

THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR THE CAUCASUS

PUBLICATION REFERENCE NUMBER: 062/RECC/G/GIZ - 2023-EA-2.16-1

Contract Title: Procurement of Services for the Geological Survey of Tabatana Village, Akhmeta Municipality

Contract Type: Fee-based

Programme/Project Number: Biosphere Reserves as Model Regions for Sustainable Development – Capacity Development for Coordinated and Effective Management of the Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve in Georgia (Project ID: 81298302 / Project Symbol: 062/RECC/G/GIZ - 2023-EA)

Duty Station: Tbilisi, Georgia

Expected Start Date of Assignment: 26 February, 2025

Expected End Date of Assignment: May 12, 2025

Reports to: Sophiko Akhobadze

Executive Director of REC Caucasus

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Annex 1 – Project Area

Annex 2 - Technical proposal

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1. Background

UNESCO biosphere reserves (BRs) are model regions for sustainable development and serve as ideal instruments to support the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. As laboratories for sustainability in practice, BRs combine the protection of natural resources with social and economic development, thereby helping to secure the future of human society.

Three Alazani Rivers BR in Georgia, as one of the first BRs in the country, was designated by UNESCO in 2022. To build capacities of BR management body and to ensure effective and coordinated management, the project “Biosphere Reserves as model regions for sustainable development – capacity development for coordinated and effective management of the Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve in Georgia” was launched in 2023.

The project is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) within the project "Policy dialogue and knowledge management on climate protection strategies" - DIAPOL-CE.

Akhmeta Municipality is actively working to promote the sustainable development of Tbatana, a mountain settlement situated near the headwaters of the Alazani and Ilto rivers at an elevation of approximately 2,000 meters above sea level, within the Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve.

In collaboration with the Spatial and Urban Development Agency, Akhmeta Municipality is committed to developing an Urban Development Plan for the area, aligned with the Government of Georgia's initiative to extend the boundaries of the Tusheti Protected Landscape (TPL) to incorporate Tbatana as part of TPL.

The Urban Development Plan is crucial for ensuring balanced infrastructure development that preserves the region's unique natural and cultural heritage. It aims to harmonize environmental protection with the sustainable use of resources by local communities, support the growth of tourism services, and improve the socio-economic well-being of stakeholders. Additionally, the plan seeks to prevent uncontrolled or disorganized growth through the establishment of orderly construction practices.

The Spatial and Urban Development Agency has allocated resources as part of the state's co-financing component for the plan's development. However, additional studies are required to complete the plan, including **a Geological Survey of a 41-hectare area** in Tbatana village.

To facilitate this process, REC Caucasus will contract the tenderer under the project “*Biosphere Reserves as Model Regions for Sustainable Development – Capacity Development for Coordinated and Effective Management of the Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve in Georgia*,” implemented within the framework of DIAPOL-CE. This study is vital for aligning zoning and planning activities with the overarching conservation and sustainable development goals of the biosphere reserve.

2. General Objective of the Assignment

The tenderer is tasked to prepare a **Geological Survey** of the project area (41 hectares) in the village of Tbatana, Akhmeta municipality (for detailed information about the location, see **Annex 1**).

- The approximate project area is: 41 hectares.
- Cadastral code of the project area: 50.25.33.016

3. Scope of the Assignment

The contractor will be responsible for:

- Research, analysis, and generalization of historical (archival) materials
- Field geological studies (including description and field identification of natural outcrops/sections)
- Preparation of the final geological report
- Development of a geological hazard zoning map

The geological report should include:

- Physical-geographical characteristics of the study area, including climatic conditions
- Geological structure and tectonics
- Seismic conditions
- Hydrogeological conditions
- Engineering-geological (geotechnical) conditions
- Conclusions and recommendations

Graphical annex:

- Graphs, diagrams
- Photo illustrations
- Geological hazard zoning map

4. Duration

The engagement of the contractor will commence on the 26th of February 2025 and will be finalized on Friday, the 12th of May 2025, unless terminated earlier by either party in accordance with the terms outlined in the agreement.

5. Reporting Obligations: Deliverables, Reporting Schedule and Estimated Time Input

The contractor should deliver the following:

Deliverable 1. Research & Data Collection

- Historical (Archival) data compilation and summary report of reviewed materials;
- Fieldwork plan (including methodology and schedule).

Deliverable 2. Field geological studies and Geological Report Development

- Field geological studies (including description and field identification of natural outcrops/sections);
- Preparation of the final geological report.

Deliverable 3. Geological Hazard Zoning Map & Visual Deliverables

All documents are to be produced in Georgian.

In case of discovering hidden defects in the submitted topographic map, the Contractor is obligated to immediately correct the error and provide the Client with a corrected version of the ortho-photo and topographic map.

Table 1. Reporting Obligations

Report Index	N	Documents to be Presented Until
R1	Deliverable 1	12 March, 2025
R2	Deliverable 2	30 April, 2025
R2	Deliverable 3	12 May, 2025

6. Requirements to the Tenderer

The Tenderer shall demonstrate the necessary technical expertise and experience to carry out the required scope of work:

- The Tenderer shall have completed at least two similar projects and should provide references of the projects.
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in relevant fields
- A proven track record of successfully completed projects of similar nature, size, and complexity (provide references Annex 2);
- Availability of qualified personnel with appropriate skills and expertise (submit CVs of key experts).

7. Payment Schedule

The payment mode for the service will be applied based on Service Delivery Acceptance Acts signed by both sides (RECC and the Contractor) and submitted by the Contractor of original invoices to the RECC. RECC will only make milestone payments based on the achievement of specific deliverables as specified in the time schedule for submission of deliverables as per Table 1 (Reporting Obligations). The schedule of payments is specified below:

Table 2. Schedule of Payments

Report Index for Deliverables	% of total contract ceiling for the Services (total Value of the Service)
R1 – R2	50%
R3	50%
Sub-Total	100%

Payment will be affected following the performance of services, submission of deliverables, and acceptance of services performed.

8. Costing Requirements

- The offer shall be submitted in Georgian.
- Bids must be submitted in GEL, bids in other currencies will not be accepted.
- Please consider that the offered price should not include VAT, and this should be indicated in the offer.
- Please submit the financial proposal according to **Annex 3**.

9. Award Criteria

Evaluation will follow quality/price-based selection (80/20):

Table 3. Evaluation Grid

Criteria	Maximum Points
Organization and Methodology	40%
Experience	30%
Work plan and timetable	10%
Cost effectiveness	20%
Total	100%

10. Requirements on the Format of the Bid

This bid is for individual consultants or companies. Please submit your proposal (Technical and Financial proposal) in separate files to natia.tskhovrebadze@rec-caucasus.org no later than Monday, **19 February 2025**. Offers submitted after the submission deadline will not be considered.

The structure of the bid (technical proposal) must correspond to the structure of the Terms of Reference (ToRs). The complete bid shall not exceed 10 pages.

Please do not mention any price in your technical proposal. The specifications for pricing are defined in the price schedule (**Annex 3**). The price proposal shall be submitted in GEL, excluding VAT.

11. Documents to Submit

- Technical Proposal (According to the Annex 2);
- A letter of completion/reference from the client

- Financial Proposal (According to the Annex 3);
- Client reference (According to the Annex 2);
- Organization profile/CVs demonstrating similar topographic project experience.

12. Reporting

The service provider shall report directly to the Executive Director of REC Caucasus. Consultant shall provide regular updates on the progress of assigned tasks and projects to the National Coordinator of the project “Biosphere Reserves as Model Regions for Sustainable Development – Capacity Development for Coordinated and Effective Management of the Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve in Georgia”.

Coordination of all activities and deliverables with the Working Group for the Tbatana Urban Development Plan, as well as with the LEPL Spatial and Urban Development Agency of Georgia, is mandatory to ensure alignment with project objectives and regulatory requirements.