



Integrated Cities and Urban Development Project (ICUD) Request for Expressions of Interest Consulting Services – International Consulting Firms

Country: Palestine

Assignment Title: Developing a Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Economy Development Plan for the Bethlehem Urban Area

Reference: GZ-MDLF-153610-CS-QCBS

The Palestine Liberation Organization, for the benefit of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has sought grant financing from the World Bank for the Integrated Cities and Urban Development Project (ICUD), which aims to assist participating urban areas to enhance their capacity to plan for sustainable urban growth. The project is supporting the urban planning of five leading Palestinian urban areas including Ramallah-Al-Bireh, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, and Gaza City through their intra-urban area coordination mechanisms. The project intends to respond to the needs of growing population and private sector for more sustainably and efficiently planned urban spaces and infrastructure. ICUD is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), which is responsible for technical oversight of the project, and the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF), which manages the fiduciary, safeguards, and reporting aspects of the project. The MDLF intends to engage the services of Consultants to conduct the assignment titled “**Developing a Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Economy Development Plan for the Bethlehem Urban Area**”.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be viewed at the website: www.MDLF.org.ps/TOR.

The MDLF, as the delegated procurement, financial management, safeguard, and reporting agency of ICUD, intends to use part of the ICUD Grant from the World Bank (WB) fund to hire a consulting firm to conduct the assignment titled “**Developing a Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Economy Development Plan for the Bethlehem Urban Area**”.

Objective of this assignment

The primary objective of the study is to formulate a Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Economy Development Plan (STDP) for the Bethlehem Urban Area.

The STDP is intended to provide guidance, strategies, and a set of deliverable projects, programs, and activities to the municipalities and villages within the Bethlehem Urban Area, enhancing the area’s position as a globally-competitive and economically-productive tourism and visitor destination, while preserving and enhancing cultural and heritage assets, and promoting environmental sustainability. The plan will also provide certainty and clarity to private sector investors, building investor confidence and promoting direct investment in the visitor economy and the wider urban area.



Scope of Work:

The Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Economy Development Plan should be structured so as to include the following main components: (a) background and context; (b) sectoral and urban analysis; (c) opportunities and constraints; (d) vision and strategic objectives (including high-level options assessment and sustainability appraisal); (e) proposed projects, programs and activities; and (f) implementation and delivery plan.

The Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) invites eligible qualified consulting firms to submit their expression of interests providing information indicating their qualifications, experience and appropriate skills to perform the services.

Considering the assignments objective and scope of work outlined above, the Consulting firm is expected to have strong experience in tourism development, public policy, urban planning, local economic development, sustainability and related fields.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consulting firms shall be selected through comparison of qualifications of those who have expressed interest in this assignment. The shortlisting criteria are: (i) conveying the understanding of the assignment's purpose, objectives, and development context; (ii) description of previous similar assignments; (iii) experience in similar contexts and conditions; (iv) availability of appropriate skills among staff, and (v) association with local Palestinian partner(s) or experts.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Selection based on Quality-Cost Based Selection (QCBS)**. Method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Consulting firms may obtain further information at the email address: azayed@mdlf.org.ps

Expressions of interests must be submitted in electronic format (PDF) to the e-mail address:

Tourism.ICUD@mdlf.org.ps, by **15:00 (Jerusalem time), 20 August 2020**.