

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project
Bangladesh Forest Department
Ban Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh



Terms of Reference (TOR)

Selection of Individual Consultant: Social Safeguard Specialist

(Package no: SD-28A)

Bangladesh Forest Department

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Terms of Reference (TOR)

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 years 6 months (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 upgradation, capacity building of BFD officials and investing in degraded and denuded forest restoration and building green belt along the cost. 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. Objectives of the assignment

The project does not envisage any land acquisition. However, its afforestation and reforestation activities will involve local communities who may face restricted access to forest resources and produces on which they depend for livelihood. The local communities involved in the project, may also include ethnic minorities who would require special attentions as per World Bank's policy on Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10. The Social Safeguard Specialist will ensure that the involved parties have an understanding of the social safeguard issues required for a World Bank-funded project and that these norms are followed.



3. Scope of the Service

The Social Safeguard Specialist will report directly to the Project Director and undertake the following tasks:

- Prepare an inception report and work plan with a calendar of activities and submit to the Project Director;
- Ensure/follow-up the effective implementation of sub-project specific Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Social Management Plan (SMP), Small Ethnic and Vulnerable Community Development Plan (SECVDP) for the project;
- Carry out regular consultations with the project affected persons (PAPs) and other relevant stakeholders on the project's operations and potential impacts. In carrying out consultations with the ethnic minority/tribal communities, to make sure that such consultations adhere to the Bank's standards on 'free, prior and informed consultations'.
- Take lead/ensure backstopping in preparing design and carrying out the periodic 'beneficiary satisfaction survey' under the project.
- Work closely with the project team and, if necessary, take lead in preparation and the subsequent execution of the project's Communication Strategy.
- Support and ensure the carrying out of the periodic 'third-party monitoring' exercises on the project's social safeguards related issues.
- Collaborate and coordinate relevant activities with the World Bank Social Safeguard Specialists, Senior Collaborative Forest Management Specialist and other staff involved with management of social activities
- Periodically reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of the implemented schemes and their outcomes and impacts; as well as preparing an annual safeguards performance status report that will be submitted to the Project Director;
- Monitor and assist the data flow regarding Grievance Redress Management (GRM) and ensure the effective and timely review and response on project related grievances, including undertaking field visits to ascertain that the Grievance Redress Mechanisms established for the project is functioning appropriately;
- Provide technical assistance to ensure compliance of the social safeguards policies as agreed for the project and as well as ensure to integrate safeguards good practices into all project activities
- Provide technical advice including training to relevant Bangladesh Forest Department officials and other relevant stakeholders on measures to enhance the effectiveness of project implementation and achievement of the project development objectives, in view of the social issues in the activities undertaken;
- Prepare internal social guidelines, brochures for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and reporting of environmental and social information required by various safeguards instruments;
- Prepare an annual Safeguards Review Report and take lead in reviewing the report submitted from the field offices on compliance with environmental and social safeguard guidelines of the project
- Collate appropriate performance and monitoring indicators to input into the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework of the project, as well as provide inputs for various evaluations/studies related to the project;
- Any other important task related to the topic/theme, deemed important by the Project Director:



4. Transfer of knowledge (training) Where appropriate

The incumbent will work with BFD Officials and the participating other parties about the need for ensuring social safeguards are followed. As a part of this exercise, how to monitor and report on the compliances will also be transferred to the parties involved in the implementation of the SUFAL Project.

5. Data, Personnel, Facilities and Local Services to be Provided by the Client

The PD will arrange for necessary information of the consultant if required.

6. Consultant's Reporting Obligations:

The following are the key outputs of consultant on periodical and ad-hoc basis for the overall project;

- Inception report and work plan
- Technical assistance on the compliance of environmental and social safeguards in all project activities;
- Integration of safeguard good practices in the project activities;
- An internal environmental and social guidelines document
- Sub-project specific RAP, SMP, SEC VDP, as required
- Backstopping to beneficiary satisfaction survey, design and implementation of the project communication strategy and periodic third-party monitoring
- An annual Safeguards Review Report
- Project's Grievance Redress Mechanism, preferably in electronic/ online form
- Capacity of forest department officials and other stakeholders enhanced
- Input of appropriate performance and monitoring indicators into the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework of the project
- Monthly progress reports

7. Institutional Arrangement

The consultant will either be based at the SUFAL PMU in Dhaka or posted to one of the coastal circles and will report directly to the Project Director, SUFAL Project. The Individual Consultant will work closely with other consultants working at the PMU and departmental officials. The consultant is expected to undertake the activities (scope of services) mentioned in the TOR in order to achieve the stated objectives. Under this consultancy travels are being envisaged. However, travels necessary for the exigencies of services to achieve the desired objectives, may be under taken but with prior permission of the PD and in such cases only the actual costs will be reimbursed.

The deliverables will be submitted on time by the consultant to the PD, SUFAL Project, BFD, Dhaka Bangladesh.



8. Duration

The duration of the assignment will be around 12 (Twelve) months.

9. Type of Contract: Time-Based

10. Qualifications & pre-requisites (This qualification requirements will not be part of TOR but will be used in REOI and Evaluation)

- A minimum of a Master's Degree in Social/Environmental Science with at least 10 years working experience on social safeguard related issues.
 - Fluency in both English and Bangla
 - Ability to analyze social and environmental data
 - Proven experience in formulating, assessing, and reviewing environmental and social safeguards compliance documents;
 - Knowledge of Bangladesh national legislations related to environment, forestry, land administration and other relevant issues;
 - Experience in carrying out stakeholder consultations and organizing environmental and social safeguards training workshops/seminars; and
 - Solid knowledge of World Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies.
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