Request for tender for
Social data – past & future, Romania

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Contents
About the project.................................................................................................................. 2
Contract requirements........................................................................................................... 4
Project location .................................................................................................................. 4
Tender process and timetable ............................................................................................. 5
Tender assessment criteria ................................................................................................. 5
Tender conditions ............................................................................................................... 6
About the project

The Opportunity
Fauna & Flora’s Romania team have been working to facilitate co-existence between large carnivores and humans across the Southern Carpathians of Romania since 2014. Over this time, a significant amount of data has been collected to understand the context, set baselines and assess the social impacts of this work, yet given that these data were collected for time-bound grants, often using different methodologies or questions based on needs at the time, it has not been used to its full potential to understand impacts over the long term. The goal of this consultancy is to enable a deeper understanding of the social impacts of the work to facilitate co-existence with large carnivores across the landscape from past data, build robust databases for the social data to ease collection, collation and analysis in the future, and to share lessons learnt from the work conducted both to inform decision-making within the project and to inform work with social data going forwards.

The datasets include: 7 household surveys to understand human wildlife conflict and impacts of damage prevention measures introduced to address this issue (total sample size 426); 4 household surveys to understand knowledge attitudes and perceptions to carnivores (total sample size 827); 1 household survey to assess ecosystem services (sample size 51); a Participatory Impact Assessment involving group discussions and individual interviews (sample size 65), and a socio-cultural assessment involving discussions and individual interviews (sample size 74).

Fauna & Flora is seeking an experienced social science professional, who is skilled in working with both quantitative and qualitative data and understands the realities and constraints of working within NGOs, to analyse past data in relation to key questions and make practical and feasible improvements to future data collection efforts.

Fauna & Flora
Fauna & Flora saves species from extinction and habitats from destruction, while improving the livelihoods of local people. Our guiding principles are to work through local partnerships, act as a catalyst for change, make conservation relevant, and base decisions on sound science. Founded in 1903, Fauna & Flora is the world’s longest established international conservation body; our conservation work, and impact, spans the globe.

This consultancy will be jointly managed by Fauna & Flora’s Conservation, Design & Impact (CDI) team based at the headquarters in Cambridge, UK and the Romania team, based in Deva.

Fauna & Flora is committed to delivering high impact conservation work. Central to delivering this is ensuring that conservation decision-making is based on good, context-appropriate information drawn from project data collected in order to monitor progress, understand impact, and learn from and adapt our conservation work. Fauna & Flora has an institutional approach to understanding impact that supports us in planning our work, to learn what is and is not achieving the expected conservation and social outcomes of our projects, and to demonstrate and communicate success in our work, both at project and
organisational levels. The CDI team is responsible for ensuring this approach is rolled out across Fauna & Flora. Key to the success of this approach is accompanying individual conservation delivery teams (project teams) to ensure that projects are well planned with a clear logic (known as a Theory of Change) and ensuring that they are collecting and using the most appropriate data to track progress towards long-term impact. Fauna & Flora project teams and partners operate in different contexts with varying resources and capacities available, therefore theory-based, testable, context-specific and pragmatic approaches are key.

**Fauna & Flora’s Romania Programme**

Many of Eurasia’s landscapes are recognised worldwide for their beauty and wilderness value, yet the importance of their biodiversity is frequently overlooked.

Fauna & Flora is one of only a few international organisations working in the Eurasia region and is helping to raise awareness of the need for action amongst other international conservation and development charities. Many of our projects have laid the foundation and created the necessary infrastructure for other organisations to move in and help tackle the challenges of the region. We aim to build the capacity of local partners to conserve priority species and habitats. Our focus is in three core areas: Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Central-Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

In Romania we are working to ensure the long-term sustainable management of the Zarand Landscape Corridor in south-western Transylvania. The Corridor is one of the most critical ecological corridors in Europe and the last remaining habitat corridor for large carnivores moving between the Western and Southern Carpathian Mountains. A key threat to carnivores within this region is conflict with farmers and communities that arises from damages to livestock and crops, leading to negative perceptions of wildlife and retaliatory action against large carnivores. Such issues impact negatively on ecological connectivity and the ability of animals to move through the landscape. In addition, abandonment of farms and traditional farming practices have negatively impacted connectivity of habitats in the area. It is critical that we maintain the ecological connectivity of their habitat by reducing the severity of wildlife damages and facilitating coexistence.

Fauna & Flora’s Romania Programme is also working within the Zarand Landscape Corridor to ensure effective site management under the European protected area (Natura 2000) network, and to promote sympathetic land management while also addressing livelihood issues for small-scale traditional farmers in the area.

This work will need to be delivered before the end of December 2023, due to funding deadlines.
Contract requirements

In order to enable a deeper understanding of the human dimensions of the work to facilitate co-existence with large carnivores across the Southern Carpathians in Romania, by the end of December 2023 the consultant will:

- Agree priority evaluation questions (including social and biodiversity impacts) with key Fauna & Flora members of staff, and assess whether the data available is appropriate for these questions, and where there are gaps.
- Agree the programmes and systems that will be used for social data by the Romania programme, in order that analysis of long-term data sets can be incorporated into future work.
- Process, review and collate the historical social data, including quantitative data that has been collected through household surveys and qualitative data that has been collected through other social assessment approaches (questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions).
- Analyse the datasets mentioned above to reveal any changes in the social impacts of the project’s work relatively, spatially and temporally.
- Produce a summary report on the data findings, include visuals, and present these to the Romania team and other Fauna & Flora members of staff and partners to inform future decisions by the Romania team and key stakeholders involved in delivering the work.
- Support the development of communications materials to demonstrate Fauna & Flora’s social impact of living with large carnivores.
- Based on the review of past data, the project’s Theory of Change and core indicators, and consultations with the Romania team regarding the realities of their work, develop and provide context-appropriate:
  - templates for future collection and analysis of social data particularly through questionnaires/household surveys and interviews. Ideally using Kobotoolbox and Survey123, ensuring that these can be compared to data collected for key metrics in the past
  - recommendations on potential approaches for improved, yet feasible impact assessment of approaches to Facilitating Coexistence
  - databases that ease the collection, collation and analysis of social data in the future
  - protocols and step by step guides for each stage of the data cycle from collection through to analysis and interpretation
- Train relevant Romania team colleagues in using the templates and databases going forwards, and in collecting and analysing social data – both quantitative and qualitative.

Project location

Whilst much of the consultancy can be conducted remotely or online, it will benefit from time in the Fauna & Flora office in Deva and potentially to conduct some field visits in order to gain a deeper understanding of the project context. There may be some travel to Fauna & Flora headquarters in Cambridge, UK, or relevant UK colleagues will come to Romania to assist with orientation at the beginning of the consultancy.
Tender process and timetable

The tendering process will be as follows:

1. Request for tender documents issued
2. Tenders returned to Fauna & Flora – the tenderer will supply a compliant tender including a fixed price or quote including breakdown of components (depending on method chosen) for the entire scope of supply
3. Shortlisted tenderers notified – three preferred tenderers will be selected on the basis of the tender assessment criteria noted below
4. Notification of successful tenderer
5. Contracting process/negotiation (depending on method chosen)

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Fauna & Flora reserves the right to change its decision of successful tenderer if the negotiation/finalisation of contract is prolonged.

Fauna & Flora reserves the right to discontinue the tender process at any time prior to contract signing.

Tender assessment criteria

For a tender to be assessed, the tenderer must have:

- Proven skills and experience in handling large, complex datasets, including:
  - cleaning and organising data
  - analysing and combining quantitative and qualitative social data to answer key questions
  - visualising and summarising data findings
- Proven skills and experience in developing user-friendly databases for social and biological quantitative and qualitative data.
- Advanced skills in computer applications, including MS Excel.
- Proven skills and experience in using software for data collection, management, analysis and use, including Survey123 and Kobotoolbox.
- Proven skills and experience in building the capacity of others to work with data, particularly to conduct data analysis and manage databases.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Understanding of the realities of delivering conservation projects.
- Fluency in English is essential, and working Romanian is desirable.
**Tender conditions**

The tenderer agrees to comply with the following tender conditions:

1. The tenderer must notify in writing if any of the submitted tender information changes or if the tenderer becomes aware that information provided to Fauna & Flora is inaccurate, incomplete or misleading.

2. The tenderer must not hold itself out as an agent of Fauna & Flora or make any representations that would lead people to believe that Fauna & Flora guarantees the products and/or services offered by the tenderer.

3. If any claim is brought by any third party against Fauna & Flora and the claim is caused by any act or activities of the tenderer (or its subcontractors) under or in connection with the service/goods delivery or any other act, omission, misrepresentation or negligence on the part of the tenderer (or its subcontractors), then the tenderer must indemnify Fauna & Flora from and against all costs, expenses (including, but not limited to, legal and other professional fees and expenses) losses, damages and other liabilities (of whatever nature, contractual or otherwise) suffered or incurred by Fauna & Flora.

4. The tenderer must gain Fauna & Flora’s prior written agreement to any publicity in connection with this contract. All details of the tender and any supporting documentation provided must otherwise be treated as strictly confidential.

5. Fauna & Flora reserves the right to request additional information from the tenderers after the final submission date.

6. Fauna & Flora reserves the right not to award the agreement to any tendering organisation or individual, cancel or withdraw from the tender process, to alter the terms or conditions of this Request for Tender, and/or alter within reason the tender process and timetable.

7. Fauna & Flora reserves the right to change its decision of successful tenderer if the negotiation/finalisation of contract is prolonged.

8. Fauna & Flora reserves the right to discontinue the tender process for any reason at any time prior to contract signing.

9. Fauna & Flora reserves the right to enter into negotiations and subsequently contract with more than one supplier.

10. All duties, taxes, and other levies payable/chargeable by the Contractor in relation to the Contract shall be included in the total Tender Price submitted by the tenderer.
By signing below the tenderer agrees to be bound by the Tender (including maintaining confidentiality and non-disclosure of any information provided to the Tenderer by FFI) and confirms that the information set out in its submitted tender documentation document is true and accurate in all respects:

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for and on behalf of [insert tenderer name]

Name: ..........................................................

Position: ..........................................................

Date: ..........................................................

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