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| **Environment**  | **1. Project Category:** |
| **---** | **2. Project Code:**  |
| **Assessment on Revision of Framework Plan of Action on Environment Cooperation and Global Warming (2016-2020), Work Plan on Biodiversity (2016-2020)and Development of Action Plan/Roadmap on ECO LandCare Program** | **3. Project Title:** |
| The objective of the subject project is to conduct the ECO region-scoped assessment study resulting in(1) “Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation 2021-2030” and (2) “Roadmap for implementation of ECO LandCare Program 2021-2030”, through reviewing and/or updating the “Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming” and “Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region”.  | **4. Project Objective(s):** |
| 9000 USD | **5. Project Budget (Euro):** |
| ECO Special Support Fund (**SSF**) | **6. Project Funding Source:** |
| ECO-IEST in collaboration with ECO Secretariat | **7. Coordinating Country/Organization:** |
| -- | **8. International/Regional Partner(s):** |
| Till the organization of the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment | **9. Duration of Project (Months):** |
| March 2022 | **10. Project Starting Time (M/Y):** |
| approximately 90% | **11. Project Progress Ratio (%):** |
| When the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment convened. | **12. Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):** |
| More than 80% of the project budget has been released and paid as the consultancy fee to the consultant based on the progress made and targeted deliverables. | **13. Project Budget Released (%):** |
| **14. Background:** * Over the past, the Plan of Action (PoA) on Environment was adopted in December 2002 by the 1st ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment. The document was further extended from 2007 till 2010.
* The 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment was held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) in June 2006, urged the development of ECO Regional Plan of Action for Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity (Biological Diversity). Further, in the 1st Experts Group Meeting (EGM) on Biodiversity held in Islamabad on 24-25 April 2007, the Member States adopted the “*Work Plan on Biodiversity in the ECO Region for 2007-2015*”.
* In June 2011, the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment adopted a subsequent version of PoA titled “*Framework Plan of Action on Environmental Cooperation and Global Warming for ECO Member States*” focusing on Environmental Management, Global Warming, Climate Change and Means of Implementation. That was valid until 2020.
* The 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment (Istanbul, 18 November 2014) asked for a revised PoA for the period 2021-2030 and, for that matter, instructed the Secretariat to prepare a detailed countries’ needs-based assessment addressing Land Degradation, Dust Haze and Sand Storm in ECO Region.
* ECO Secretariat fulfilled the Feasibility Study on Desertification and Land Degradation. That, in turn, served for preparing the Draft Project Proposal. The Member States feedbacked on the said document.
* In July 2016, the Project Consultation Workshop was held in Tehran (Iran); after that land degradation and conservation issues of ECO countries were identified in search of assistance from the proposed Project.
* Draft Project Proposal was elevated to the status of the **ECO LandCare Program**.
* In December 2021, another Workshop was held in Antalya (Turkey) to review the flagship project “ECO-LandCare Program” and point out ways to implement it.
* Earlier, the 2nd EGM on Biodiversity held on 4-5 November 2014 in Antalya (Turkey) extended the Work Plan on Biodiversity. It also approved the revised “Work Plan on Biodiversity in ECO Region (2016-2020)”.
* The 3rdEGM on Biodiversity designated the Republic of Turkey as a new Coordinating Country for follow-up and implementation of Work Plan.
* Added to the above, the 2nd ECO Consultative Ministerial Meeting on Environment held on 27 May 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya (on the sidelines of UNEA-2) re-confirmed the said Work Plan. Moreover, the 6th ECO Working Group Meeting on Environment (1-2 June 2016, Islamabad) endorsed the said Work Plan and requested ECO Secretariat to start implementation.
* The ECO Coordination Meeting titled “ECO Contribution to the CBD Agenda: *Implementation of the Work Plan on Biodiversity in the ECO Region 2016-2020*” (12 December 2016, Cancun, Mexico) held on the sidelines of COP13 of UNCBD, prioritized cooperation on “Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)” within Work Plan on Biodiversity.
* The 1st ECO Experts Group Meeting on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) on 11-13 March 2019 in Antalya (Turkey) considered the ABS Framework on Traditional Knowledge; Material Transfer Agreements; Prior Informed Consents; Clearing-House Mechanism; Bottlenecks, as Trans-Boundary Cooperation and Global Multilateral Benefit-sharing Mechanism. The meeting also finalized the ToR for “ECO ABS Experts Pool”. The meeting likewise decided to support CITES through ECO’s biodiversity cooperation.
* The above-indicated developments serve as the prerequisite groundwork for implementing the subject project.

**15. Current Status:**After circulation of questionnaires and provision of the inception report and several virtual and in-person meeting between him and EME staff, the consultant provided the ECO Secretariat with a draft of “ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment” and its annexes on climate change and biodiversity (2022-2030).These drafts have been reviewed by the Secretariat and modified in coordination with consultant and circulated to the Member States for feedback.Taking into account that no substantive feedback received from the Member States, these documents are expected to be discussed in the relevant expert/working group to be introduced for approval by the 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment. As far as it relates to the ECO LandCare Initiative, it is noteworthy that in response to the Member States' request to the Secretariat during the Antalya meeting in 2021, the ECO-IEST created a brief document to aid in the LCI's inception and determine the most efficient means to implement the 1st phase of the ECO LandCare Initiative (ECO-LCI) which has not been acceptable for the Republic of Türkiye. **16. Necessary Actions and Assistance Needed:**1. All Member States are requested to be actively involved in the finalization process of the “ECO Cooperation Framework on the Environment” and its annexes on climate change and biodiversity (2022-2030).2. Taking into account the lack of consensus among the Member States on the result so far, more consultation and coordination among them are required with a view to find a way out of the current situation and agree upon a common ground document for guiding the regional activities on the significant issue of land degradation.3. ECO Secretariat will continue its engagement with the Kyrgyz Republic as the host of the next ECO Ministerial Meeting on Environment and the 7th Working Group Meeting on Environment for expediting the process of notifying the exact dates and modality of convening these two events which are requisite for the finalization of the above-mentioned documents. |
| **17. Expected Outcomes of the Project:**1. Provision of ECO high-level decision making bodies with policy support frameworks in one of ECO core activity areas i.e. Environment, and
2. Facilitation of creating the enabling environment in the EME sector of ECO.
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| **Minerals\Mapping** | 1. **Project Category**
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| **Preparation of Eco-Environmental Quality Index (EQI) Map (1:5M) of the ECO Region (ECO-EQI)** | 1. **Project Title**
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| Specific regional challenges related to natural and man-made disasters confronted by the ECO Member States necessitate addressing environmental issues. Most of the Member States faced numerous long-term negative consequences of the lack of country-wide environmental vulnerability assessment maps and environmental regulation for national planning on their economics and health. Therefore, the subject Project aims at evaluation and analysis of environmental conditions in the regional scale. It is designed to evaluate ecological qualities of environment over the ECO Region through collaborative efforts of the Member States. Environmental quality index data contain information that directly leads to making ecological and environmental decisions in mining, industries, agriculture, forestry, watershed management, biodiversity and human health issues, waste burial and land use management. These data could be a powerful tool for evaluating the environmental challenges and providing appropriate solutions. Ecological-environmental quality assessment is useful in connecting regional economic to social sustainable development. | 1. **Project Objective(s):**
 |
| USD 300 000 | 1. **Project Budget:**
 |
| USD 250 000 is expected to be covered by the Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) USD50000 may be allocated from the ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FSGPF) | 1. **Project Funding Source:**
 |
| Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) / ECO Secretariat | 1. **Coordinating Country/Organization:**
 |
| Presumably the relevant UN System organization/entity  | 1. **International/Regional Partner:**
 |
| 12 months | 1. **Duration of Project (Months):**
 |
| 2022 | 1. **Project Starting Time (M/Y):**
 |
| - | 1. **Project Progress Ratio(%):**
 |
| - 2023 | 1. **Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):**
 |
| - | 1. **Project Budget Released (%):**
 |
| **14. Background:**The subject project proposal was first initiated by GSI following the 6th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting, held on 17-18 October 2016 in Sungun Mine Complex in Varzeghan Area, Tabriz, I.R. Iran. As per the recommendations of this Meeting, the relevant authorities of I.R. Iran provided the Secretariat with the Concept Papers on (i) Geodynamic and present-day Crustal Stress (ECO-GeoDyS) Map of the ECO Region; (ii) Preparing Eco-Environmental Quality Index (EQI) Map (1:5M) of the ECO Region (ECO-EQI); (iii) Preparation of Mineral Deposit Types and Metallogenic Map of the ECO Region; and (iv) Spiroclast Map of mobile belt between Gondwana and Eurasia, which were accordingly circulated among the Member States for their views and comments.The 28th RPC Meeting (11-14 December 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan) requested the Member States (except Tajikistan) to expedite providing the Secretariat with their views/comments on the Concept Paper of project proposal on Preparing ECO-Environmental Quality Index (ECO-EQI) Map of the ECO Region.The 7th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting, held on 5-7 August 2018 in Sanandaj, I.R. Iran, noted that in response to aforementioned relevant concept papers, Afghanistan, while noting the importance of the project, has provided comments and suggestions on Preparing ECO-Environmental Quality Index (ECO-EQI) Map of the ECO Region; whereas the Republic of Tajikistan has supported the subject project. 7th Meeting also reflected that most recently, Pakistan, while supporting four project proposals, has also made views and comments and notable suggestions for pragmatic implementation of these projects. Following the circulation of the concept paper, the Secretariat regularly requested the Member States through its Notes Verbales, as well as during 28th and 29th RPC Meetings and 7th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting to expedite providing with their views and comments on the referred concept paper. As of today, 4 Member States, namely, Afghanistan, Iran (initiator), Pakistan and Tajikistan have supported launching of the project on Preparation of Eco-Environmental Quality Index (EQI) Map (1:5M) of the ECO Region (ECO-EQI). In reply to the enquiry of the MFA of I.R. Iran, ECO Secretariat in its NV No. EME/Minerals/2019/665 dated 18 August 2019 commented that the relevant authorities of the I.R. Iran may wish to implement the ECO-EQI Project with the limited number of the Member States, in pursuance of the “Functional Methodology of ECO”, stipulating that the project shall be identified with ECO if at least four Member States participate in it. The Secretariat reckoned that the designing of the EQI Map/thematic maps as an outcome of the project requires the participation and collaboration of a greater number of the Member States. In this regard, the Secretariat expected from the relevant authorities of the I.R. Iran to advice their approach on the subject matter. During the 30th, 31st, 32nd RPC meetings, the Member States resolved to start the procedures for launching the Project on Preparation of Eco-Environmental Quality Index (EQI) Map (1:5M) of the ECO Region (ECO-EQI). In this vein, all Member States will render their utmost support to launching and efficient implementation of the subject project, which targets on evaluation of ecological qualities of environment across the ECO Region through collaborative efforts of the Member States. The initiator country together with the Secretariat, after some internal coordination, may wish to appeal one of the next CPR meetings for consideration of allocation of 50000USD from the ECO FGPF for the ECO-EQI Project.  |
| **15. Current Status:**On April 26, 2022, with the aim to increase participation from more Member States, the Secretariat along with Iran, co-organized validation meeting to attract them and approve validity of ToR. Participated Member States supported project. The Meeting report by silence procedure has been adopted on May 20, 2022.**16. Necessary Actions and Assistance Needed:**1. The initiator country together with the Secretariat may appeal one of the next CPR meetings for consideration and allocation of 50000USD from the ECO FGPF for the said project. In this scenario, upon allocation of the required budget by GSI and ECO Secretariat, the preparation of the contract will be undertaken by ECO Secretariat and the project manager – GSI.2. All Member States are required to take active part to share necessary information during project implementation process. |
| **17. Expected Outcomes of the Project:**1- Prepare national scale environmental risk assessment maps for strategic national planning;2- Develop a standard method to assess ecological-environmental quality in regional scale;3- Identify and prioritize vulnerable areas using cost effective methods, as remote sensing and GIS for detailed studies;4- Identify natural and anthropogenic factors affecting the vulnerability of ecological areas and to develop solutions to reduce the impact of harmful factors;5- Periodic monitoring of ecological areas over time through updating of EQI maps;6- Identification of appropriate areas for development of population centers and agriculture lands through codification of land use strategies;7- Providing basic data for improving mining activities, forestry and farming compatible with environmental standards;8- Provide basic information for regional ecological area conservation through codification of protective laws;9- Improvement of human habitats via development of environmental conservation policies on a regional scale;10- Employing quantitative assessment methods instead of traditional qualitative ones for regional planning;11- Empowerment of member states in protecting the human habitat, natural resources, biodiversity, forests, pastures, soil and water resources;12- Integrating the scattered data in different organizations to design a regional database;13- Facilitate the access to information needed by decision-makers and researchers through establishing a regional data bank. |

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| **Minerals\Mapping** | 1. **Project Category**
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| **Preparation of Spiroclast of Mobile belt between Gondwana and Eurasia**  | 1. **Project Title**
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| This project aims to use data from geological, geomagnetic, GPS velocity field, tectonic, stress direction, block rotation, seismic hazard maps and other geological data set in mobile belt between Eurasia and Gondwana to provide a spiroclast map of ECO region. In this project, the spiroclast map of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will be provided.  | 1. **Project Objective(s):**
 |
| USD 50 000 and in-kind contribution | 1. **Project Budget:**
 |
| In-kind contribution is expected to be covered by Tabriz UniversityUSD50000 may be allocated from the ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FSGPF) | 1. **Project Funding Source:**
 |
| ECO Secretariat – Energy Minerals and Environment | 1. **Coordinating Country/Organization:**
 |
| Group of experts from Tabriz University  | 1. **International/Regional Partner:**
 |
| 9-12 months | 1. **Duration of Project (Months):**
 |
| 2022 | 1. **Project Starting Time (M/Y):**
 |
| - | 1. **Project Progress Ratio(%):**
 |
| - 2023 | 1. **Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):**
 |
| - | 1. **Project Budget Released (%):**
 |
| **14. Background:**The subject project proposal was first initiated by GSI following the 6th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting, held on 17-18 October 2016 in Sungun Mine Complex in Varzeghan Area, Tabriz, I.R. Iran. As per the recommendations of this Meeting, the relevant authorities of I.R. Iran provided the Secretariat with the Concept Papers on (i) Geodynamic and present-day Crustal Stress (ECO-GeoDyS) Map of the ECO Region; (ii) Preparing Eco-Environmental Quality Index (EQI) Map (1:5M) of the ECO Region (ECO-EQI); (iii) Preparation of Mineral Deposit Types and Metallogenic Map of the ECO Region; and (iv) Spiroclast Map of mobile belt between Gondwana and Eurasia, which were accordingly circulated among the Member States for their views and comments.The 28th RPC Meeting (11-14 December 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan) requested the Member States (except Tajikistan) to expedite providing the Secretariat with their views/comments on the Concept Paper of project proposal on Preparing ECO-Environmental Quality Index (ECO-EQI) Map of the ECO Region.Following the circulation of the concept paper, the Secretariat regularly requested the Member States through its Notes Verbales, as well as during 28th and 29th RPC Meetings and 7th ECO Minerals Experts Group Meeting to expedite providing with their views and comments on the referred concept paper.  |
| **15. Current Status:**On April 26, 2022, with the aim to increase participation from more Member States, the Secretariat along with Iran, co-organized validation meeting to attract them and approve validity of ToR. Participated Member States supported project. The Meeting report by silence procedure has been adopted on May 20, 2022.**16. Necessary Actions and Assistance Needed:**1. The initiator country together with the Secretariat may appeal one of the next CPR meetings for consideration and allocation of 50000USD from the ECO FGPF for the said project. In this scenario, upon decision of CPR the contract will be undertaken by ECO Secretariat and the project manager – Tabriz University.2. All Member States are required to take active part to share necessary information during project implementation process. |
| **17. Expected Outcomes of the Project:****Outcomes**: **Outcome I:** ECO Member States will receive accurate map in which the exact location of faults and their structural relationship with each other will be determined and earthquake prone areas will be identified. **Outcome II:** ECO Member States will be able to alleviate effect of drastic earthquakes by identifying earthquake-prone areas. **Outcome III:** Benefits of the project for ECO Member States will be sensed in alleviation of otherwise sensible economic and social losses. |

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| **Minerals\Mapping** | 1. **Project Category**
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| Geochemical Exploration of Precious and Industrial Minerals in Desert lands in ECO region | 1. **Project Title**
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| Proposing an effective and wide-sampling method for identification of high potential regions for exploration of precious and industrial minerals ′ Designing detailed exploration projects in promising areas ′ Extending the results of study area to regional scale | 1. **Project Objective(s):**
 |
| 300.000 USD | 1. **Project Budget:**
 |
| ECO (15%) and GSI (85%) | 1. **Project Funding Source:**
 |
| ECO Secretariat – Energy Minerals and Environment | 1. **Coordinating Country/Organization:**
 |
| Geological Survey of Iran | 1. **International/Regional Partner:**
 |
| 9-12 months | 1. **Duration of Project (Months):**
 |
| 2022 | 1. **Project Starting Time (M/Y):**
 |
| - | 1. **Project Progress Ratio(%):**
 |
| - 2023 | 1. **Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):**
 |
| - | 1. **Project Budget Released (%):**
 |
| **14. Background:**The 7th ECO MEGM was held on 5-7 August 2018 in Sanandaj, Kurdistan Province of I. R. Iran. During the course of the meeting, the participants from the Member States deliberated on the current potential project proposals in the relevant area, which were under consideration by that period of time viz. Geodynamic and present-day Crustal Stress (ECO-GeoDyS) Map of the ECO Region; Preparing ECO-Environmental Quality Index Map of the ECO Region (ECO-EQI); Preparation of Mineral Deposit Types and Metallogenic Map of the ECO Region; Spiroclast Map of mobile belt between Gondwana and Eurasia. GSI of Iran also put forward two new project proposals, namely, Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ) of ECO Region; and Geochemical Exploration of Precious and Industrial Minerals in Desert lands in the ECO Region. |
| **15. Current Status:**On April 26, 2022, with the aim to increase participation from more Member States, the Secretariat along with Iran, co-organized validation meeting to attract them and approve validity of ToR. Participated Member States supported project. The Meeting report by silence procedure has been adopted on May 20, 2022.**16. Necessary Actions and Assistance Needed:**1. The initiator country together with the Secretariat may appeal one of the next CPR meetings for consideration and allocation of 50000USD from the ECO FGPF for the said project. In this scenario, upon decision of CPR the contract will be undertaken by ECO Secretariat and the project manager – Tabriz University.2. All Member States are required to take active part to share necessary information during project implementation process. |
| **17. Expected Outcomes of the Project:****Outcomes**: This project will result in a series of maps on which the distribution of precious and industrial minerals has been plotted Proposing an effective and wide-sampling method for identification of high potential regions for exploration of precious and industrial minerals ′ Designing detailed exploration projects in promising areas Extending the results of study area to regional scale |

*Reference: About Mineral Sector, all four projects have been initiated by the Government of Iran which is commendable. The Secretariat has validated all projects with the support of member states. The Secretariat has requested the Iranian side to consider one from these four projects for bringing under consideration during the upcoming CPR for allocation of funds.*