

Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

FOR

Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Program

Project Name	: Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project.
Package No.	: SD-47A
Name of the assignment	: Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Program
Selection Method	: Consultant's Qualification-based Selection (CQS)
Type of Contract	: Lump-sum
Type of Consultant	: Consulting Firm (National)
Contract Duration	: 12 months
Language	: English & Bengali

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1. Background of the Project

Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has received IDA loan of US\$175.00 million and GoB contribution of US\$3.85 million for a period of 6.5 years (01 July 2018 to 31 December 2024) to implement Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project. The overall objective of the project is to improve collaborative forest management and increase access to alternative income generation activities for forest dependent communities in targeted sites. This will be achieved by: (i) improving public sector management of forest resources and increasing participation of communities in forest conservation and restoration and, (ii) reducing direct dependence and exploitation of forest resources by offering alternative livelihood sources to dependent communities and improving the enabling environment for trees outside forests. Together, these will result in the eventual improvement of forest cover and ecosystem functions, coastline protection and increased employment opportunities for some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities, including women and small ethnic communities. Project will implement a number of activities which are grouped under following four components:

Component-1: Strengthening Institutions, Information Systems and Training

Component-2: Strengthening Collaborative Forests and Protected Areas Management

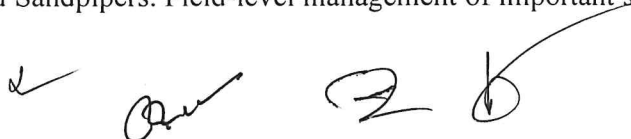
Component-3: Increasing Access to Alternative Income Generating Activities (AIGAs) Forest Extension Service & Trees Outside Forests (ToF)

Component-4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Reporting

This project is designed to contribute in improving organizational effectiveness by adopting improved policy and regulatory framework including infrastructural development, management information system up gradation, capacity building of BFD officials and investing in degraded and denuded forest restoration and building green belt along the coast. This project will finance tree cover improvement in the ToF areas technology transfer, training, research and innovation support and engage forest dependent communities in collaborative forest management practices. By and large the project will enhance wildlife and PA management practices and thereby improve forest conservation and wildlife protection in the country.

2. Background and Context of the Assignment

Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* is a small and extremely charismatic wader with a spatulate bill. It has a naturally limited breeding range on the Chukotsk peninsula south to Kamchatka peninsula, in northeastern Russia. It migrates through the Yellow Sea to winter in south-east Asia from Bangladesh to Vietnam. It was probably always a scarce species, but numbers have dropped precipitously. Its threat status was upgraded from Vulnerable to Endangered in 2004 and to Critically Endangered in 2008. The species has declined from an estimated 2,000-2,800 breeding pairs in the 1970s to 1,000 pairs in 2000 to less than 100 pairs in 2011, and 120-200 pairs in recent years. Bangladesh is still an extremely important wintering ground for Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the population is approximately 50-70 individuals along the coast of Bangladesh. Hunting and trapping are still in practice in some areas, conversion of mudflats (e.g. mangrove plantations and shrimp farms), land reclamation and other anthropogenic disturbances like boat anchorage, shell collection activities, etc. in the mudflat areas are also important factors that disturb their foraging and roosting areas, and probably impact their survival rate in the wintering grounds and could be contributing to the decline in their populations. Due to sea level rise and consequently inundation of coastal mudflat is likely to affect the staging and wintering grounds of the Spoon-billed Sandpipers. Field-level management of important sites of



the Spoon-billed Sandpiper is still in the initial stages, limited meaningful participation by local communities in resource-use decision making, limited information on the status and functioning of critical ecosystems, no integrated management planning, limited opportunities for alternative sustainable livelihoods, lack of alternative sources of fuel wood and fodder, limited public awareness of environmental issues, lack of technical knowledge and capacity, poor enforcement of fisheries and wildlife protection acts and lack of integrated coastal zone management practices.

3. Objectives of the Assignment

The overall objective of this assignment is to take proper management interventions for long-term conservation of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Bangladesh.

The specific objectives of the assignment are as follows:

- Identify and map important habitats including prime foraging and roosting sites and threats to the Spoon-billed sandpiper in Bangladesh
- Conduct targeted surveys in newly identified or little explored areas in Meghna Estuary
- Suggest measures for the protection of the feeding and roosting grounds of Spoon-billed Sandpipers in key sites
- Develop a module of participatory monitoring throughout the winter
- Develop a guideline/ protocol for maintaining good quality habitat by limiting human interference and vehicular movement near the feeding and roosting grounds
- Develop a guideline to stop illegal hunting, poaching and trading of this species or other shorebirds by involving local stakeholders
- Develop education materials and program targeting all stakeholders for the conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper and raise the profile of the species as a flagship species to protect the precious coastal wetlands in Bangladesh
- Develop a 5-year National Species Conservation Action Plan for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper

4. Scope of Services

A. Conservation Measure

- i. Conduct population surveys and use secondary data to map the foraging and roosting areas on Sonadia Island, Nijhum Dwip National Park, Domar Char and Ganguirar Char;
- ii. Assess people's knowledge, attitude and perception (KAP) towards Spoon-billed sandpiper conservation;
- iii. Suggest measures for the protection of the feeding and roosting grounds of Spoon-billed Sandpiper at key sites;
- iv. Develop a module of participatory monitoring throughout the winter;
- v. Develop a guideline/ protocol for maintaining good quality habitat by limiting human interference and vehicular movement near the feeding and roosting grounds;
- vi. Develop a guideline to stop illegal hunting, poaching and trading of this species or other shorebirds by involving locals stakeholders;



B. Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Team (SCT)

- i. Form 3 (three) Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Team (SCT) consisting of 10 members in the adjacent villages of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper sites;
- ii. The consultant shall prepare Team Formation Guideline both in English and Bangla. The team formation guideline shall include rationale of forming team, team formation process and methodology, command area, team management, roles and responsibilities of the team etc.;
- iii. Establish a formal linkage between SCT, Forest Department officials and nearby Co-Management Committees wherever applicable;
- iv. Arrange hiring of patrol boat for the SCT to patrol Spoon-billed Sandpiper sites regularly, develop a standard proforma for monitoring/patrolling.
- v. After the formation of the teams, each of the members along with the forest field staff shall be trained according to Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation action plan;
- vi. The consultant shall arrange financial and logistics support for the teams such as patrolling allowance as per guideline, vests, life jacket, whistle, torch light, ID cards and any other necessary things (as per instruction of PMU) that are required to motivate and operationalize the teams;
- vii. The consultant shall keep provisions for the SCT to organize regular meetings as well as maintain good communication with local Forest Department officials.
- viii. The consultant shall assist Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Nature Conservation Circle for communicating with the international Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force and seek advice on regular basis;

C. Awareness among Mass People

- i. Prepare conservation education and public awareness plan based on the findings of the Population survey and KAP survey and get approval from the Project Director;
- ii. The consultant shall provide support and produce outreach materials such as audio-visual mini-clip, folk songs, leaflet (200 nos), posters (200 nos), T-shirt and cap (100 nos.) etc. This is the responsibility of the consultant to show their innovativeness in preparing outreach materials. Each of the design of the materials have to be approved by the Project Director;
- iii. The consultant shall also undertake different group meetings/field meeting/street meetings etc. in the areas adjacent to the Sandpiper habitat with audio-visual elements to raise and develop awareness on Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation. The audience should primarily be targeted to fisher-folks, village market/bazar/haat lease holders, local government official (UP Chairman, members etc.), school children and teachers, religious leaders, law enforcement agency members, local CBOs, forest department staffs, community youths depending on the community structure. The Upazilla officers and local elites shall also be targeted as audience.
- iv. During the community outreach activities the consultant shall keep close contact with the concerned forest divisions;
- v. The consultant shall place permanent billboards (containing the pictures and awareness message on sandpiper conservation) in nearby villages and cities (e.g. Cox's Bazar) of Spoon-billed Sandpiper habitats. The number and size of the billboards shall be determined



by the consultants with prior approval from the Project Director. This is to add that the size of the billboards should match with the practicality of location and according to the suggestion of the concerned DFO.

- vi. The consultant shall make a video documentary on Spoon-billed Sandpiper.
- vii. Coordinate and sensitize local administration and law enforcing agencies on importance of Spoon-billed Sandpiper protection

D. Develop a conservation action plan for this species based on the following issues (not to be limited these issues).

The consultant shall prepare a Single Species Conservation Action Plan, which shall contain “ecological importance of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, basic data on its ecology, detailed information on its past and present status in Bangladesh, identify key sites and threats, and recommend short-term and long-term conservation and monitoring measures. Moreover,

- i. Fishing within and nearby feeding and roosting grounds.
- ii. Collection of shells of mollusks and crabs within the area.
- iii. Establish the core protection zones.
- iv. Monitoring and observation on wintering populations, migration pattern and interactions of this species with other migratory and local birds.
- v. Educational awareness among the people as a value of wildlife and the public awareness about the conservation of the wildlife species through film show, newspaper, radio, television and publicity, leaflet and meeting.
- vi. Involve communities for conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Bangladesh.

5. Indicative key experts for the assignment (non-key expert is optional)

SI No.	Description	Qualification	Experience
1	Team Leader cum Wildlife Specialist (12 mm)	MSc in Zoology/ Wildlife/Forestry/Conservation Biology	Minimum 10 years' experience in wildlife conservation, Avifauna conservation will be preferred.
2	Shorebird Specialist (8 mm)	Masters in Zoology/Wildlife/Conservation Biology.	Minimum 5 years' experience in shorebird monitoring and Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation.
3	GIS Expert (2 mm)	Masters in Geography/GIS	Minimum 5 years' experience in Digital Survey

Non-Key Experts: Enumerator, Data Entry operator, Communication Support Staffs etc.

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6. Transfer of Knowledge (seminar/consultation workshop/training)

This Consultancy is expected to foster capacity development and knowledge transfer through learning by doing and training to the forest employees and dependent fisher folks etc. It will utilize internationally accepted, culturally appropriate, and gender sensitive methods and approaches along with traditional knowledge.

7. List of Reports, Schedule of Deliverables and Period of Performance

Document/Reports	Reporting Contents	Delivery schedule	Payment Schedule
Inception Report	Develop Methodology and validation process Work plan (as per scope of service of contract agreement), team mobilization, logistic support, etc.	T0+1m	10%
1 st Progress Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Interim result of conducting targeted surveys in newly identified or little explored areas in Meghna estuary.Prepare materials for awareness program.	T0+4m	20%
2 nd Progress Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Formation of SCTArrange training for SCT members and Forest staffsDevelop a module for participatory monitoringDevelop and submit an interim report on threat identification and mitigation measures.Conduct awareness program and submit an interim report along with the sample of awareness materials and pictorial evidence of conducting awareness programs.	T0+6m	20%
3 rd Progress Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop and submit a guideline/ protocol for maintaining quality habitat.Develop and submit a guideline to stop illegal hunting, poaching and trading of this species by involving locals for the conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper.Develop and submit final report on identify and map important habitat, threats migration pattern and mitigation measures.Conduct awareness program and submit final report along with the sample of awareness materials and pictorial and video evidence of conducting awareness programs.Submit a video documentary on Spoon- billed Sandpiper	T0+10m	20%

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4 th Progress Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft conservation Action Plan • Draft Final Report • Validation workshop on Draft conservation Action Plan 	T0+11m	20%
Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final conservation Action Plan • Final Report incorporating comments and suggestions if any. 	T0+12m	10%

8. Institutional Arrangements

PD of SUFAL Project will assign a technical counterpart/focal person from Sheikh Kamal Wildlife Centre (SKWC), BFD who will supervise the whole project. The technical counterpart will visit the project implementation sites time to time to verify the progress of the assignment. Every report will be submitted to the PMU after cross checking by technical counterpart. Respective Forest Circle/Divisions will collaborate and coordinate during the implementation of the Program. The PMU will provide necessary information and instruction at the field level. No logistics will be provided by the PMU.

9. Duration of the Assignment

The basic consideration and the essence of the contract shall be strict adherence to the quality and time schedule for performing the consultancy services. Duration of the consultancy services will be 12 (Twelve) months.

Criteria/ qualification requirement of the Consultant (This qualification requirements will not be part of the ToR but will be used in REOI and Evaluation)

- The consultant should have minimum 05 years of general experience in consulting service sector.
- The consultant should have substantial and significant experience of working in wildlife related assignments.
- The consultant having experience with Avifauna related assignments will be given preference.
- Financial capability of the consultant.
- Organizational, managerial, logistics and relevant equipment capability of the firm.

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