

TOWARDS STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE OF THE SHARED TRANSBOUNDARY NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE LAKE OHRID REGION

Technical assistance to Albanian authorities in preparing and writing the nomination document for the extension of the World Heritage property Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Lead writer

Ministry of Culture is a partner in the implementation of the project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region.” The project is managed by UNESCO World Heritage Centre in cooperation with UNESCO Venice Office/Antenna Office in Sarajevo, and financed by the European Union under its assistance to pre-accession countries in the field of Environment and Climate Change.

Ministry of Culture wishes to award a consultancy contract to prepare and write the nomination document for a significant boundary modification of the existing World Heritage property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region” in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to include the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid Region.

BACKGROUND

Lake Ohrid has long been recognized as a superlative natural phenomenon. With a geological and biological history of over one million years, Lake Ohrid stands out as one of the oldest lakes in Europe and a remarkable biodiversity hotspot of global importance. It has been estimated that it is the lake with the highest biodiversity in the world, taking into account the number of endemic species per surface area. The catchment area also supports equally rich and important biodiversity with exceptionally high number of endemic species. These natural phenomena are matched by significant cultural heritage in the form of some of Europe’s earliest human settlements and heritage routes bordering the lake. Two-thirds of Lake Ohrid, and a significant part of its watershed located in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have been inscribed on the World Heritage List as the property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region.”

At its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), the World Heritage Committee, requested the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and other relevant organizations, to invite one or two States Parties from each of the UNESCO regional groups to undertake, on an experimental basis, voluntary pilot projects related to identifying options and preparing dossiers for nomination (Decision 34 COM 12). Out of the 10 pilot projects originally selected, the Upstream pilot project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region” is designed to address the main threats affecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region shared between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It aims to strengthen transboundary cooperation over the region’s cultural and natural heritage, help recognize and profile the transboundary area by assessing its values and sustainable development opportunities, and improve capacities for the effective management of natural and cultural heritage.

IUCN and ICOMOS, in collaboration with Albanian experts have conducted a baseline assessment in the initial stage of the management planning process to document the current knowledge on the natural and cultural heritage in the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid Region, as well as its conservation status and trends (*hereinafter*: Baseline Assessment). The report is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1439/>. The Advisory Bodies have also prepared a Strategy Document Identifying Sustainable Development Opportunities in the transboundary Lake Ohrid region (*hereinafter*: Strategy Document; available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/>).

Through active cross-sectorial cooperation and public participation the project also supports integrated management planning and the preparation of an extension file for the World Heritage property to cover the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid Region. The management planning process is structured around 5 workshops (with participation of Macedonian representatives from central and local governments) and additional 8 meetings of the Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG brings together representatives from key stakeholders from local and central governments in Albania, one independent Albanian nature conservation expert and one independent Albanian expert on cultural heritage, as well as advisors from the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (IUCN and ICOMOS). Under the leadership of an experienced external expert, the planning process is geared towards developing a Supplement to the existing Management Plan for the Pogradec Terrestrial/Aquatic Protected Landscape (hereinafter: "MP Supplement") which covers most of the watershed of Lake Ohrid in Albania. The Supplement will specify how the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the proposed extension should be preserved and integrated with other national sectoral and development plans and/or operational instruments and in the view of strengthening transboundary management. Following the Albanian legislation, the draft WH Supplement will be subject to public consultation as part of the mandatory Strategic Environmental Assessment.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Ministry of Culture of Albania (Contractee) will sub-contract an external expert on cultural heritage as member of an expert team to write and prepare a nomination document (significant boundary modification) for the extension of the World Heritage property: Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region (*hereinafter*: the nomination document).

The nomination document is the primary basis on which the Committee considers the inscription of the properties on the World Heritage List. All relevant information should be included in the nomination document and it should be cross-referenced to the source of information. The nomination document of the proposed extension should be prepared in accordance with the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, in particular, the format set out in Annex 5 (available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/137843>).

The external expert, in cooperation with one or more additional experts on nature conservation to be contracted by the Ministry of Environment, should identify possible information gaps and developing a description of tasks to be completed in the process of development of the nomination document.

It is understood that the responsibility for the preparation of any nomination rests fully and exclusively with the State Party of Albania (in consultation of the State Party of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and that any upstream advice provided from IUCN and ICOMOS, including from the consultant, is without prejudice to either the eventual decisions of the State Party regarding the nomination, or to the eventual evaluation of any submitted nomination by the IUCN and ICOMOS World Heritage Panels.

REQUIREMENTS

The selection of individual consultants will be based on the following requirements:

- At least 15 years of proven work experience in the field of cultural heritage (ancient and medieval history, archaeology and/ or traditional architecture).
- Associate professor (or higher) in one of the subjects related to cultural heritage (ancient and medieval history, archaeology and/ or traditional architecture).
- Proven experience in development of documents required by UNESCO/ICOMOS for World Heritage properties;

- Strong knowledge and background in capacity building programmes for protected cultural heritage area;
- Sound knowledge of management of World Heritage sites and cultural heritage sites;
- Excellent command of written and spoken English is essential.

SPECIFIC TASKS

The consultant will be required to conduct the following specific tasks:

- Review the draft MP Supplement prepared and submit comments and recommendations on the draft MP Supplement, in particular with respect to management actions to sustain the OUV of the nominated extension and who is involved in that process;
- Develop and submit, in cooperation with one or more additional experts on nature conservation contracted by the Ministry of Environment, an initial draft of the nomination document to be subject to comments and suggestions from the TWG. The nomination document should be prepared in accordance with the format set out in Annex 5 in the World Heritage Convention's *Operational Guidelines*;
- Prepare and submit, in cooperation with one or more additional experts on nature conservation contracted by the Ministry of Environment, the final draft of the nomination document taking into considerations the comments and suggestions from the TWG, and to be considered by the Albanian Government for approval.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The consultant will be required to deliver the following results and products in close coordination with the TWG:

- Comments and recommendations on the draft MP Supplement (April 2017);
- Participate in the meetings of the TWG (March 2017 – June 2017);
- Develop and submit the initial draft of the nomination document (15 May 2016);
- Prepare and submit the final draft of the nomination document in view of the submission by the Government of Albania to the World Heritage Centre (by 9th June 2017).

DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND AVAILABLE BUDGET

The duration of the assignment is estimated over the period from February to June 2017. The available budget for this assignment is limited to US\$ 5.800, including US\$ 200 for travel costs.

LANGUAGE

English will be both the working language during the consultation meetings with the TWG and the language of the nomination document.

The expression of interest, including the technical and financial proposal should be handed by **the 30th March 2017** to the **Ministry of Culture**, Aleksandër Moisiu Str., No. 76 Tirana, for the attention of:

Ms. Elira Kokona, Secretary General

Ms. Arta Dollani, Director General