

 <p>CZECH REPUBLIC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION</p> <p><i>Expert Request Form</i></p>		Request number: (Allocated by the Czech Development Agency)
Title: Research of Arsen Okrojanashvili cave (based on the request letter of Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Ms.Nino Tandilashvili)		
Expected field of expertise:		
Partner country: Georgia	Region/town/locality: Martvili Municipality, Village Second Balda North-East, Riv. Abasha, Toba gorge	
Expected Start and End Dates: ASAP, Upon the capacity of the experts	Total amount of days in the field: Duration max 3 weeks	
Expected Czech ODA financial contribution (EUR):	Estimated co-financing from the partner institution (financial contribution in EUR/ in kind in detail)	
<p>Applicant / Partner Institution: <i>Name, type, mail and web address of partner institution; name and position of responsible manager/contact person, phone, fax, e-mail.</i> Agency of Protected Areas (APA)</p> <p>Address: 6 G.Gulua Street, Tbilisi, Georgia Website: www.apa.gov.ge Email: [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Head of International Relations and Project Management Division, Agency of Protected Areas. Email: [REDACTED] Tel: [REDACTED]</p>		
CONTEXT AND RATIONALE		

Context:

Problem analysis. Please explain current situation and why the expert is requested (what is his/her added value).

Total area of Georgian protected areas is 595 963 ha, which is 8.55% part of Georgia.

Georgia has 86 protected areas of different IUCN categories: Nature Reserves – 14, National Park – 11, Nature Monuments – 40, Managed Reserves – 19, Protected Landscapes – 2. Protected areas are managed by 20 regional administrations. Nature monument administration of Martvili and Okatse unites 12 nature monuments, within 3 canyons, 5 waterfall and 4 caves. That has III categories, according to the IUCN criteria.

Arsen Okrojanashvili's cave (750 m) is generated in bay leaf limestone. The cave (the height of the entrance is 25m; width - 11m) goes to the south-east, producing 550 m length of 100 meters, and 850 meters closer to the Siphon lake (150 m / kW). The cave height of the cave varies from 8 to 30 m. The main highway develops branches. The first branch is 100 meters from the entrance, the second is 40 meters above the first branch. It has a third branch. The total length of the cave is 1150 m. Chemical storms are observed in stalactites, stalagmites, columns; Mechanical sediments - local material for destruction (boulders and alluvio). The air temperature is 14.4 degrees. In the cave there is a stream of underground flow, which is slated to 0.276 meters per second and temperatures - 10.2 degrees. The cave is hard to come. The rubber boat needs to be moved. A cascading waterfall of 234 m high will be shifted from Arsen Okrojanashvili's cave.

In order to run and properly protect the cave, also with the purpose of allowing visitors to explore its biodiversity it is important to ensure the absolute safety of the cave for visitors. Therefore, to provide safe conditions inside the cave we need hydrological research and research of maximum and minimum water flow level/water intensity. Based on the research the Agency of Protected Areas will have concrete vision for further development of cave.

Expected outputs and outcomes:

Please, explain, what is expected from the expert in detail (elaboration of analysis, seminar, forum, etc.) and when and how those outcomes will be used.

Outputs:

- Hydrological research will be received
- Biodiversity will be identified and scientifically approved
- Relevant recommendations will be received
- Staff of Administration will be trained

Outcomes:**1. Restoration and popularization of the region's sights****2. Social-economic development of the region**

- Creating new jobs in the region
- Employment of local population (guides, volunteers, etc.)
- Improvement of the life standard of local population
- Additional source of income (horses, vehicles, catering facilities, family hotels)

3. Development of Ecotourism

- Involvement of local community
- Infrastructure development
- Development of tourism services
- Establishment of family hotels among local population
- Establishment of mixed eco-tourism tours
- Production and sale of local souvenirs

4. Promote the region at national and international level

Role of the applicant/partner organisation and roles of other key partners:

Please describe briefly the roles and responsibilities of key project stakeholders and their relation towards the expert (towards his/her work).

Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia –agency will promote and coordinate ongoing activities

Martvili and Okatse natural monuments administration –will participate in implementation of project

Local Municipality and population – will promote effective implementation

Complementarity:

Analysis of other relevant development interventions executed by the government (or) in co-operation with other donors, complementarity of the requested intervention with activities carried out so far.

The Czech Development Agency supported APA in cave monitoring and development of speleotherapy in Imereti Caves Protected Areas. Number of other activities have been also implemented in protected landscapes. Furthermore, as a continuation of existing cooperation caves located in Ambrolauri Municipality, Racha will be developed by joint efforts of APA and the Czech Development Agency.

Date and Signature:

Place, date, name of authorised person within applicant institution and his/her signature, stamp.

Tbilisi, Georgia 03.10.2018

