

Terms of Reference

Energy policy assessment of the South Caucasus Countries towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, requirements of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement

Background

South Caucasus countries Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are part of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the Eastern Partnership Initiative. In 2014 Georgia has signed the Association Agreement (AA) with EU and in 2016 became the full member of the European Energy Treaty party and member of the European Energy Community lately in 2016. Georgia commits to transpose quite large European acquis in Georgian legislation, including environmental governance and horizontal issues, public access to environmental information and participation, implement multilateral environmental conventions (MEA), as well as development of a competitive energy market, promote energy efficiency and renewable.

Armenia in 2017 signed the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the EU and European Atomic Energy Community, have almost the same commitment in an area, while additionally commit to cooperation in sector of nuclear safety. According to CEPA the government should ensure the „promotion of the integration of the environment into other policy areas“ specifically, ensure „the promotion of green economy measures and eco-innovation“, implement the multilateral environmental agreements, specifically UNFCCC Convention (1992) and Paris Agreement (2015). The CEPA with EU requires from Armenia, to develop the roadmap for decommissioning of the nuclear power plant, as well as addressing waste disposal, cooling water and other urgent issues. The agreement with EU aims to ensure regulatory harmonization in the areas of the energy sector taking into account the need to access to secure, environmentally friendly and affordable energy.

Azerbaijan has ongoing negotiations with EU for new partnership agreement. According to EC Joint Staff working document (December 2017), the areas of the respect for human rights and fundamental freedom, significant challenges remain, „including on freedom of expression and association and on an enabling environment and legislation for civil society to operate“. Azerbaijan ratifies Paris agreement on Climate change, as well as prepared the draft law on Ecological Assessment, including provisions on Strategic Environmental Assessment has been prepared and its adoption is pending“. Meanwhile there are increased investments and support for development of energy projects in Azerbaijan. There are strong support from EU to Shah Deniz II and related TAP/TANAP projects where up to 5 bln EURO has been lent by the EBRD, EIB ADB, AIIB, WB and numerous export credit agencies.

In Georgia, in order to foster economic development, government have opted for “fast economic modernization” practices focusing on heavy dependence on large scale exploitation of natural resources without assessing the economic, environmental and social impacts. Such approach in the energy field leads towards the situation when limited or no public involvement creates corruption and nepotism risks. Government plans to develop more than 120 hydropower plants, together with high voltage transmission lines to ensure the export of electricity from the country. However, often power plants as well as transmission lines, creates the treat for local communities, through losing private and community lands without adequate

compensation, damaging biodiversity and etc. In addition, the economic impact of these projects over country economic development is dubious.

The purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to assess how development of the south Caucasus countries' energy sector and policies are in compliance with obligations taken within UNFCCC and Paris agreement. The assessment should show whether energy policies lead fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015.

In particular study has to address indicators defined in SDG 5 "Environment and Green Jobs" and Gender equality target "Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political and economic and public life"; in SDG 6 "Access to water and Sanitation"; SDG 7 "Affordable and clean energy" and SDG 15 on protection of ecosystems reverse land degradation and halting biodiversity loss.

The study should cover needs and main challenges of adaptation to climate change in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan; endorsed national documents on adaptation: Roadmap, National Adaptation Plan, NDC or other, and their objectives.

In addition the study will address some specific targets of other SDGs as SDG 5 Gender equality "Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life", as well as SDG 6 "access to water and sanitation, SDG 15 on protection of ecosystems, reverse land degradation and halting biodiversity loss."

The summary of the study will be translated and widely distributed among decision makers and NGOs along with full report available online as well as will be used during the various NGO and official events.

Duration and Timeframe

Deadline	Interim result/outcome
28.09.2020	Expression of interest
16.10.2020	Submission of offers
12.10.2020	Contract clarification meeting (Online)
26.10.2020	Draft Inception report
02.11.2020	Final Inception report
30.11.2020	Draft findings and frame of the study
11.01.2021	1st Draft of the research
25.01.2021	2nd draft of the research

08.02.2021	Final study
-------------------	--------------------

Inception report

After the contract clarification meeting the consultant should prepare an inception report, which describes how the study will be conducted, which data will be collected and what methods will be used. The Inception Report should contain a detailed activity and time schedule and a preliminary table of contents for the final report.

Final study

The final assessment should not exceed 50 pages together with the executive summary in English. The report should formulate findings and recommendations as precise, feasible and clearly as possible. The findings and recommendations of the study will be presented during the conference dedicated to South Caucasus energy policy challenges to the decision-makers, development, human rights and environmental NGOs and experts. The assessment will be used to enrich debate about the energy security and accessibility with the development impacts to SC country's energy policies.

We might use some findings of the study and make blogs for wider distribution, and media.

Consultant

The project documentation is huge and needs dedicated time to study its compliance with national legislation of three Caucasus countries. The candidate has to have expertise in Energy sector and Climate change. He/She has to review energy policies in South Caucasus countries, analyse commitments of each countries and compare how development of the south Caucasus countries' energy sectors and policies are in compliance with obligations taken within UNFCCC and Paris agreement.

The consultant should fulfil the following requirements:

- thematic skills and experience in the area of Environmental impacts, climate change (including energy topics) and social justice;
- very good knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data collection
- experience of working with civil society organisations,
- experience of working in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan
- good working knowledge of English and Russian

The submission of tenders for this evaluation is based on a two-stage process. In the first step, the expression of interest, you introduce yourself as an evaluator and ask all questions you might have in

relation to the ToR. You will receive answers to all questions and on that basis submit an offer in the second step.

a) Expression of interest

We kindly ask all interested consultants to send the expression of interest to the e-mail address (nksovreli@greenalt.org) by **28 September 2020**.

Please send it to us as part of the expression of interest:

- a short profile description that gives us information about your competences and suitability for the implementation of the assignment, including meaningful CVs of all participating consultants. For data protection reasons, we ask you to send the CVs as a separate file;
- any questions you may have about the Terms of Reference.

By **30 September 2020**, feedback on all questions will be sent to those who have expressed their interest.

b) Submission of offers

Offers must be sent to Green Alternative by **Friday, 16 October 2020** at the latest. A complete offer consists of:

- a content-related offer, which conclusively sets out the methods to be used to achieve the objectives of the study and specifies the timetable;
- Budget break down

We reserve the right to conduct telephone or personal interviews with providers in order to reach a decision. Furthermore, we reserve the right to award the contract at the time of the submission of the offer.