



Project PrespaNet Project III: Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Prespa

Terms of Reference

Expertise:

Bat expert

Tasks:

Update of existing Transboundary Conservation Action Plan for Bats in Prespa

Duration of the engagement: November 2024 – January 2025

Place of Assignment:

Prespa, North Macedonia

Number of days that should be reported by the expert allocated on delivering final outputs:

14

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

MES is involved in implementation of the project for the conservation of Prespa Region covering the wider cross-border Prespa area through common actions raised by PrespaNet partners¹. The project is financed through Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust Fund (PONT) grant scheme as well as Jensen Foundation.

Overarching project objective is to strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of Prespa, with a special focus on its protected areas, through collaborative endeavours, active engagement, information dissemination, and ecological restoration, fostering cooperation among transboundary stakeholders and authorities. MES engages in perpetual transboundary communication and collaboration, uniting international stakeholders and using PrespaNet's own success story as a guiding beacon. Leveraging its expertise in ecological education, MES aspires to create pathways for volunteers and

¹ PrespaNet platform was established in 2013 by the three organizations - Society for the protection of Prespa, the Macedonian Ecological Society and Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania

students to develop their capabilities within Prespa, thereby inspiring their continued contributions to the region and fostering collaborations with research organizations. Building upon past achievements, the specific project objectives encompass ecological restoration actions, engagement of local communities and stakeholders in habitat restoration, enhancement of ecological connectivity among protected areas, cultivation of enduring partnerships with protected area authorities, support for participatory monitoring and ecological education, advocacy and outreach on behalf of transboundary Prespa, and the identification and documentation of threats to Prespa's key values, all within the context of understanding and adapting to the climate crisis. Anticipated key results include expanded restored wetland habitats, a transformed local perspective on biodiversity, heightened awareness of local environmental issues, refined transboundary communication practices, bolstered climate resilience, fortified partnerships with local protected area managers, and the recognition of Prespa as a model of successful transboundary collaboration, a model that permeates the operational plans of all protected areas in Prespa.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPONENT

This action focuses on a review of the existing Transboundary Conservation Action Plan for Bats and Caves in Prespa Basin, developed back in 2012, and its update according the newest information on the status of bats and their habitats in transboundary Prespa.

PROJECT LOCATION - TARGET AREA FOR THE ACTIVITY

The activities in the frame of this component will be conducted in the area of Prespa.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The expert obliges to work under guideline of the Project Coordinator and in collaboration with MES, PPNEA and SPP responsible staff.

Aiming to reach the main objective of the bat conservation component within the PONT/Jensen Transboundary conservation project of Prespa region, the bat expert will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Review of the existing Transboundary Conservation Action Plan for Bats and Caves in Prespa Basin.
2. Collect and analyse recent available data on bats and their most important habitats in Prespa
3. Prepare updated Bat Action Plan for Prespa
4. Participate in working meetings and a workshop
5. Prepare a summary report of the finalized activities
6. Regular communication with the responsible expert from MES

DATES AND DETAILS AS TO HOW THE WORK MUST BE DELIVERED:

The duration of engagement is estimated up to 14 working days in the period 05 November 2024 – 31 January 2025.

A daily honorary remuneration for days worked will be provided, taking into account the level of work to be carried out and the budgetary resources allocated.

The expert will work from his/her own facilities.

One mission in Prespa is envisaged for presentation with key stakeholders. Travel costs are included in the daily fee.

DELIVERABLES

The specific tasks are addressed above in line with the following deliverables:

- **Deliverable # 1** – Updated Transboundary Bat Action Plan (in English language, **deadline January 2025**);
- **Deliverable # 2** – Summary report on finalized activities (in English language, **deadline January 2025**);
- **Deliverable # 3** - Participation in the presentation of the results and discussion for next steps.

QUALIFICATIONS

The selected candidates shall possess:

- The expert shall have excellent analytical and communication skills, and excellent knowledge of English
- Master degree in Biology, Ecology or any related disciplines
- Minimum 10 years of relevant experience in bat research and conservation
- Experience with at least one assignment related to work on preparing transboundary Action plans

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF BEST OFFER

The award of the contract shall be made to the expert whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) Being compliant/acceptable, and
- b) Having received the highest score based on the technical and financial criteria points (technical criteria = 60 points; financial criteria = 40 points).

Criteria	Maximum points 100
University degree in biology, ecology or any related disciplines MSc = 15 PhD = 20	20
Minimum 10 years of relevant experience in bat research and conservation 10 years = 15 points > 10 years = 20 points	20
1 assignments related to work on preparing Transboundary Action Plans 1 assignment = 15 points > 1 assignment = 20 points	20
Financial offer (the lowest price offer will receive max points)	40

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Interested experts are invited to submit the following documents to be considered:

1. **Offeror's letter;**
2. **Most updated CV** with focus on required qualification;
3. **Brief description** of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment,
4. **Financial Proposal** The financial proposal must be expressed in the form of a lumpsum all-inclusive cost, supported by breakdown of costs as per template provided in **EUR (€)** for this consultancy.

The financial proposal must consider various expenses that will be incurred during the contract, including the daily professional fee, travel, communications, any other expenses related to this assignment.

All documents should be submitted by **03rd of November 2024** to the following e-mail address: gjurgjevikj@mes.org.mk , stojanov@mes.org.mk