

Invitation to submit a technical and financial offer for consultancy services

Development of a National Methodology for Drought Management Plans for the River Basins of Ukraine, and Piloting on the Lower Danube Sub-basin

Contracting organisation	Michael Succow Foundation (Michael Succow Stiftung), Greifswald, Germany
Project	PAABS – “Supporting Ukraine in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Adaptation to the impact of climate change in the Black Sea region”
Project number	81314392
Procurement reference	MSF-PAABS-81314392-DMP-2026-01
Type of contract	Service / consultancy contract, deliverable-based
Place of performance	Ukraine
Assignment period	From contract signature until 30 June 2027 (hard completion deadline)
Deadline for questions	23.09.2026
Deadline for proposals	05.10.2026, 23:59 hrs (CET)
Submission	By e-mail to nika.malazonia@succow-stiftung.de

1. Assignment

The Michael Succow Foundation (MSF) is commissioning consultancy services under the project “Supporting Ukraine in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Adaptation to the impact of climate change in the Black Sea region” (PAABS, project no. 81314392).

The assignment shall produce **(a) a draft national methodology** for the preparation of basin-level Drought Management Plans (DMP) in Ukraine, consistent with the EU WFD and the IDMP CEE Guidelines (2015), and **(b) a first, fully worked pilot DMP for the Lower Danube sub-basin (Odesa Oblast)** as a validated, replicable template for Ukraine’s other river basins. Full details are set out in the Terms of Reference (Annex 1).

2. Scope of services (summary)

The services are organised in four phases (see full description in Annex 1, Section 4):

- **Phase 1 – Grounding:** data inventory and gap analysis, institutional options paper, stakeholder mapping, and an international/regional instruments check.
- **Phase 2 – Core methodology drafting and pilot data collection:** two-tier indicator and threshold system, drought classification, climate-change integration, early-warning-system design, programme of measures, legal-gap analysis and legal drafting, socio-economic/gender indicators, and Consultation Round 1.
- **Phase 3 – Pilot DMP production and methodology finalisation:** production of the standalone Lower Danube DMP, revision of the methodology against pilot findings, and Consultation Round 2 (incl. a public workshop in Odesa Oblast).
- **Phase 4 – Finalisation:** incorporation of consultation feedback, finalisation and submission of the legal instrument, a plain-language User Guide, and the final project report.

Key deliverables are due against phase checkpoints, with a hard completion deadline of end of June 2027.

3. Who may apply (eligibility)

- Consulting firms, research institutions, NGOs, or teams/consortia of individual experts able to field the full core team defined in Section 9 of the ToR.
- The proposed core team must cover all five functions listed in Section 9 of the ToR; roles may be combined where justified, but no function may be omitted.
- Team Leader must demonstrate prior experience with WFD-aligned drought or water-scarcity planning or similar;
- CEE-region-specific and PAABS/Black Sea-region familiarity is considered an advantage

4. Content and format of the proposal

The structure of the proposal must correspond to the structure of the ToR. Each proposal shall contain:

- **Technical proposal** (max. 4 pages, excluding CVs): understanding of the assignment, technical approach and methodology, work plan and timeline, quality assurance and risk management, and team composition.
- **CVs** of all proposed personnel (max. 2 pages each), clearly showing professional experience relevant to the topics of this assignment.
- **Financial offer** presented as a lump sum per phase / deliverable, plus the total price in EUR (including any applicable taxes).

Language: English. **File format:** PDF. **Please combine the documents into as few files as possible.**

5. Evaluation and award

Proposals will be assessed on a best-value (most economically advantageous) basis. Award criteria and weightings are:

Criterion	Weight
Technical approach and methodology	35 %
Team qualifications and composition	35 %
Financial proposal	30 %
Total	100 %

- Technical and team-qualification criteria together carry 70 %; the financial proposal carries 30 %.
- The contract is awarded on the best price-quality ratio (the most economically advantageous offer).
- A minimum technical quality threshold applies. Proposals scoring below the threshold will not proceed to financial evaluation.

6. Requests for clarification

Questions may be submitted by e-mail to Mr. Nika Malazonia (nika.malazonia@succow-stiftung.de) no later than **23.09.2026**. Consolidated answers will be provided to all identified applicants by 30.09.2026 without disclosing the source of the questions.

7. Submission of proposals

- **Send to:** nika.malazonia@succow-stiftung.de

- **E-mail subject line:** “MSF-PAABS-81314392-DMP-2026-01 – [Applicant / lead firm name]”
- **Deadline:** 05.10.2026, 23:59 hrs (CET).
- Proposals received after the deadline, incomplete proposals, or proposals not respecting the format requirements may be excluded.

8. Validity of proposals

Proposals shall remain valid for 90 days from the submission deadline.

9. Confidentiality and data protection

All proposals are treated confidentially and used solely for this procurement. Personal data contained in CVs are processed only for the purpose of evaluating this call and in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

10. Reservations

- The Foundation may request written or oral clarifications during the evaluation.
- The Foundation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to cancel, suspend or repeat the procedure, and is under no obligation to award a contract.
- Costs incurred in preparing and submitting a proposal are not reimbursed.
- Any award is subject to the availability of project funding.
- Only qualified candidates will be contacted

11. Annexes

- **Annex 1** – Terms of Reference (attached).

Terms of reference (ToR) for the procurement of services

Development of a National Methodology for Drought Management Plans for the River Basins of Ukraine, and Piloting on the Lower Danube Sub-basin

Organization: Michael Succow Foundation (MSF)
Project name: Supporting Ukraine in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Adaptation to the impact of climate change in the Black Sea region (PAABS)
Project number: 81314392
Period of assignment: 10.2026.-06.2027

This assignment will be commissioned by the Michael Succow Foundation under the project "Supporting Ukraine in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Adaptation to the impact of climate change in the Black Sea region" (PAABS), and is to be implemented by Ukrainian experts in Ukraine.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full name / definition
CIS	Common Implementation Strategy – the EU WFD process under which the reference ("EU CIS") set of drought/water-scarcity indicators was developed
DMP	Drought Management Plan
DriDanube	Drought Risk in the Danube Region – the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Programme project (2017–2019) that produced the Danube Drought Strategy and the ODMM
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
EU	European Union
Euro-CORDEX	Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment for Europe
EUSDR	European Union Strategy for the Danube Region
FAPAR	Fraction of Absorbed Photosynthetically Active Radiation – satellite-derived vegetation-stress indicator, Tier 1.
GWP CEE	Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IDMP Central and Eastern Europe	Integrated Drought Management Programme Central and Eastern Europe - regional technical body
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
ODMM	Optimal Drought Management Model – the Danube Drought Strategy's three-part model (drought policy framework, institutional cooperation scheme, protocol of actions)
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RCP	Representative Concentration Pathway – IPCC greenhouse-gas concentration scenario used in the RBMP climate projections
RBWRD (БУВР)	River Basin Water Resources Directorate (Басейнове управління водних ресурсів)
SES	State Emergency Service (of Ukraine)
SPI	Standardized Precipitation Index – Tier 1 and Tier 2 indicator
SRI	Standardized Runoff Index – Tier 1 indicator
SSPI	Standardized index within the EU CIS/EDO reference indicator set, Tier 1
StateWaterAgency (Держводагентство)	State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine (Державне Агентство водних ресурсів України)
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
VRA	Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, as in "PAABS VRA" – the 2026 Gender-Sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Odesa Oblast
WEI+	Water Exploitation Index plus – Tier 1 indicator
WFD	Water Framework Directive – EU Directive 2000/60/EC
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

Terminology

Basin Council – existing river-basin-level coordination body in Ukraine's water-management system; candidate host structure for drought governance under Institutional Option A (Task 1.2).

Danube Drought Strategy – "Better Prepared for Drought," the 2019 regional strategy produced under the DriDanube project; source of the Optimal Drought Management Model (ODMM) that this assignment's methodology extends to Ukraine.

Danube region – per the Danube Drought Strategy's own definition, the 14 Danube riparian countries, including Ukraine.

DriDanube countries – the 10 of the 14 Danube region countries that participated in the DriDanube project's ground-setting exercises; does not include Ukraine.

Hromada (громада) – Ukrainian territorial community, the basic unit of local self-government.

Management-stage classification – the four operational drought stages: Normal, Pre-alert, Alert, Emergency.

Prolonged drought – the WFD Article 4.6-equivalent exemption from environmental objectives during exceptional drought conditions; requires Ukraine-specific triggering criteria.

Tier 1 / Tier 2 indicators – the two-tier indicator system defined in Task 2.1: Tier 1 is the mandatory EU CIS-aligned core; Tier 2 is Ukraine's existing national indicator set plus new socio-economic indicators.

1. Background and Context

Ukraine has documented worsening exposure to drought. Instrumental records analysed in the Conceptual Basis of the Drought Management Plan in Ukraine (2021)¹ show almost annual spring-summer, summer, or autumn drought since 1981, a national air-temperature rise of 1.2°C over the past three decades (regionally 0.61–0.82°C/decade, exceeding both post-Soviet and European averages), and a climatic water balance deficit exceeding 460 mm in southern Ukraine. Areas with a significant natural moisture deficit grew from 22.5% to 29.5% of national territory between the 1961–1990 and 1991–2015 baselines.

Ukraine's gap is also visible at the regional level. Danube Drought Strategy (2019)², developed under the ICPDR³/EUSDR-supported DriDanube project, defines the "Danube region" as comprising 14 riparian countries including Ukraine, but Ukraine was one of only four countries (with Bulgaria, Germany, Moldova) that did not participate in the project's ground-setting exercises (stakeholder mapping, state-of-the-art review, national seminars) carried out in the other 10 participating countries. This assignment can therefore be positioned as extending an existing, regionally-recognised drought management model (the Optimal Drought Management Model, ODMM) to a portion of the Danube basin the Strategy already identified as in scope but unaddressed – not as a *de novo* national exercise.

The scale of what is at stake is illustrated directly upstream and downstream of Ukraine's own Lower Danube sub-basin: during the 2017 drought, Romania reported a reduction of Danube flow of 60%, higher electricity prices, and crop transportation problems, while Serbia reported over €1 billion in cross-sectoral losses (Danube Drought Strategy, 2019). These are the most geographically relevant precedents available to Ukrainian decision-makers, and more concrete than national climate-trend statistics alone.

Despite this, Ukraine has not yet produced risk-based Drought Management Plans (DMPs) consistent with EU practice under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Integrated Drought Management Programme for Central and Eastern Europe (IDMP CEE). A review of the adopted River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) of the Lower Danube River Basin (2025–2030) confirms this gap is real, not theoretical, and defines the starting conditions for this assignment:

- The term "тривала посуха" ("prolonged drought") is the official, already-established Ukrainian translation used in the GWP CEE methodology, but it has not yet appeared even once in the actual text of any approved Ukrainian River Basin Management Plan. The RBMPs limit themselves to generic "force majeure" language, without singling out "prolonged drought" as a legally defined category with its own criteria.
- No drought indicators, thresholds, drought stages, or early warning system are defined anywhere in the RBMP.
- The RBMP's own climate projections for the low-Danube region could be updated with more recent, higher-resolution community-level projections available for the same geography

¹ Institute of Water Problems and Land Reclamation of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine (IWPLR NAAS Ukraine). (2021). Conceptual Basis of Drought Management Plan in Ukraine. Kyiv: IWPLR NAAS Ukraine. Also archived via PreventionWeb: <https://www.preventionweb.net/media/102852/download>

² Slovenian Environment Agency & DriDanube Project Consortium. (2019). Better Prepared for Drought: Danube Drought Strategy, including the Optimal Drought Management Model (ODMM). Interreg Danube Transnational Programme <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/dridanube/outputs>

³ International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

(RCP4.5/RCP8.5, periods 2021–2040/2041–2060/2081–2100, per the 2026 PAABS Gender-Sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Odesa Oblast).

This assignment is designed to close these specific, documented gaps: it will produce (a) a draft national methodology for the preparation of basin-level DMPs in Ukraine, consistent with EU WFD practice and the IDMP CEE Guidelines for Preparation of Drought Management Plans (2015)⁴, and (b) a first DMP produced under that methodology for the Lower Danube sub-basin, as a validated, replicable template for Ukraine's other river basin districts.

This ToR was prepared based on the following documents:

- European Commission. (2007). Drought Management Plan Report, Including Agricultural, Drought Indicators and Climate Change Aspects. Technical Report 2008-023.
- Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE) & World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Integrated Drought Management Programme in Central and Eastern Europe (IDMP CEE). (2015). Guidelines for Preparation of Drought Management Plans. GWP CEE.
- Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE), Integrated Drought Management Programme in Central and Eastern Europe (IDMP CEE). (2015). Drought Risk Management Scheme: A Decision Support System (Technical Note). GWP CEE.
- Institute of Water Problems and Land Reclamation of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine (IWPLR NAAS Ukraine). (2021). Conceptual Basis of Drought Management Plan in Ukraine. Kyiv: IWPLR NAAS Ukraine. Also archived via PreventionWeb: <https://www.preventionweb.net/media/102852/download>
- PAABS Project. (2026). Gender-Sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment of Odesa Oblast. [Original Ukrainian working title: Гендерно-чутлива оцінка кліматичної вразливості та ризиків Одеської області.
- Slovenian Environment Agency & DriDanube Project Consortium. (2019). Better Prepared for Drought: Danube Drought Strategy, including the Optimal Drought Management Model (ODMM). Interreg Danube Transnational Programme.
- Кабінет Міністрів України [Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine]. (2024). План управління річковим басейном Дунаю на 2025-2030 роки [River Basin Management Plan of the Danube River Basin District, 2025–2030]. Approved by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1347, 31 December 2024 (розпорядження від 31.12.2024 № 1347).
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) & Global Water Partnership (GWP). (2014). National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action (D.A. Wilhite). Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) Tools and Guidelines Series 1. Geneva: WMO; Stockholm: GWP. Background source referenced within GL's own step-by-step methodology (Ch.2.2); not separately supplied as a project file.

⁴ Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE) & World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Integrated Drought Management Programme in Central and Eastern Europe (IDMP CEE). (2015). Guidelines for Preparation of Drought Management Plans. GWP CEE.

2. Objectives

2.1. Overall objective

To strengthen Ukraine's national drought risk management framework by developing a nationally applicable, EU WFD-consistent methodology for the preparation of Drought Management Plans for Ukraine's river basins, validated through the preparation of a first Drought Management Plan for the Lower Danube sub-basin.

2.2. Specific objectives

1. Develop an EU WFD-consistent national methodology defining the institutional framework, indicator and threshold system, drought classification and early warning system, programme of measures, and RBMP-aligned procedural steps required to prepare, adopt, implement and update basin-level Drought Management Plans in Ukraine.
2. Produce a fully worked Drought Management Plan for the Lower Danube sub-basin, applying the methodology, to serve as Ukraine's first validated template for basin-level drought planning.
3. Conduct a legal-gap analysis and draft a binding legal instrument (Ministry order / normative-methodological document) to formally adopt the methodology, together with any recommended Water Code or Cabinet of Ministers-level amendments.
4. Ensure the methodology and pilot DMP are gender-sensitive and inclusive of vulnerable groups, building on and extending the 2026 PAABS Gender-Sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Odesa Oblast rather than duplicating it.
5. Deliver both documents through a genuine, staged public participation process consistent with WFD Article 14 and Aarhus Convention principles, compressed to fit the project timeline without becoming pro forma.

3. Scope of Work

3.1. Geographic and thematic scope

- National scope: the methodology shall be drafted generically for application across all of Ukraine's river basins and to be confirmed and adopted by the Ministry of Economy and Environment.
- Pilot scope: the Lower Danube sub-basin (Odesa Oblast), used to produce a fully worked, standalone Drought Management Plan demonstrating the methodology in practice.
- Drought types: the methodology shall explicitly address all four recognised drought types – meteorological, agricultural (soil), hydrological, and socio-economic – aligning Ukraine's existing state-standard definitions with EU/CIS definitions.
- "Prolonged drought" (WFD Article 4.6-equivalent exemption from environmental objectives) shall be addressed as an explicit sub-component of the methodology, not left as an unsupported legal reference.

3.2 Document architecture

- The DMP shall be a standalone document, formally cross-referenced from (but not physically embedded in) the relevant RBMP, given that current RBMPs (including the Danube RBMP, 2025–2030) are already adopted and cannot be reopened within this assignment's timeline.
- The methodology shall include an explicit, evidence-based recommendation addressed to the working group responsible for the next RBMP revision cycle.

4. Tasks

Tasks are grouped into four phases. Phases 1 and 2, and Phases 2 and 3, run substantially in parallel rather than strictly sequentially, given the compressed project timeline.

Phase 1 – Grounding (Months 1–2)

Task 1.1: Data Inventory and Gap Analysis. Nationally at a coarse level, and in full depth for the Lower Danube sub-basin: inventory of meteorological, hydrological, agricultural, socio-economic and drinking-water-supply data relevant to drought assessment; light-touch verification of Lower Danube monitoring-station data completeness; identification of data gaps and current data-sharing arrangements.

Task 1.2: Institutional Options Paper. A comparative analysis of two institutional models for drought governance in Ukraine – (A) a dedicated Drought Working Group within existing Basin Councils, coordinated nationally by a Drought Coordination Council chaired by State Water Agency (Держводоагентство); and (B) new, purpose-built national and basin-level Drought Committees – with a reasoned recommendation, submitted to Michael Succow Foundation and other PAABS project partners for the review and following submission to the Ministry of Economy and Environment for decision. The paper shall also address current institutional responsibility for drought monitoring/early warning data (verifying, not assuming, current Hydrometeorological Service mandates).

Task 1.3: Stakeholder Mapping. Identification of mandatory stakeholder categories for the Lower Danube pilot (state/regional, local, sectoral, and civil-society/gender-focused organisations, including deliberate outreach to women's and community organisations).

Task 1.4: International Instruments and Regional Tools Check. Verify and document Ukraine's current status against the international and regional drought-related instruments relevant to the Danube region (EU WFD alignment posture; the Danube Drought Strategy/ODMM of 2019), so that Part I of the methodology can correctly state the legal basis and international commitments it serves. As part of this task, confirm with IDMP Central and Eastern Europe and ICPDR whether the Lower Danube sub-basin can be practically onboarded to the existing, already-operating Drought Watch tool and National Reporting Network (NRN) system used by the 10 DriDanube countries, rather than building equivalent monitoring/impact-reporting infrastructure from scratch.

Deliverables: (1) Data Inventory and Gap Analysis, (2) Institutional Options Paper, and (3) International Instruments and Regional Tools review in Ukrainian and in English for the review and commenting.

Phase 2 – Core methodology drafting and pilot data collection (Months 2–5)

Task 2.1: Indicator and threshold system. Define a two-tier indicator system: Tier 1, a mandatory core aligned with the EU CIS indicator set (FAPAR, groundwater level, SSPI, soil moisture, SPI, SRI, WEI+); Tier 2, Ukraine's existing national indicators (HTC, Md, V%, No, NT, W0-20/50/100, SPI)⁵ plus new socio-economic indicators. Confirm, per basin, which indicators are actually computable given Task 1 findings, with documented substitutions where EU-standard indicators are not yet feasible.

⁵ Institute of Water Problems and Land Reclamation of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine (IWPLR NAAS Ukraine). (2021). Conceptual Basis of Drought Management Plan in Ukraine. Kyiv: IWPLR NAAS Ukraine. Also archived via PreventionWeb:

<https://www.preventionweb.net/media/102852/download?startDownload=20260804>

Task 2.2: Drought classification and thresholds. Define (a) an intensity classification (retaining Ukraine's existing five-class system), (b) a management-stage classification (Normal / Pre-alert / Alert / Emergency), and (c) an explicit crosswalk table between the two. Define basin-specific threshold calibration methodology, automatic triggering rules for Pre-alert/Alert, discretionary-confirmation rules with a hard escalation backstop for Emergency, and de-escalation criteria with hysteresis buffers to prevent stage-flapping.

Task 2.3: Climate change integration. Reconcile the Danube RBMP's RCP2.6/RCP8.5 (2041–2070/2071–2100) climate data with the PAABS VRA's RCP4.5/RCP8.5 (2021–2040/2041–2060/2081–2100) data for the same geography; adopt RCP4.5/RCP8.5 and the three-period structure as the methodology's working standard.

Task 2.4: Early warning system design. Define dissemination channels (reusing existing Hydromet/SES institutional channels for Pre-alert/Alert; verified use of SES public-alert infrastructure for Emergency); three differentiated warning products (technical bulletin; sectoral advisory; public notice); short-term (1–7 day) and medium-term (10–15 day) warning bands; maximum time lags from threshold breach to notification; and a defined, minimal transboundary information-sharing requirement to ICPDR and neighbouring riparian drought-monitoring bodies.

Task 2.5: Programme of measures framework. Define the programme of measures using the five-category structure (preventive/strategic, operational, organisational, follow-up, restoration), each measure tagged against the drought stage(s) that activate it. Produce a national reference measures catalogue, built substantially from Ukraine's existing agro-technical measures (Conceptual Basis document (2021), Section 9) and international good practice. Produce a mandatory cross-walk table mapping the Irrigation and Drainage Strategy to 2030's existing measures onto the DMP's categories and stages, and explicitly identify non-structural demand-reduction and impact-minimisation measures currently absent from that Strategy. Define a costing/financing template (indicative cost, candidate financing source, financing-risk flag).

Task 2.6: Legal-gap analysis and legal drafting. Analyse the Water Code, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 336, dated 18 May 2017, "On Approval of the Procedure for Developing a River Basin Management Plan" and other legal documents, identify gaps preventing binding adoption of the methodology, and draft (a) a Ministry order / normative-methodological document adopting the methodology, and (b) any recommended legal amendments, including a data-sharing obligations clause derived from the findings.

Task 2.7: Socio-economic and gender-sensitive indicators. Define a minimal, evidence-based socio-economic indicator set (including possible agricultural production-loss ratio; rural drinking-water transported-supply dependency; irrigation-water-availability shortfall; community-level drought exposure/vulnerability score), explicitly reusing and extending – not duplicating – the hazard × exposure × vulnerability methodology and community-type vulnerability data already produced in the 2026 PAABS Gender-Sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Odesa Oblast.

Task 2.8: Consultation Round 1. Targeted, workshop-based consultation (technical stakeholders: State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine, State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Centre, Basin Councils, Ministry of Economy and Environment, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Ukrainian branch of Water Global Partnership Central and Eastern Europe, relevant oblast administrations) on the Institutional Options Paper and the draft indicator/threshold framework, held early in this phase so institutional-design feedback can still influence the design.

Task 2.9: Draft the Methodology.

Deliverable 2: (a) Draft national methodology (Parts I–V, for Consultation Round 1 on institutional/indicator chapters) and (b) Legal-gap analysis and draft Ministry order / legal instrument text in Ukrainian and in English for the review.

Phase 3 – Pilot DMP production and methodology finalisation (Months 5–7)

Task 3.1: Apply the methodology to produce a complete, standalone Drought Management Plan for the Lower Danube sub-basin, including actual (not template-only) costing of proposed measures.

Task 3.2: Revise the national methodology based on the comments from PAABS project partners and issues surfaced during pilot application. Piloting is understood as a validation step that may require methodology revision, not a parallel exercise producing separately consistent outputs.

Task 3.3: Consultation Round 2. Broader public consultation on the near-final national methodology and the Lower Danube pilot DMP together, following WFD Article 14-consistent publication practice (timetable, interim overview, draft document made available), including at least one public workshop held in Odesa Oblast (stakeholders: State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine, State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Centre, Basin Council, National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ministry of Economy and Environment, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Ukrainian branch of Water Global Partnership Central and Eastern Europe, Odesa oblast administration).

Deliverable 3: Draft Lower Danube Drought Management Plan in Ukrainian and in English for the review and comments.

Phase 4 – Finalisation (Months 7–9)

Task 4.1: Incorporate Consultation Round 2 feedback into both the methodology and the pilot DMP.

Task 4.2: Finalise the legal instrument text and submit the methodology to Michael Succow Foundation and PAABS partners including Ministry of Economy and Environment in Ukrainian and in English for the review for adoption.

Task 4.3: Produce a short (15–20 page) plain-language User Guide to the methodology and drought stages in Ukrainian, targeted at Basin Council members, local officials, farmers, and community representatives.

Task 4.4. Prepare a project report summarising methodology, pilot findings, consultation outcomes, and recommended follow-on actions.

Deliverable 4: Consultation Round 2 report, revised methodology, pilot DMP, Plain-language User Guide and project report summarising methodology, pilot findings, consultation outcomes, and recommended follow-on actions for the review and comment.

5. Required Structure of the Methodology Document

The methodology shall follow, as a minimum skeleton (may be expanded, not contracted), the following structure:

Part I – Foundations

- Purpose, scope, legal basis, relationship to RBMP and RBMP planning cycle

- Definitions and drought-type taxonomy
- Conceptual framework (risk = hazard × impact; proactive vs. reactive management)

Part II – Institutional framework

- Institutional model and mandate of national/basin drought bodies
- Roles, responsibilities, and data-sharing obligations matrix
- Legal instruments

Part III – Technical framework

- Indicator system (Tier 1 / Tier 2, data ownership, update frequency)
- Drought classification: intensity classes, management stages, crosswalk
- Thresholds: basin-specific calibration methodology; climate-adjustment mechanism
- Climate change integration: scenario/period reconciliation methodology
- Prolonged drought: triggering criteria

Part IV – Operational framework

- Early warning system: channels, differentiated products, time-lag rules
- Escalation / de-escalation logic: automatic vs. discretionary triggers, hysteresis
- Programme of measures: five-category framework, stage-tagging matrix, national reference catalogue, costing/financing template

Part V – Process framework

- DMP production/update process
- Public participation and consultation procedure (including gender-sensitive requirements)
- Gap and uncertainty identification procedure, tied to the six-year RBMP cycle
- Monitoring, evaluation, and post-drought review procedure

Annexes

- A. National drought indicator reference tables
- B. National measures catalogue
- C. Data-sharing protocol templates
- D. (separate document) Lower Danube pilot Drought Management Plan
- E. (cross-referenced, separate document) Legal-gap analysis and draft Ministry of Economy and Environment order
- F. (separate document) Plain-language User Guide

6. Stakeholders and Public Participation

6.1 Mandatory stakeholder categories (Lower Danube pilot)

- State/regional: State Water Agency, Ministry of Economy and Environment, State Emergency Service, Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, State Geocadaastre, National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

- Local: Odesa Oblast State Administration, relevant territorial community (hromada) representatives in the Lower Danube sub-basin, Basin Council / Low Danube RBMD staff.
- Sectoral: irrigation/land-reclamation operators, agricultural producer associations, rural water utilities serving settlements dependent on transported water.
- Civil society and gender-focused: environmental NGOs including Water Global Partnership Central and Eastern Europe – Ukraine Water Partnership, WWF-Ukraine, Re-Wilding Danube Delta, women's and community organisations – deliberately included, as the results of the outcomes of PAABS Gender-Sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Odesa Oblast (2026).

6.2 Consultation design

- Round 1 (Month 2–3, ~3 weeks): targeted, workshop-based, on institutional options and draft indicators/thresholds.
- Round 2 (Month 6–7, ~4 weeks): written comment period plus at least one public workshop in Odesa Oblast, on the near-final methodology and pilot DMP together.
- Gender-sensitive design: the socio-economic/gender indicator work and stakeholder engagement shall explicitly build on the community-type vulnerability, institutional-deficit, and gender-representation findings of the 2026 PAABS Gender-Sensitive Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Odesa Oblast (2026).

7. Deliverables and Completion Conditions

Deliverable	Due (indicative)
Data Inventory and Gap Analysis	Month 2
Institutional Options Paper	Month 2
International Instruments and Regional Tools Check	Month 2
Draft national methodology (Parts I–V, for Consultation Round 1 on institutional/indicator chapters)	Month 3
Legal-gap analysis and draft Ministry order / legal instrument text	Month 5
Draft Lower Danube Drought Management Plan	Month 6
Consultation Round 2 report and revised methodology + pilot DMP	Month 8
Plain-language User Guide	Month 8
Final Methodology, Final Lower Danube DMP, Final legal instrument text, Final Project Report	Month 9

Contractual completion is defined as: the final methodology and the Lower Danube DMP are technically complete, have incorporated Round 2 consultation feedback and comments from the Michael Succow Foundation and PAABS project partners, and are formally submitted to Michael Succow Foundation with following submission to the Ministry of Economy and Environment for adoption.

8. Timeline

Phase	Months	Focus
1 – Grounding	1–2	Data inventory, institutional options, stakeholder mapping
2 – Core drafting + pilot data	2–5	Indicators, thresholds, climate reconciliation, early warning system, measures, legal drafting, socio-economic/gender indicators, Consultation Round 1
3 – Pilot production + finalisation	5–7	Lower Danube DMP produced, methodology revised against pilot findings, Consultation Round 2

4 – Finalisation	7–9	Feedback incorporated, legal instrument finalised and submitted, User Guide, final report
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Total duration: approximately 9 months, with a hard completion deadline of end of June 2027. Phases 1–2 and Phases 2–3 run substantially in parallel; Deliverable 1 (end of Phase 1) is a mandatory combined review gate before core methodology drafting proceeds at full scale.

9. Team Composition

The Consultant shall field a core team covering, at minimum, the following functions (roles may be combined where justified, but no function may be omitted):

Role	Key responsibility
Team Leader / Water Resources & Drought Risk Management Expert	Overall coherence; WFD/drought-planning framework; Parts I–III of the methodology
Hydrological/Meteorological Indicator Specialist	Indicator system, climate-data reconciliation, monitoring-network verification
Institutional & Legal Expert	Institutional options, legal-gap analysis, drafting of the Ministry of Economy and Environment order and any amendments
Socio-economic & Gender Specialist	Socio-economic indicators; coordination with the PAABS VRA Consultation Rounds 1 and 2
National/local liaison, Odesa Oblast	Basin Council / BYBP / hromada relationships for the pilot

9.1 Required key qualifications

- Team Leader: demonstrated extensive prior experience with WFD-aligned drought or water-scarcity planning.
- Institutional & Legal Expert: qualification for legal drafting under Ukrainian law.
- CEE-region-specific and PAABS/Black Sea-region familiarity: scored as an advantage.

10. Budget Structure and Payment

Payment shall be structured as deliverable-based milestones tied to the phase checkpoints. Phase 2 payment withheld until Phase 1 grounding deliverables pass review.

11. Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weight (indicative)
Technical approach and methodology	35%
Team qualifications and composition	35%
Financial proposal	30%

Technical and team-qualification criteria together shall be weighted 70% against a 30% price weighting, consistent with the complexity of the assignment (reconciliation of two independently produced climate-scenario datasets, four drought types, legal drafting, gender-sensitive socio-economic work, and a hard-deadline pilot).

12. Applications



The structure of the proposal must correspond to the structure of the ToR. The CVs of the personnel proposed shall not exceed 2 pages each. They must clearly show the professional experience relevant to the discussed topics.

Technical and financial offers are to submit by E-Mail until 05.10.2026 to:

Mr. Nika Malazonia, Michael Succow Foundation

E-Mail: nika.malazonia@succow-stiftung.de