://www.matsne.gov.ge/document/view/4508064?publication=0>

- ✓ Utilities and communication (underground pipes, overhead lines etc.);
- Plan of restoration and conservation of the riparian forest and floodplain (elaborated based on the international best practices);
- Concept of development linked to subprojects implemented under the LCIP and aligned with the Country's strategy on urban development;
- Problem statement and assessing solution statement alternatives;
- Scale of the impact of the selected approach on the involuntary resettlement (IR) and based on the impact categorize the project according to the ADB SPS;
- Assess the IR impact of the selected approach and clarify the activities for Resettlement planning;
- Ecological, social, and economic value of selected approach;
- Proposed investment plans for implementation of selected approach.

The consultant should keep in mind that the development strategy of the Dighomi floodplain should be based on a "green solution", which prioritizes the restoration of the riparian forest. Innovative approaches are encouraged.

4. Process and Methodology

The Consultant should design the process that should include:

- A literature review of statistical information, scientific publications, researches, internal and external documents including different LCIP project proposals, project reports, publications and evaluations to derive a descriptive narration of key problems, issues, barriers and trends that the programme is addressing including key strengths and lessons learned;
- Review of relevant National legal and regulatory document, strategies and plans in the field of environment, urban planning and socioeconomic development;
- Review of internationally recognized standards, including ADB SPS (coordinate with transaction technical assistance TRTA consultants or/and PIU Environment Specialist for guidance on ADB SPS requirements);
- Interviewing the appropriate personal in the Tbilisi City Hall, TDB, ADB, subject matter experts and various stakeholders;
- Identifying, analysing, grouping and mapping the stakeholders;
- Conduct field work in order to get information for baseline condition (see paragraph 3) of the study area.
- Analysing collected data and findings and finalizing the strategy;

5. Consultant will be asked to lead on the following activities:

- Align the strategy to ADB standards, LCIP objectives, existed local strategies and plans in the field of urban planning and environment protection;
- Adaptation and application of modern-day strategy development tools and methodologies such as stakeholder analysis, power and gender analysis, environmental and climate change, screening and mapping tools etc.;
- Ensuring a participatory and inclusive process with involvement of all stakeholders;

- Ensuring privacy and non-disclosure of sensitive data and information;

6. Deliverables:

It is anticipated that the deliverables will be as follows:

Deliverables:	Submission Date (Months from Commencement Date)
Stage I – Draft Inception Report with description of proposed methodology, works, staffing schedules, clear timelines, comments on the TOR and comments and observations on issues which may have technical or financial implication, or which may affect the progress of the works.	2
Stage II – Final Inception Report considering comments received from the Client ⁴	4
Stage III – Interim report	7
Stage IV – Draft Report of the Dighomi Floodplain Development Strategy	10
Stage V – Final Report of the Dighomi Floodplain Development Strategy considering comments received from the Client ⁵	12

7. List of Expert with required skills and expertise

The assignment will be implemented by a consulting firm. The firm will be selected using the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method (quality and cost ratio of 90:10) based on a Simplified Technical Proposal (STP). A Lump-sum contract will be used.

All experts who have a crucial role in contract implementation are referred as key experts. Key experts will be evaluated according to the Qualification Requirements given in the table below. The consulting firm should have a team of experts with the following skills and qualifications:

No.	Title	Relevant Experience and Qualification
Key Experts (International⁶)		
IC01	Urban Planner/ Team Leader	Minimum Master's degree in the field of urban planning, spatial planning, social sciences or related fields;

⁴The Client will provide comments within 1 month after submission date of Draft Inception Report by the Consultant

⁵The Client will provide comments within 1 month after submission date of Draft Report of the Dighomi Floodplain Development Strategy by the Consultant

⁶"Nationals of the Client's country who possess the appropriate international experience may be considered for assignments that require international expertise in the national's own country."

No.	Title	Relevant Experience and Qualification
		At least 15 years of working experience in the field of city planning, environment protection and/or urban planning out of which 7 years in managing the international projects; Knowledge of ADB or internationally recognized standards in the field of environment protection; Knowledge of English Language;
IC02	Forester	Minimum Master's degree in the field of forestry, agriculture, biology, natural sciences or related fields; At least 10 years of working experience in the field of forest management out of which 5 years in implementation of international projects; Advanced knowledge of ADB or internationally recognized standards in the field of environment protection; Knowledge of English Language; Experience in planning and implementation of projects for conservation of riparian forest, wildlife habitats and soil and water quality will be highly preferable.
IC03	Biodiversity Expert	Minimum Master's degree in a subject related to Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity/Conservation Management, Biology, and Environmental Sciences, or related discipline; At least 10 years of experience in biodiversity conservation assessment; Minimum 5 years of experience in international project development related to biodiversity/forestry/sustainable land management; Advanced knowledge of ADB or internationally recognized standards in the field of environment protection; Knowledge of English Language;
Key Experts (National)		
NC01	Urban Planner/Deputy Team Leader	Minimum Master's degree in the field of urban planning, spatial planning, social sciences or related fields; At least 10 years of working experience in the field of city planning, environment protection and/or urban planning out of which 7 years in managing the international projects; Knowledge of ADB or internationally recognized standards in the field of environment protection; Knowledge of English Language;
NC02	Environmental Expert	Minimum Master's degree in the field of environmental sciences, environmental management or related fields;

No.	Title	Relevant Experience and Qualification
		At least 10 years of working experience in the field of environment protection and management. The experience shall include development of country strategy documents or country environmental policy; Knowledge of local regulation and standards in the field of environment protection, permitting and licensing; Experience in applying ADB Safeguard Policy Statement; Advance knowledge of English language; Experience of working with governmental institutions will be advantage.
NC03	Forester/ Dendrologist	Minimum Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline; Minimum 7 years of experience in the field of forest management and wildlife conservation; Advanced knowledge of national laws and regulations in the field of forestry, ecosystem conservation; Familiarity with ADB Safeguard Policy Statement; Advance knowledge of English language;
NC04	Urbanist/ Geographer	Minimum Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline; Minimum 7 years of working experience in the field of urban planning, spatial planning, urban development and urban environmental improvement, urban sector development issues, or related area; Knowledge of local laws and regulations in the field of urban and environmental planning, city development and with ADB Safeguard Policy Statement; Advance knowledge of English language; Experience of working with governmental institutions will be an advantage.
NC05	Hydrologist	Minimum Bachelor's degree in hydrology or geosciences; Minimum 5 years of working experience in conducting hydrology and hydro morphology study of rivers; Knowledge of local law and regulations in protection and planning water resources; Advance knowledge of English language.
NC06	Geologist	Minimum Bachelor's degree in Geology or Geosciences; Minimum 10 years of experience in developing geological surveys, collecting and analysing geological information such as water, soil and rock and producing the reports;

No.	Title	Relevant Experience and Qualification
		Knowledge of local laws and regulations in the field of environmental planning and protection and construction; Advance knowledge of English language;
Non-Key Experts (National)		
NC01	GIS specialist	Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline;Min.5 years of professional experience in analyzing spatial database information, collecting field data and developing GIS maps. Well familiar with the Capital Master plan on land use of Tbilisi.
NC02	Ichthyologist	Degree in fishery, biology or relevant field. Minimum 5 years of the working experience in study fishes, taking samples, identification of species, analyse impact of modification of habitat and ecology on fish reproduction. Well familiar with national laws and regulation in the field of biodiversity, water protection and fishery.
NC03	Financial/Economic Analyst	Bachelor's degree in economics, finance or similar; 5 years relevant job experience in project evaluation or similar; writing and speaking proficiency in English language.
NC04	Communication Specialist	Bachelor's degree in urban development, political science, sociology,(media) communication or similar; 5 years relevant job experience in strategy development, policy advisory, master planning or similar; writing and speaking proficiency in English language.
NC05	Tourism specialist	Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline;5 years of professional experiencein the tourism sector working on tourism product development, tour development, tour management, tourism marketing or similar; writing and speaking proficiency in English language.

8. Duration and input of the experts:

The assignment will be carried out over a period of **twelve (12) months** from the date of commencement. Inputs of the experts are expected as follow:

Expert	Indicative Person/months
Key Experts	
Urban Planner/ Team Leader (International)	3
Forester (International)	4
Biodiversity Expert (International)	4
Urban Planner/Deputy Team Leader (National)	8

Environmental Expert (National)	6
Forester/ Dendrologist (National)	5
Urbanist/ Geographer (National)	5
Hydrologist (National)	5
Geologist (National)	5
Non-Key Experts Total (A) 45	Sub-
GIS specialist	3
Ichthyologist	3
Financial/Economic Analyst	2
Communication Specialist	2
Tourism specialist	3
Sub-Total (B) 13	
<u>GRAND TOTAL (A+B) 58</u>	

9. Client's Input and Counterpart Personnel

a) Services, facilities, and property to be made available to the Consultant by the Client:

The client will assist the Consultant in obtaining information and data within their institution; assisting in organization of the interviews with relevant personal within the institution and mediate cooperation with ADB.

b) Professional and support counterpart personnel to be assigned by the Client to the Consultant's team:

PIU members:

Giorgi Ebanoidze – Project Manager;

Tamar Chelidze –Project Manager;

Ketevan Melkadze – Financial Manager;

Giorgi Gvimradze – Civil Engineer;

Ketevan Moralishvili – Procurement Manager;

Ketevan Chubabria – Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist.

10. Client will provide the following inputs, project data and reports to facilitate preparation of the Proposals:

IEE of Dighomi Floodplain Municipal Park;

LARP of Dighomi Floodplain Municipal Park;

Design of Dighomi Floodplain Municipal Park;

MoM of the Meeting with the stakeholders under the Dighomi Floodplain Municipal Park project.

Annex

