

“শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ  
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু  
বাংলাদেশ”

Government of the People’s Republic of  
Bangladesh  
Office of the Conservator of Forests  
Social Forest Circle, Bogura.  
website: <http://forest.rajshahidiv.gov.bd>



## Terms of Reference (TOR)

for

### Feasibility Study for Forest Ecosystem Conservation and Eco-tourism Development of Greater Dinajpur and Rangpur Region

(Package No: Service-01(S01)/2023-24)

#### 1. Background of the Project:

Current forest management systems in Bangladesh are the product of continuous evolution to match changing needs and objectives. Now forests are no longer needed solely for timber but also to provide clean air, clean water, quality habitat for wildlife and to act as a major source of biodiversity and nature-based tourism. Social Forest Division, Dinajpur and Social Forest Division, Rangpur have legal control over 27272.33 acres and 7250.50 acres of forest lands respectively distributed in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur district. Amongst the aforesaid forest lands, 3868.46 acres are covered with natural Sal forests. These forest lands are discontinuous and have no boundary marks. Social forestry activities are involving the local poor people as beneficiaries for management and conservation of forests. The main purpose of social forestry is to create employment opportunities for the poor people and help them for being self-dependent and meet their needs for food, fodder, fuel and furniture. Social forestry plays an important role in nursery development, planting trees in marginalized and fallow lands, protecting forest resources, biodiversity conservation, women empowerment, and above all, employment and poverty reduction. There are 1,03,255 beneficiaries are involved in social forestry activities in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Rangpur district. Among them 21,012 participants are women.

Forests are storehouses of carbon, wildlife habitat and regulator of socio-economic development of human beings. In recent years, wildlife population is under severe threat as a consequence of forest ecosystem destruction worldwide including in Bangladesh. Forest ecosystem destruction can vastly increase an area’s vulnerability to natural disasters like flood and drought, crop failure, spread of disease, and water contamination. The negative effects of forest ecosystem destruction usually impact rural populations more directly than urban populations. Across the globe, poor people suffer the most when natural forest is destroyed, because less natural habitat means fewer forest resources per capita, yet wealthier people and countries can simply pay more to continue to receive more than their per capita share of forest resources. So, conservation of forest ecosystem of greater Dinajpur and Rangpur region is a significant issue to be addressed for betterment of the inhabitants of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Rangpur district.

The concept of ecotourism is now a common issue in developed countries whereas it is still a new area for the tourism industry in Bangladesh. Although there are several barriers to ecotourism in Bangladesh such as natural disasters, population pressure, inadequate physical infrastructural support etc. If proper steps can be taken to protect the ecotourism spots along with adequate measures to make the destinations eco-tourist-friendly with appropriate policies to promote ecotourism, then undoubtedly the socio-economic condition of remote local people will be improved. There are 5 national parks and one eco-park under the jurisdiction of the Social Forest Division, Dinajpur. The national parks are: 1) Ramsagar National Park, 2) Nawabganj national park, 3) Birganj national park, 4) Singra national park and 5) Dharmapur national park. All the national parks are situated in Dinajpur district. The only eco-park is situated at Tetulia in Panchagarh district. These protected areas are habitats for wildlife. Moreover, these protected areas are source of recreation for numerous tourists from the country and abroad. Among the 5 national parks, in 4 national parks, there are few eco-tourism facilities. Dharmapur national park has recently been declared a protected area, where there have been no eco-tourism facilities. There are one proposed eco-park and 2 potential sal forests to be declared as eco-park under the jurisdiction of the Social Forest Division, Rangpur. The proposed eco-park is located in Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari district and other potential sal forests are located in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat district and Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur district. Eco-tourism facilities are yet to be developed in the potential sites under jurisdiction of the Social Forest Division, Rangpur. So, the development of eco-tourism facilities in greater Dinajpur and Rangpur region i.e., in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Rangpur district is very important.

A feasibility Study project is designed as an initiative to identify the current management practices/facilities, conservation status and future requirements for conservation of forest ecosystem and improvement of eco-tourism facilities through various activities. The Project is expected to have a feasibility study for Forest Ecosystem Conservation and Eco-tourism Development activities in Greater Dinajpur and Rangpur Region.

Article 18A of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh states, "The State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, bio-diversity, wetlands, forests and wild life for the present and future citizens." The target of increasing forest cover to 20% of the total land area by 2041 has been set in the perspective plan 2021-2041. The proposed project will produce a DPP of a Project, which will contribute to increase the tree coverage in Greater Dinajpur and Rangpur Region. The objectives of the forest sub-sector in the 8th Five Year Plan are to ensure the conservation and protection of all existing forests, wildlife and other forest resources in line with the principles of sustainable development and to achieve climate resilience; enrichment of degraded forest areas; and increasing the amount of forest/tree covered land. The proposed project's outcomes resemble the objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan. The project is aligned with the goals and objectives of the United Nations announced Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG targets that are linked to the extent of biodiversity loss or degradation and one of which is related to environmental development and poverty reduction through the sustainable use of natural resources. Bangladesh is highly committed to achieving SDG targets and biodiversity conservation is one of the government's national priorities. This Project goals and objectives are in line with sectoral goals and objectives and will help to meet SDGs Goal 13 and 15. This project will play a positive role in meeting the SDG targets.

## 2. Objectives of the assignment

The main aim of the assignment is to conduct a study on the environmental, physical and economic feasibility of Forest Ecosystem Conservation and Eco-tourism Development activities to increase the tree coverage, conserve biodiversity and promote eco-tourism through socio-economic activities such as poverty alleviation of local people, employment generation etc in Greater Dinajpur and Rangpur Region.

The followings are the specific objectives of the assignment:

1. Document the existing management practices of Social Forest Division, Dinajpur and Social Forest Division, Rangpur.
2. Document eco-tourism facilities in Greater Dinajpur and Rangpur Region.
  - a. Assess the feasibility of Forest Ecosystem Conservation and
  - b. Assess the feasibility of Eco-tourism Development activities in Greater Dinajpur and Rangpur Region with special preference to socio-economic activities such as poverty alleviation of local people, employment generation etc.
3. prepare appropriate/suitable designs for the development of eco-tourism related infrastructures based on feasibility study;
4. Assess the financial requirements and environmental impact of infrastructure development;
5. Prepare DPP for Forest Ecosystem Conservation and Eco-tourism Development project if feasibility is positive.

## 3. Scope of Consultancy Services:

The scope of Consultancy Services is as follows:

- **Identifying activities/infrastructures to be carried out/developed**

Consulting Firm will prepare a survey methodology for data/information collection and take the approval of the competent authority. Afterward Firm will carry out an extensive survey on activities to be carried out as stated in SL No. 02 of Annex-8 (TOR). The consultant will prepare detailed estimate of the works and prepare Bill of Quantities /Schedule of Rates for the preparation of the feasibility study report and DPP.
- **Preparation of infrastructural design**

The scope of work of the assignment is to prepare architectural and engineering design/drawings and cost estimates of future infrastructures for the feasibility report and DPP preparation.
- **Conceptual Design and Documents**

In the preliminary phase of design and documentation preparation, the consultant will identify the type of infrastructure, and determine the appropriate foundation design for the construction of the building.
- **Design Development Documents**

Using the approved preliminary drawings, the Consultant will prepare the design development documents.



- **Preparation of Preliminary Engineering Drawings**

Based on the preliminary architectural drawings, the consultant shall prepare preliminary engineering design of the proposed building for necessary approval from the competent authority. Engineering designs will include structural design, electrical design, plumbing and sanitary design, mechanical design, firefighting and gas line design and drawing as per requirement.

- **Preparation of Estimated Cost**

Based on the preliminary architectural and engineering drawings, the consultant will prepare preliminary cost estimates of the works. At the time of preparation of preliminary cost estimates, every effort to be made to ensure that no item of work is left out and the estimated cost will not be too less when the actual construction will take place.

- **Other related task**

Any relevant task/works seems necessary to conduct the feasibility study.

- **Site investigation:**

The consultant will carry out the field investigation work including site analysis, land survey, sub-soil investigation, environmental impact assessment etc. as per requirements for the construction works:

#### 4. Transfer of Knowledge (training), When appropriate

Consulting firm will conduct workshops to share the study design and validate

#### 5. List of Reports, Schedule of deliveries, period of performance

##### 5.1: List of Reports

1. Inception report
2. Monthly Progress report, Preparation of detailed map of project area and prepare database, EIA and other related reports,
3. Final Feasibility study report
4. Develop DPP

##### 5.2: Schedule of deliveries

No.	Deliverables	Timelines
1	Inception report	Due 3 weeks after recruitment of consulting firm (hard copy and soft copy)
2	Monthly Progress report	Every calendar month (hard copy and soft copy)
3	Preparation of detailed map of project area and prepare database	Scheduled for 8 <sup>th</sup> months after the recruitment of consulting firm (hard copy and soft copy)
4	Submission of EIA and other related reports	Scheduled for submission by 8 <sup>th</sup> Month of the recruitment of consulting firm (soft and hard copy)

No.	Deliverables	Timelines
5	Final Feasibility study report	Draft feasibility study report submission by 11 <sup>th</sup> months after the recruitment of consulting firm (hard and soft copy);  Final submission by 12 <sup>th</sup> months after the recruitment of consulting firm (print copy and soft copy)
6	Development Project Proforma (DPP)	Final submission by 13 <sup>th</sup> months after the recruitment of consulting firm (print copy and soft copy)

**5.3:** Period of performance: 13 months

## 6. Data, facilities & Local services to be provided by the Client:

Within the Capacity/ability, the client will provide possible necessary support to the consultant related to field work.

## 7. Institutional Arrangements

Conservator of Forests, Social Forest Circle, Bogura represents the Client for this assignment. The Consultant will work under the direct supervision of the Conservator of Forests, Social Forest Circle, Bogura and Project Director of "Feasibility Study for Forest Ecosystem Conservation and Eco-tourism Development of Greater Dinajpur and Rangpur Region". Conservator of Forests will assist the study team as required. S(he) will also support the Consultants that the objective of the assignment, as detailed in the ToR, would be achieved within the agreed time schedule, and that the contents of the report are acceptable to the Government of Bangladesh. (S)he will supervise the execution of the feasibility study and will monitor progress according to the objectives set in the ToR. S(he) will facilitate meetings between the consultants and BFD professional staffs to discuss different related issues. Any unresolved issues, either technical or otherwise, will be taken up with Head of Procuring Entity (HOPE), senior personnel or other GoB agencies as required.

## 8. Consultant Responsibilities

Data, personnel, facilities, equipment and services will be provided by the Consultant as detailed in this ToR. The Consultant will mobilize the necessary expertise for the effective delivery of the services as stipulated in the scope of works and ToR. The Consultant will carry out the services in the best interest of the Client with reasonable care, skills and diligence in line with sound professional, administrative and financial practices. Field surveys and field data collection will be carried out in coordination with field officers (DFO/ACF/Range/Beat Officers/Officer in charge) of Rangpur/Dinajpur Social Forest Division. The Consultant will be responsible to the client for the execution of the contract according to the terms and conditions spelled out therein.

## **9. Others:**

### **9.1: Composition of Consulting Team**

For the architectural drawing, design, financial estimation, draft preparation of DPP works consulting service will be carried out for a period of 13 (thirteen) months from the date of commencement. The project Director can revise the TOR of Consultants with prior approval of the Chief Conservator of Forests, if necessary.

Sl. No	Position	Unit (Man-Month)	Qty	Qualification with Experience	Responsibilities	No.
01	Team Leader	MM	13	B.Sc in Civil Engineering having 20 years of work experience in supervision, management of construction works. Also having membership with IEB. Or, B.Sc. in Forestry having 20 years of work experience in supervision, management of Forestry activities.	He/ She will monitor and supervise the activities of team members and time to time written communication to the Authority is necessary.  Any other task assigned by PD to be accomplished by the consultants.	01
02	Forestry expert	MM	6	B.Sc. in Forestry having 20 years of work experience in supervision, management of Forestry activities.	He/ She will assess the existing biodiversity condition of the project location, accomplish the necessary design, supervision and management of the assessment and time to time necessary communication with PD, Higher Authority, Team Leader is mandatory.	01



Sl. No	Position	Unit (Man-Month)	Qty	Qualification with Experience	Responsibilities	No.
03	Civil Engineer	MM	10	B.Sc in Engineering (Civil) having 15 years of work experience in structural design preparation, supervision and management of construction works. Also having membership with IEB.	He/ She will accomplish the necessary structural design, supervision and management of the assessment and time to time necessary communication with PD, Higher Authority, and Team Leader is mandatory.	01
04	Architect	MM	10	B.Sc in Architecture having 15 years of work experience in designing and supervising of construction works. Also having membership with IAB.	He/ She will accomplish the necessary Drawing, design, supervision and management of the assessment and time to time necessary communication with PD, Higher Authority, Team Leader is mandatory.	01
05	Mechanical Engineer	MM	6	B.Sc in Engineering (Mechanical) having 15 years of work experience in structural design preparation, supervision and management of construction/mechanical works. Also having membership with IEB.	He/ She will accomplish necessary action/necessary design, supervision and management activities related to Mechanical Engineering works and assist as per PD's instructions.	01
06	Environmental Study/ EIA Specialist	MM	5	Master's degree in NRM or related subjects and experienced in conducting EIA, minimum 15 years of professional experience in related/EIA Study.	He/ She will do the necessary Study on EIA and management of the assessment and time to time necessary communication with PD, Higher Authority, Team Leader is mandatory.	01



Sl. No	Position	Unit (Man-Month)	Qty	Qualification with Experience	Responsibilities	No.
07	Sociologist/Socio-economic assessment specialist	MM	4	Master's degree in Sociology/Social Works or related subjects and experienced in conducting Socio-economic assessment, minimum 15 years of professional experience in related works/Socio-economic assessment.	He/ She will do the necessary Study on Socio-economic assessment and management of the assessment and time to time necessary communication with PD, Higher Authority, Team Leader is mandatory.	01
08	Hydrologist	MM	3	Master's degree in Hydrology or related subjects and experienced in conducting EIA, minimum 15 years of professional experience in related/EIA Study.	He/ She will accomplish necessary activity related to hydrology and time to time necessary communication with PD, Higher Authority, Team Leader is mandatory.	01
09	DPP Consultant (FS Report with Project Preparation works)	MM	5	Master's degree in Planning, Accounting, Finance, MBA/Higher degree in the relevant field, minimum 15 years of professional experience in related FS Report with Project Preparation works.	He/She will support the preparation of the feasibility study report, DPP and procurement plan and time to time necessary communication with PD, Higher Authority, Team Leader is mandatory.	01
10	Economist	MM	3	Master's degree in Economics, MBA/Higher degree in the relevant field, minimum 15 years of professional experience in related support the preparation of Economic Analysis of DPP preparation.	He/She will support the preparation of Economic Analysis in connection with DPP preparation.	01





Sl. No	Position	Unit (Man-Month)	Qty	Qualification with Experience	Responsibilities	No.
11	Junior Consultant (Civil Engineering)	MM	20	Diploma in Civil Engineering having 05 years of work experience in design and supervision of construction works.	He/ She will do necessary action in civil Engineering works-related activities and assist as per PD's instructions.	02
12	Junior Consultant (FS Report with Project Preparation work)	MM	5	Diploma in DPP preparation having 05 years of work experience in design and supervision of construction works.	He/ She will do necessary action in FS Report with Project Preparation work and assist as per PD's instructions.	01
13	Landscape Designer	MM	6	B.Sc in Architecture having 15 years of work experience in landscape designing.	He/ She will do necessary action in Land Litigation/ Land Management/Civil Case related activities and assist as per PD's instructions.	01
14	GIS Specialist	MM	6	Degree in computer science, geography, surveying, engineering, or related field. 3 years of experience with mapping tools such as ArcGIS, QGIS and ERDAS imagine etc. Experience in data collection using DGPS/GPS will be the added advantage.	He/ She will do necessary action in GIS mapping works related activities and assist as per PD's instructions.	01
15	Surveyor	MM	9	B. Sc. / M.Sc. in geography, soil science, or other related subjects. 10 years of experience in surveys. Knowledge of DGPS/GPS based survey will be preferred Experience in working with DLRS may be preferred.	Guide/suggest identifying the un-surveyed forest land using the bearing explained in the gazette notifications. Support the digital location data collection using DGPS/GPS and assist as per PD's instructions.	01



## **9.2 Collect the baseline information to develop the study methodology:**

The collection of baseline information is crucial to develop the study design. Existing data/documents will be reviewed to gather information/ideas on the management practices/eco-tourism facilities in Greater Dinajpur and Rangpur Region. Meetings will be conducted at different levels. Consulting firm has to accomplish several sub-activities to implement the activity.

Sub activities: Review the existing management plans/documents and socio-economic data;

1. Collect a list of existing plantations;
2. Collect a list of existing and under construction eco-tourism related infrastructures;
3. Coordinate with the ongoing projects (e.g., SUFAL);
4. Conduct meetings at different levels to identify the components of the design for information collection;
5. Develop design of the feasibility study;
6. Conduct workshops to share the study design and validate;
7. Finalize the study design.

## **9.3 Conduct field survey and prepare report**

Extensive field visits are necessary to know the status of the existing forest management practices, socio-economic surroundings along with existing literature/data and existing/constructed eco-tourism-related infrastructures. Based on the field visit, activities to conserve forest ecosystem of Greater Dinajpur and Rangpur Region, plantations need to be established, activities need to promote eco-tourism, infrastructures need to be repaired, renovated or established will be identified. Suitable designs or suggestions will be identified based on the field requirements. Financial requirements for those activities/civil works will also be identified under this activity. Range Officers will support the implementation of the activity.

Sub activities under this activity:

1. Visiting the concerned site/offices;
2. Meeting with Officials, visit the required site and identify the types of activities/infrastructures to be accomplished/developed;
3. Prepare a detailed map of Social Forest Division, Dinajpur and Social Forest Division, Rangpur;
4. Identify and quantify types of plantations to be established;
5. Identify scope for developing new eco-tourism sites;
6. Identify and quantify types of infrastructures to be developed;
7. Investigate the desired site/landscape for infrastructure development;
8. Prepare drawing design for the new infrastructures to be established;
9. Cost estimates of proposed plantations, management plan for Dinajpur and Rangpur Social Forest Division, management plan for existing/proposed protected areas and master plans for the eco-tourism sites;
10. Cost estimates of repairs, renovations, required civil works and establishments;
11. Collect all necessary data and information to prepare the report.

12. Activities to measure/project carbon sequestration, economic development, contribution to GDP, gender equality, benefits for disabled and senior citizens as the outcomes of the proposed project.

#### **9.4; Conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and test soil;**

Development of new infrastructure needs to conduct EIA to check whether development of infrastructure will have any negative impact on the environment or not. Suitability of soil is also a key factor to establish infrastructure. Range Officers will support the activity implementation.

Sub-activity under the activity:

1. Coordinate with DoE and PWD/BUET to get necessary support;
2. Conduct EIA where applicable;
3. Soil/sub-soil investigation based on the infrastructure to be established in that area where applicable;
4. Organize workshop at the national level to share the draft feasibility study report;
5. Finalize the feasibility report based on the comments received from the workshop.

#### **10. Duration:**

The duration of the consultancy services is 13 (thirteen) months from the commencement date of the Contract.

 26/6/2023

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