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# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## Partner country

## Republic of Bulgaria

## Contracting authority

The Municipality of Bobov Dol

## Country background

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 130,000 km² of the world's forests are lost to deforestation every year. Changing the use of forest areas, unsustainable timber harvesting, poor management practices, the construction of human settlements and associated infrastructure are the most common causes of forest loss. According to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), there are over 1 billion hectares of destroyed or degraded forest areas worldwide that could be restored.

According to the World Bank, deforestation accounts for 20% of greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to global climate change. The FAO estimates that more than one trillion tonnes of carbon is stored in forests and forest soils - an amount twice the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. This is one of the main reasons forests play a key role in maintaining a stable global climate and combating climate change.

On a local level, Bulgaria falls in one of the regions with increased warming trends, as well as with increasing frequency of extreme weather and climate events. Global warming, temperature extremes and prolonged periods of drought create a risk of high fire activity in forests. The last few years, characterized by unusually dry and warm days in the autumn period, have been a contributory factor to the uncharacteristic peak of forest fires in November and December.

The Municipality of Bobov Dol, in its role as a local government body, is responsible for management of issues on local level, including the development of the territory of the municipality and the settlements in it; maintenance and preservation of cultural, historical and architectural monuments; protection against disasters and the protection of the environment and the rational use of natural resources. Thus, the Municipality is the main responsible administrative body for addressing the problems of deforestation and the need of sustainable interventions for the preservation of the local ecosystems.

## Current situation in the sector

As a result of human activity, climate change and natural processes, the habitats all over the Balkans are gradually changing, endangering the ecosystem balance in the long run - the natural forests are retreating, giving way to low-stem vegetation which suffocates young plantation. The resulting contamination and flooding are a threat for the entire ecosystem changing the characteristics of the biosphere. Immediate action is required to clean the habitats of harmful vegetation and waste, and restrain visitors from interventions.

As such an action, Municipality of Bobov Dol is currently implementing project No CB007.2.32.199 "Embrace Nature”, financed by the European Union through the Interreg – IPA CBC Bulgaria – Serbia Programme 2014-2020. The activities within the present ToR, presented below, are part of this project.

## Related programmes and other donor activities

The project contributes to a number of EU and other strategies and policy documents, as follows:

* The Europe 2020;
* The European Strategy for the Danube Region – Pillar “B”, PA5 “To manage environmental risks” and PA6:"To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils”;
* EU Country Strategy Paper (2014-2020) for Republic of Serbia
* Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy of Bulgaria: Priority IV, main activity 1 “Effective management of the natural resources and development of social-economical practices”;
* National Program for Environmental Protection and Forestry Development Strategy for Serbia,
* Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 for Kyustendil Region: Priority V. “Protection of the environment. Environmentally sound management of natural resources;
* The European strategy for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth “Europe 2020” in the Serbian – Bulgarian cross – border region following the relevant national strategic documents.
* Project also supports the implementation of a number of strategic documents in the cross border region, like EU Cohesion Policy 2014 -2020.
* EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

# OBJECTIVE, PURPOSE & EXPECTED RESULTS

## Overall objective

The overall objective of the project of which this contract will be a part is aimed at the performance of interventions for preservation and restoration of ecosystems on the territory of Bobov Dol Municipality – the BG0000298 Konyavska Planina Natura 2000 protected areas and Fuchko Raske area. To restore the ecosystems, as part of the project, interventions are envisaged on an area of 55 decares in the "Fuchko raske", "Martvako" and "Drenov dol" areas. The areas will be cleaned from logs and wood and prepared for afforestation. The areas will be afforested with typical for the habitat species. Forest roads of 4km will be cleaned and levelled to provide access to the designated areas.

## Purpose

The purpose of this contract is to provide the Contracting Authority with the necessary expertise for the performance of the required interventions for restorations of ecosystems which will be performed in 3 areas within the Bobov Dol Municipality - "Fuchko raske", "Martvako" and "Drenov dol".

## Results to be achieved by the contractor

The result of the services, provided by the contractor are as follows:

# Improvement of the general condition of the forests in the 3 areas within the Bobov Dol Municipality - "Fuchko raske", "Martvako" and "Drenov dol", provision of safe access to the means of transport and provision of fire protection to both the municipality’s property plantations and to the other wooded vegetation properties.

# Improvement of the conditions of the habitats of the different animal species, plant species, ingenious to the protected areas, falling into the area.

# ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS

## Assumptions underlying the project

The implementation of the current contract will support the Contracting Authority in the process of implementation of the project “Embrace Nature”, financed under INTERREG-IPA CBC Bulgaria-Serbia Programme, and will assure compliance with the EU regulations. The following assumptions can be made in order to reduce the risks related to delay or non-realization of the activities, subject to this Terms of Reference:

* Clear understanding of the contract purpose and tasks on behalf of the Contractor;
* Full cooperation between the Contracting Authority and the Contractor in view to fulfil the tasks on time, with high quality and within the budget limitation;
* The contractor has the required expertise in the activities of planning, organization and performance of afforestation activities;
* Timely reimbursement of funds under the INTERREG - IPA CBC Bulgaria - Serbia Programme.

## Risks

Potential risks to the successful implementation of the contract include:

* Lack of communication and logistical coordination between the Contractor and the Contracting Authority. In order to avoid this risk, the Contractor should show initiative and maintain continuous contact with the relevant representatives of the Contracting Authority;
* Insufficient quality of the services provided by the Contractor experts. In order to avoid this risk, the Contractor should use the most reliable and experienced staff/service providers on its disposal;
* Unfavorable weather conditions that have the potential to cause a substantial delay in the afforestation activities – the contractor shall take the required preventive actions in order to coordinate and fulfill the seasonal activities within the necessary timeframe or reschedule them if possible.

# SCOPE OF THE WORK

## General

### Description of the assignment

The current contract will support the Contracting Authority in the process of implementation of the project “Embrace Nature”, financed under INTERREG-IPA CBC Bulgaria-Serbia Programme, providing professional services related to the performance of interventions for restorations of ecosystems in 3 areas within the Bobov Dol Municipality - "Fuchko raske", "Martvako" and "Drenov dol", in accordance with the technical plans for interventions, included in the present tender documentation.

All actions in Natura 2000 protected areas ("Martvako" and "Drenov dol") will be carried out in accordance with the prescriptions for interventions in protected areas, thus the contractor should have the required knowledge for operation in the protected sites.

### Geographical area to be covered

The services shall be performed in the following areas from Bobov Dol Municipality:

1. property № 000068 in the land of Kokrina village in "Fuchko raske" area;
2. property № 000217 in the land of Golema Fucha village in “Martvako” area;
3. property № 026001 in the land of Babino village in “Drenov dol” area.

The maps and borders of the areas are provided in the technical documents in the tender dossier.

### Target groups

* Residents of Bobov Dol Municipality;
* Visitors to the protected areas;
* Organizations and NGO-a, whose main focus is the environment preservation and climate change prevention.

## Specific work

The tasks, areas and existing conditions, applicable to the scope of work, are presented in the Technological plans for afforestation of land in forest areas and agricultural land owned by the Municipality of Bobov Dol, approved by the Director of the Regional Directorate of Forestry-Kyustendil, namely:

1. Technological plan for afforestation № 1 / 19.07.2021 – for the village of Babino EKATTE 02049.26.1, “Drenov dol” area;
2. Technological plan for afforestation № 2 / 19.07.2021 – for village of Golema Fucha EKATTE 15446.0.217, “Martvako” area;
3. Excerpt from map material of Territorial division of State Forestry Dupnitsa, LUP 2017 with marked boundaries of property 38635.0.68, village of Korkina and route of forest road for alignment.

The above documents are presented as part of the tender dossier.

Based on the above documents, the **overall scope of the work with the necessary activities for implementation of the current contract, incl. distributed among the included villages,** are summarized in the following Quantitative Bill, containing the main outputs to be expected from the contract:

***Table 1. Overall scope of work under the contract***

|  |  |  | **Number of units** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **№** | **Activity – field work** | **Unit** | **Total** | **Kokrina village** | **Golema Fucha village** | **Babino village** |
| 1.1 | Cleaning the areas from bushes and wood waste | Machine shift | **3** | - | 2 | 1 |
| 1.2 | Manual cleaning of the area and collection | dka | **6** | - | 5 | 1 |
| 1.3 | Eradication of pinus sylvestris stumps with a diameter over 30 cm. | Machine shift | **8** | - | 7 | 1 |
| 1.4 | Manual crushing of stumps | dka | **15** | - | 15 | - |
| 1.5 | Pruning overhanging branches over forest roads | Machine shift | **2** | - | 2 | - |
| 1.6 | Manual pruning of overhanging branches | Number of branches | **556** | - | 556 | - |
| 1.7 | Soil preparation - making terraces and making holes 30/50/35 on the area | dka | **55** | - | 54 | 1 |
| 1.8 | Buying saplings | Number of saplings | **34 375** | - | 33 750 | 625 |
| 1.9 | Manual planting of saplings | 100 pcs of saplings | **343.75** | - | 337.50 | 6.25 |
| 1.10 | Crop cultivation - hand weeding and digging the soil. | 100 lm | **550** | - | 540 | 10 |
| 1.11 | Alignment of the area | Machine shift | **3** | - | 3 | - |
| 1.12 | Alignment of forest roads | Machine shift | **4** | 1 | 2 | 1 |

The above activities are distributed and expected to be performed in each property, included in the contract, as follows:

1. **Activities to be carried out in property № 000068 in the land of Korkina village**

The property has acquired the characteristics of a forest. The whole area is a coniferous plantation with a predominant share of 40-year-old white pine, which for the most part is damaged by biotic factors, the trees are standing. In order to carry out afforestation measures in this property, the area must be cleaned of damaged trees by conducting sanitary felling, ie. management of the property under the Forest Act. For this purpose, it is necessary to perform actions under Art. 83, art. 84 and § 49 of the Forest Act. Due to the above, the intervention that will be carried out in the property is "alignment of forest roads" in order to prevent forest fires and provide access to land owned by the Municipality of Bobov Dol. This activity is not related to afforestation and therefore the preparation of a Technological Plan for afforestation is not necessary.

On the map material from the forestry map of Territorial division of State Forestry Dupnitsa, the route of the existing roads in need of cleaning is marked.

The planned activities for intervention in property № 000068 on the land of the village of Korkina are the following:

***Table 2. Scope of work in Korkina village***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **№** | **Activity** | **Unit** | **Number of units** |
| 1.12 | Alignment of forest roads | Machine shift | 1 |

1. **Activities to be carried out in property № 000217 in the land of Golema Fucha village in “Martvako” area**

The property is located on the land of the village of Golema Fucha with a way of permanent use "Pasture with bushes" and falls within the scope of the National Ecological Network Natura-2000, 33 "Konyavska Mountain", code BG 0000298. Part of the property / 8 decares / is inventoried as afforested area and located in section 407 subdivisions "c", "d", "e" with prepared tax descriptions.

The property has not been used as agricultural for decades, as a result of which there are shrubs with very high density (height varies from 0.5 m to 2.5 m) and groups of trees of visible age 40-50 years. Also in the middle there are swamps and a natural micro-reservoir. In determining the areas provided for intervention and afforestation activities, relatively cleaner areas than trees and shrubs have been selected, their location is shown in the sketch, provided as part of the technical documentation.

An integral part of this documentation is the developed Technological Plan (TP) for afforestation №2 / 19.07.2021 - Golema Fucha EKATTE 15446.0.217, prepared by a licensed forester and approved by the director of Regional Forestry Directorate - Kyustendil.

The planned activities for intervention in property № 000217 on the land of the village of Golema Fucha in the area "Martvako" are the following:

***Table 3. Scope of work in Golema Fucha village***

| **№** | **Activity – field work** | **Unit** | **Number of units** | **Explanation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.1 | Cleaning the areas from bushes and wood waste | Machine shift | 2 | According to TP №2 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 1.2 |
| 1.2 | Manual cleaning of the area and collection | dka | 5 | According to TP №2 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 1.2 |
| 1.3 | Eradication of pinus sylvestris stumps with a diameter over 30 cm. | Machine shift | 7 | According to TP №2 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 1.3 |
| 1.4 | Manual crushing of stumps | dka | 15 | According to TP №2 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 1.4 |
| 1.5 | Pruning overhanging branches over forest roads | Machine shift | 2 |  |
| 1.6 | Manual pruning of overhanging branches | Number of branches | 556 |  |
| 1.7 | Soil preparation - making terraces and making holes 30/50/35 on the area | dka | 54 | According to TP №2 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 2.1 Making hand terraces and pos.2.2 Making holes |
| 1.8 | Buying saplings | Number of saplings | 33 750 | According to TP №2 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 4.1 Winter oak saplings |
| 1.9 | Manual planting of saplings | 100 pcs of saplings | 337.50 | According to TP №2 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 3.1 Temporary storage of seedlings, pos. 3.2 Marking of seats and pos.3.3 Manual planting of broad-leaved winter oak saplings1 / 0 |
| 1.10 | Crop cultivation - hand weeding and digging the soil. | 100 lm | 540 | According to TP №2 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, item 5.1 First cultivation of 1 year hoeing - 270/100 m and Second cultivation of 1 year hoeing - 270/100 m.  Note: The third cultivation of 1-year-olds is carried out in the months of September - October 2022, ie. after the completion of the project activities and the financing from the programme. |
| 1.11 | Alignment of the area | Machine shift | 3 |  |
| 1.12 | Alignment of forest roads | Machine shift | 2 |  |

1. **Activities to be carried out in property № 026001 in the land of Babino village in “Drenov dol”**

The land property is in the land of the village of Babino with an area of ​​31,611 decares with a way of permanent use "Pasture land" and falls within the scope of the National Ecological Network Natura-2000, 33 "Konyavska Mountain", code BG 0000298.

For the most part, the property is inventoried as a forested area and is located in department 407, subdivisions "c", "e", "l" and prepared tax assessment characteristics of the property / as indicated in the sketch, provided as part of the technical documentation /, which are not included in the inventoried areas. The area provided for afforestation activities has not been used for agriculture for decades, which has led to the emergence of shrubs and trees. Lying dead white pine trees of visible age of about 40 years and shrubs of unwanted tree species available.

The planned activities for intervention in property № 026001 in the land of the village of Babino in the area of ​​Drenov dol, according to Technological Plan (TP) for afforestation № 1 / 19.07.2021, are the following:

***Table 4. Scope of work in Babino village***

| **№** | **Activity – field work** | **Unit** | **Number of units** | **Explanation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.1 | Cleaning the areas from bushes and wood waste | Machine shift | 1 | According to TP № 1/ 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos.1. |
| 1.2 | Manual cleaning of the area and collection | dka | 1 | According to TP №1 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 1.2 |
| 1.3 | Eradication of pinus sylvestris stumps with a diameter over 30 cm. | Machine shift | 1 | According to TP №1 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, item 1.3 |
| 1.7 | Soil preparation - making terraces and making holes 30/50/35 on the area | dka | 1 | According to TP №1 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 2.1 Making hand terraces and pos.2.2 Making holes |
| 1.8 | Buying saplings | Number of saplings | 625 | According to TP №1 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 4.1 Winter oak saplings |
| 1.9 | Manual planting of saplings | 100 pcs of saplings | 6.25 | According to TP №1 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, pos. 3.1 Temporary storage of seedlings, pos. 3.2 Marking of seats and pos.3.3 Manual planting of broad-leaved winter oak saplings1 / 0 |
| 1.10 | Crop cultivation - hand weeding and digging the soil. | 100 lm | 10 | According to TP №1 / 19.07.2021, section D. Quantitative account, item 5.1 First cultivation of 1 year hoeing - 5/100 m and Second cultivation of 1 year hoeing - 5/100 m.  Note: The third cultivation of 1-year-olds is carried out in the months of September - October 2022, ie. after the completion of the project activities and the financing from the program. |
| 1.12 | Alignment of forest roads | Machine shift | 1 |  |

## Project management

### Responsible body

The member of the team of the Contracting authority, responsible for the overall management and coordination of the project shall be Detelina Borisova - project manager.

### Management structure

The Contracting Authority is responsible to launch the service tender procedure, sign the service contract, accept the work of the Contractor, authorize payments to the Contractor and handle the financial management and control during project implementation.

The day-to-day operational work on implementation of the contract will be also performed by experts in the team of the Contracting Authority, in particular forester with a contract with the municipality of Bobov dol and ecologist of the municipality of Bobov dol.

### Facilities to be provided by the contracting authority and/or other parties

The Contracting authority shall provide the Contractor with additional information, if necessary, for the contract implementation and shall ensure the necessary coordination with the relevant project stakeholders, where applicable.

The control of the afforested territories of Bobov Dol municipality will be ensured both by systematic interference of the plantations and by periodic air control.

# LOGISTICS AND TIMING

## Location

The work place of the contractor is not related to the cross-border area. The areas for the properties to be subject to the intervention are described in the technological plan for interventions, provided with the tender dossier.

## Start date & period of implementation of tasks

The envisaged starting date is from the date of concluding the contract and the period of performance of the contract is not later than 25.08.2022.

# REQUIREMENTS

## Staff

Note that civil servants and other staff of the public administration of the partner country, or of international/regional organisations based in the country, shall only be approved to work as experts if well justified. The justification should be submitted with the tender and shall include information on the added value the expert will bring as well as proof that the expert is seconded or on personal leave.

### Key experts

Key experts are not required.

### Other experts, support staff & backstopping

CVs for experts other than the key experts may not be submitted in the tender but the tenderer will have to demonstrate in their offer that they have access to experts with the required profiles.

The contractor shall select and hire other experts as required according to the needs. The selection procedures used by the contractor to select these other experts shall be transparent, and shall be based on pre-defined criteria, including professional qualifications, language skills and work experience.

The costs for backstopping and support staff, as needed, are considered to be included in the tenderer's financial offer.

## Office accommodation

Office accommodation for each expert working on the contract is to be provided by the contractor.

## Facilities to be provided by the contractor

The contractor shall ensure that experts are adequately supported and equipped. In particular, it must ensure that there is sufficient administrative, secretarial and interpreting provision to enable experts to concentrate on their primary responsibilities. It must also transfer funds as necessary to support their work under the contract and to ensure that its employees are paid regularly and in a timely fashion.

## Equipment

**No** equipment is to be purchased on behalf of the contracting authority / partner country as part of this service contract or transferred to the contracting authority / partner country at the end of this contract. Any equipment related to this contract which is to be acquired by the partner country must be purchased by means of a separate supply tender procedure.

# REPORTS

## Reporting requirements

The contractor will submit the following reports in English and Bulgarian language in one original:

* **Final report**, comprising profound information on the performed activities on each territory, incl. photos during performance of the activities, etc.

## Submission and approval of reports

The report referred to above must be submitted to the project manager identified in the contract. The project manager is responsible for approving the reports.

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

## Definition of indicators

The quality indicator for the successful implementation of the contract is the provided services, as required in this Terms of Reference, incl. realized interventions for protection and restoration of ecosystems on the territory of Bobov Dol Municipality in accordance with the ecological norms and provisions of the following documents:

1. Technological plan for afforestation № 1 / 19.07.2021 – for the village of Babino EKATTE 02049.26.1, “Drenov dol” area;
2. Technological plan for afforestation № 2 / 19.07.2021 – for village of Golema Fucha EKATTE 15446.0.217, “Martvako” area;
3. Excerpt from map material of Territorial division of State Forestry Dupnitsa, LUP 2017 with marked boundaries of property 38635.0.68, village of Korkina and route of forest road for alignment.

The main indicators for the successful execution of the present contract are the following, in line with Table 1. Overall scope of work under the contract:

* Cleaned area of 55 decares;
* Afforested area of 55 decares with a total of 34 375 saplings.

## Special requirements

In case of deterioration of the situation with the Covid-19, or other unexpected conditions out of the control of both the contracting authority and the contractor, the contract will be performed in accordance with Art. 38 Force majeure of the General conditions of the contract (Annex I).