Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting

I.   Background

This project has been designed to strengthen capacity for environmental monitoring and information management in Albania by establishing an operational environmental information management and monitoring system (EIMS). The project will address the need for an environmental monitoring system that is integrated throughout relevant government institutions and that uses international monitoring standards for indicator development, data collection, analysis, and policymaking. It will also build on existing technical and institutional capacity in Albania to align its management and monitoring efforts with global monitoring and reporting priorities. Increased capacity in this area will improve reporting to the Rio Conventions and lay the groundwork for sustainable development through better-informed environmental policy.

In particular, the project aims at:

- Development of the EIMS to enable integration of global environment commitments into planning and monitoring processes.
- Development and application of uniform indicators encompassing UNFCCC, CBD and CCD concerns and global environmental threats.
- Stakeholder's capacity for information management (collection processing) of key global environment data and utilization (interpretation and reporting) is enhanced at national and local level.

UNDP Albania initiated the first hackathon on environmental governance innovation in Tirana through a hackathon that explored innovative solutions to improving Albania's environmental governance capacity.

By working together with a growing civic-minded technology in Albania, the hackathon showed new and collaborative ways of working between the public, private and civic sector to make the most of new digital technology opportunities, and strengthen the capacity of Albanian government and agencies to promote sustainable development and counter the risks of climate change and environmental degradation.

Evidently, environmental governance is complex and multilayered, and cannot be resolved by singular interventions. However, the findings and results of the Hackathon indicate opportunities for innovation and will be used to outline a series of possible policy initiatives that could advance digital transformation in Albania's public sector and collaborative ways of working with citizens and NGOs.

II.   Purpose of the grant and duration

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The purpose of this call for grants is to support interested CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) to contribute in improving capacities through innovative solutions to:

1: Identify social opportunities to enhance data-informed policy-making (e.g. hunting quotas, protected areas management, sustainable development goals, Agenda 2030 etc.).
2: Identify opportunities to use project-related data from www.eimms.al to enhance reporting on the Rio Conventions (e.g. the Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC, the Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and/or the National CCD Report).
3. Mitigating environment monitoring and reporting during global pandemics, or nature related disasters.
4. Opportunities for innovation at local level related to environmental indicators monitoring and reporting considering the following:

- **Automating the bureaucracy:** Automating assessment and compliance: Tech enabled tools that help streamline public sector workflows and unlock human potential.
- **Making the invisible visible:** Arts, scientific, mapping and technological experiments that 'make visible the invisible' of environmental risk and damage, in order to create better feedback mechanisms around environmental governance issues and drive wider societal legitimacy of change.
- **Reframing the debate:** Cultural and governance experiments that enable us to connect environmental protection and policies to other strategic policy priorities.
- **Building capacity of change-makers:** Experiments that unlock civic capacity to complement government in driving change, with government providing enabling conditions (e.g. technologies, data, regulatory regime.)

5. "Citizen Science" that could support data collection and advocacy related to global environmental issues.
6. Adapting technology to provide environmental solutions during pandemics.
7. Other topics in line with the project's aim as described in the I. Background section.

The project will be implemented for the period: September 2020– December 2020. The proposal shall include an alternate method of virtual stakeholders meeting amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

III. Eligibility and Qualification Criteria

Interested CSOs must meet the following criteria to be eligible for selection, and submit them with the application:

1. Be legally registered as a CSO in accordance with the Albanian legislation;

2. Be fully operational in the target selected area;

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3. Mandate and founding document should be in line with the activities for which the fund is being sought;

4. Have an established office and experience in similar/related activities.

5. Have previous experience in working with local community and other stakeholder groups.

IV. Proposal

a. Proposed Methodology, Approach, Quality Assurance Plan and Implementation Plan

This methodology must be laid out in an implementation timetable and a quality assurance framework including baselines and quantitative and qualitative indicators.

b. Management Structure and Resources (Key Personnel)

Another component of the proposal should be a comprehensive description of the management structure and information regarding required resources including curriculum vitae (CVs) of key personnel that will be assigned to support the implementation of the project, clearly defining the roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the proposed methodology.

V. Budget size and duration

1. Proposal amounts should not exceed USD 15,000 equivalent in ALL as per the United Nations Rate of Exchange UNROE.

2. At least one grant will be awarded to one CSO and the geographical coverage will be observed in grant distribution.

3. The amount requested in the proposal should commensurate the organization's administrative and financial management capabilities.

 4. Duration of the project shall be from September 2020 to December 2020.

A detailed **mandatory** proposal template is annexed to this Request for Grant as Annex A.

VI. Submission Process

Applications (grant proposals) in the **mandatory form** of the template attached (Annex A) must be submitted by CSOs to the UNDP Office in Tirana (registry.al@undp.org) no later than 31 of August 2020 in English.

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ANNEX A

Low Value Grant Proposal

Date: _____

Project Title: _____

Name of the INSTITUTION: _____

Total Amount of the Grant (in USD and in ALL): _____

UNDP RATE OF EXCHANGE FOR July 2020: 108.49 ALL

PURPOSE OF THE GRANT

- *Indicate the purpose of the grant and describe the result(s) the grant is expected to achieve.*

- *Explain why the grantee is uniquely suited to deliver on the objectives*

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND WORK PLAN

- *Describe the activities that will be completed to achieve the objectives*

- *Elaborate if there are any targeted group(s)/ geographical area who will benefit from the grant, other than the Recipient Institution. If so, who are the targeted groups/geographical area and how will any potential beneficiaries be selected?*

WORK PLAN

PLANNED ACTIVITIES[1]	Timeline[2]	

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	T1	T2	T3	T4	*Planned Budget for the Activity (in grant currency)[3]*
1.1 Activity					*ALL*
1.2 Activity					*ALL*
1.3 Activity					*ALL*
Total					*ALL*

1   State what activities will be completed with the grant Funds. Use as many activity lines as necessary

2   Define the time periods relevant for the grant and indicate when specific activities are expected to be completed. Typically, time periods relate to when the tranches of Funds are released.

3   Indicate the budget amounts in the grant currency.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

State the indicators for measuring results that will be achieved using the grant. At least one indicator is required. More can be used if useful to more fully measure the results that are expected to be achieved:

INDICATOR(S)	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE	MILESTONES			
			Period 1	*Period 2*	*Period …*	*FINAL TARGET*
1.1						
1.2						

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RISK ANALYSIS:

Indicate relevant risks to achieving the grant objectives and mitigation measures that will be taken. Risks include security, financial, operational, social and environmental or other risks.

Risk	Risk rating* (High/Medium/ Low)	Mitigation measures

*The risk rating is based on a reflection of the likelihood of the risk materializing and the consequence it will have if it does occur.

GRANT BUDGET OF RECIPIENT INSTITUTION: *(in ALL and USD with the official UN Rate of Exchange)*

PERIOD COVERING FROM_____ TO_____

General Category of Expenditures	Tranche 1	Tranche 2	Tranche 3	Total
Personnel				
Transportation				
Premises				
Training/Seminar/ Workshops, etc.				
Contracts (e.g., Audit)				

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Equipment/Furniture (Specify)				
Other [Specify]				
Miscellaneous				
Total				

*   *Please note that all budget Lines are for costs related only to grant Activities.*

**   *These budget categories and number of tranches are suggested guidelines. The Recipient may choose alternates which more accurately reflect their expense items and needs.*