

Terms of Reference

for development of

Plan for revitalization of Dojran Lake shoreline using nature-based solutions, for improved protection against pollution from land

Project name:	Enhancing Dojran Lake Unique Biodiversity through Engagement of all Stakeholders and Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Approaches
Location:	Dojran Lake, Republic of North Macedonia
Description of the agreement:	Plan for revitalization of Dojran Lake shoreline
Period of duration of agreement/services:	4 months after signing the Agreement
Application Deadline:	27.08.2021

Introduction

Dojran Lake is one of the most important biodiversity spots in North Macedonia, which is also highly valued because of its natural beauty, hydro(bio)logical and geomorphological characteristics, and its importance to science. The lake hosts several endemic species and subspecies of fish as well as eleven endemic invertebrates and many protected bird species.

Dojran Lake has been also recognized internationally for its rich biodiversity and abundance of species, and thus has been proclaimed as an important area for the conservation of European species and habitats. To date, Dojran Lake has been included in many different international networks and initiatives for the conservation and protection of nature, such as: the Emerald network of areas of special conservation interest (2002; Bern Convention), North Macedonian important plant areas (2004), the Balkan Green Belt (2004; IUCN), Ramsar site – Wetlands of International Importance (2008; Ramsar Convention), Important Bird Area (2010; BirdLife International), candidate Natura 2000 site (EU Birds and Habitat directives). Since 1977 Dojran Lake has been protected with national law and holds a protected status of a Monument of Nature (Official Gazette of SRM N° 45/1977, Official Gazette of NM N° 51/2011).

Today, Dojran Lake's ecosystem and biodiversity are under big threat mainly from anthropogenic activities (enhanced by climate change) that cause pollution, eutrophication, habitat loss and fragmentation, species disturbance and loss, depletion of fish stocks and introduction of invasive species, deterioration of the water quality and excessive water fluctuations. The degradation of the lake ecosystem has started in the late 80's of 20th century when excessive quantities of water were abstracted, which put the whole lake system out of its natural balance. As a consequence of this ecological catastrophe as well as the continuous increasing anthropogenic pressures, today the lake is highly eutrophic and has completely lost its ecological resilience and the capacity for self-recovery.

The system will face irreversible and fatal damages to its biota unless conservation actions are undertaken and a proper sustainable management focusing on restoration and protection of the lake is established. Inaction will further have large negative consequences on the tourism, fisheries, and the regional economic situation as well as the livelihood of the local communities.

Location of the project

Dojran Lake is one of the three natural tectonic lakes in North Macedonia and is located in the southeastern part of the country (41°23' N 22°45' E). The lake occupies an area of 43.2 km² of which 27.2 km² belong to North Macedonia, while the smaller part lays within the territory of Greece. Dojran Lake is a shallow lake with the deepest point of 10 m found in the southeastern part. The lake is located in a topographic depression (148 m altitude) surrounded by the mountains Belasica in the north, Krusha in the southeast and Mehek in the west. The project activities will take place in the North Macedonian part of the Lake Dojran.



Figure 1. Location of Dojran Lake. Source www.google.com/maps

Background

Municipality of Dojran is the responsible authority for the management of the Monument of Nature Dojran Lake. However, so far neither conservation actions to save the lake have been undertaken nor a management plan has been developed, leaving this protected area under no active management. This is a result mainly of the lack of knowledge, managing capacities and financial means.

Expected results of the project

The Project focuses on achieving two main results: (1) Strengthening governance of the catchment management zone, and (2) Achieving sustainable management, conservation and restoration of the lake through implementation of ecosystem-based practices.

Within the project all relevant stakeholders, such as the local management authority, local community, landowners, and the lake concessioner will be engaged to develop the first Protected Area Management Plan with Action Plan for Dojran Lake. During this process the stakeholders will be informed of the most pressing issues that negatively impact the lake ecosystem and will receive intensive trainings on best Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) practices with the aim to ensure long-term sustainable provision of ecosystem services and improvement of the lake status and its biodiversity. To achieve continuous sustainable management of Dojran Lake, the project will focus on capacity strengthening of the responsible authority for planning, implementation, monitoring and review of management activities that influence the lake.

The project also encompasses conservation activities that aim to directly mitigate the anthropogenic impacts on the lake, to stabilize the shoreline, improve the water quality through biomanipulation by fish removal and restore the ecosystem balance through ecosystem-based approaches.

Specific Objectives of the Project

1. Strengthen capacities for sustainable lake management
2. Develop a lake management plan
3. Develop monitoring protocols and guidance for lake protection and sustainable management
4. Initiation of trans-boundary lake basin governance
5. Improvement of water quality of Dojran Lake through ecosystem approaches
6. Develop a plan for prevention of anthropogenic pollution of the lake water
7. Rehabilitation and stabilization of the lake shoreline
8. Education on sustainable agricultural practices

The project is funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. A fundamental goal of CEPF is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

Background information for the work engagement

Lake Dojran has been facing increasing pressure from anthropogenic pollution from land, which has led to poor quality of the lake water, high eutrophication, and threat to the lake biodiversity. The main sources of pollution include the discharge of insufficiently treated communal water from the Wastewater Treatment Plant, discharge of untreated nutrient-loaded water from the inlet that supplies additional water quantities to the lake, as well as from diffuse sources of pollution such as agriculture activities and untreated wastewater from septic tanks in parts of the urban areas and in the surrounding villages. At the same time the coastal area of Lake Dojran lacks any dedicated/managed buffer zone that could prevent or lessen the impact of pollution from these sources on land to the lake. The lake also faces a threat from siltation, due to erosion caused by unsustainable agriculture practices. In addition, climate changes in the last years has caused severe flooding of the lake, resulting in substantial damages of the shoreline and the coastal infrastructure.

Nature-based solutions represent actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. Nature-based solutions for coastal protection, pollution, and erosion prevention such as, green buffer zones, multifunctional coastal protection zones, wetlands, nature-based solutions for coastal stabilization etc. present measures that can cost-efficiently and effectively address these threats to the freshwater ecosystems.

Scope of work

- As part of this assignment, it is expected from the contractor to deliver:

Plan for revitalization of the entire Dojran Lake shoreline (North Macedonian part) using nature-based solutions, for improved protection of the lake from land pollution.

The objective of the work engagement is to enhance the shoreline protection of the lake against anthropogenic pollution from land, but also against harmful effects from erosion and floods, using nature-based solutions.

The work engagement should include the following tasks/responsibilities:

- A work plan to be submitted prior to the start of the work
- Field/terrain analyses on the condition of the entire lake shoreline (RNM part) and potential for its revitalization for protection of the lake
- Consultation of different stakeholders (e.g., local administration of Dojran Municipality, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, local citizens, and businesses) and official documents (strategic and development) regarding the current situation and future development plans of the coastal area of Dojran Lake
- Identification and proposition of suitable nature-based solutions for revitalization of the shoreline for the purpose of mitigation of pollution and erosion, and flood protection related issues.
- Organization of wide consultations with Dojran Lake stakeholders to present the proposed revitalization solutions

- Development of the Plan for revitalization of Dojran Lake shoreline for protection of the ecosystem Dojran Lake; the Plan should include at least the following chapters/information:
 - Executive summary
 - Background
 - Current situation (condition of the shoreline and threats to the lake ecosystem, potential for mitigation through revitalization of the shoreline)
 - Summary of nature-based solutions for restoration of aquatic ecosystems and flood protection
 - Conceptual design of proposed nature-based solutions for revitalization of the shoreline (Presentation of technology and analyses for implementation of solutions, dimensioning, operation, and maintenance)
 - Financial projections of implementation of the proposed solutions (investment, operation, and maintenance)

The project team will assist the contractor in establishing communication and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and organization of the field visits and meetings/presentations.

Methodology and Approaches

The scope of this task requires the use of wide variety of methods, tools, instruments, and techniques. The following approaches need to be strictly adhered to:

- The contractor shall work in a close interaction with the project team and shall report to the project coordinator.
- The Biodiversity/Ecology Trainer Contractor shall work in a close interaction with the Municipality of Dojran.

Working Schedule – Timeframe

The period of consultancy should be completed with the period of four (4) months i.e., September – December 2021, upon signing of the contract.

Deliverables	Total duration of activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for revitalization of Dojran Lake shoreline for improved protection against pollution from land, using nature-based solutions • Presentation of the Plan for revitalization of Dojran Lake shoreline for the local administration and stakeholders 	4 months

Required Documents for application:

- Document for company main activity
- Legal entity form
- Company portfolio and reference list or relevant similar projects (at least for the past 3 years)
- Quote/Financial offer
- CV and contact of the responsible person(s), who will lead the work

Evaluation criteria

All applications will be evaluate based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Points
Company portfolio	40 points max.
Financial offer	60 points max.
Total	100

How to apply

To apply, please send an e-mail with all requested documents along with the financial offer/quote to the e-mail address: info@mkm.mk using the subject line: **“Shoreline revitalization”**.

Deadline for submissions of documents is **27th August 2021 (Friday), 17.00 p.m.** We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the stated deadline date.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: info@mkm.mk or petra@mkm.mk

E-mails sent only during three (3) days upon the announcement of the vacancy will be replied to.