

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Consultancy Firm for Shark and Ray and Associated Species Conservation Strategy Development and Non-Detriment Findings (Package no: SD 39)

“Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project”

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\$3.90 million for a period of 5 years (01 July 2018 to 30 June 2023) 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, and 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. Objectives of the Assignment

The objective of the assignment is to carry out endangered species conservation activities in wildlife habitat and PAs. The nature of the assignment implies that the consultancy firm should have reputation in conservation activities. Firm should engage specialized experts on respective field for necessary measures. There are different needs for different species for survival and sensitive to anthropogenic disturbance. Careful conservation, literature review and field survey are needed for making decision on conservation of the selected species.

The specific objectives of the assignment are to make major contributions towards:



- Protecting sharks and rays threatened by overexploitation from targeted and non-targeted catches;
- Ensuring that the exploitation of non-threatened sharks and rays is sustainable and does not result in them becoming threatened;
- Sustaining fishing livelihoods through the conservation of threatened sharks and rays and sustainable exploitation of non-threatened species;
- Developing an informed public about the critical role of sharks and rays in maintaining a healthy ocean ecosystem through mass awareness programs for the species conservation
- Establishing strong capacity among government and community stakeholders for the conservation management of sharks and rays;
- Achieving compliance with CITES regulations regarding the international trade in sharks and rays; and
- Strengthening coordination with the Department of Fisheries regarding shark and ray conservation.

3. Scope of Services

The Consulting Firm is responsible and accountable for managing the assignment, including the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of assigned interventions and outputs.

The Consulting Firm will cooperate closely with the Project Director (PD), Project Management Unit (PMU) and the main beneficiaries of the project. The Consulting Firm will develop and manage activities outlined as contractual services of the project. These include:

- Conduct an assessment for the scientific investigations on the status of sharks and rays and identify threats to their survival;
- Submit a baseline status report and threat assessment of sharks and rays;
- Identify priority species for conservation management and conducting CITES non-detriment findings (NDFs) related to sharks and rays;
- Develop a report on actions needed for the conservation of threatened sharks and rays and the sustainable exploitation of species not in immediate danger of extinction;
- Conduct NDFs for priority shark and ray species considering their economic importance, conservation status and available data;
- Formulate a National Conservation Strategy for the conservation management of sharks and rays in partnership with government and community stakeholders, including an estimate of the likely costs and its implementation arrangements according to 2-3 different scenarios; propose a financing mechanism, including budget allocations, contribution from private sector, and other sources to ensure sustainability of the conservation efforts;
- Suggest governance frameworks to strengthen the conservation of threatened sharks and rays and the sustainable exploitation of non-threatened species;
- Develop technical capacity and awareness, and foster increased commitment, political will and financial investment for the conservation management of sharks and rays across multiple sectors;
- Develop mass communication instruments and create a documentary for species conservation.

- Formulate recommendations to amend the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012 to protect sharks and rays; and
- Prepare and implement a detailed activity plan needed to achieve the objectives of the assignment and submitting updates and progress reports to the PMU/PMS according to an agreed upon reporting schedule.

4. Transfer of Knowledge (Training/Workshop/Seminar etc.)

Trainings/Workshops	Quantity	Tenure (days)	# of participants
Training workshop on shark and ray data collection and monitoring for field-level staff of the Bangladesh Forest Department, Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, data collectors at fish landing sites, and fishing vessel captains.	2	2 each	20 trainees X 2 workshops = 40 total trainees
Consultation workshops with government stakeholders and fishing vessel captains and traders for sharing knowledge on the status of sharks and rays and their conservation and developing national conservation strategy.	2	1	20 participants X 2 workshops = 40 total participants
Training workshop on developing NDFs for the Bangladesh Forest Department and Department of Fisheries with practical outputs of draft NDFs for priority species.	2	3 each	12 trainees X 2 workshops = 24 total trainees
Validation workshops with International Experts (Experts from CITES HQ) including Regional (Asian Region) and National experts to finalize NDFs.	1	1	30 participants X 1 workshop = 30 total participants
Educational outreach programs for raising awareness among fishing communities, fish traders and government agencies.	5	2	At least 200 participants each = 1,000 total participants

5. List of Reports, Schedule of Deliveries, Period of Performance

Documents/Reports	Deliverables	Reporting Time	Reporting to
Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed description and timeline of activities • List and justification of priority species for NDFs 	Within 1 month of contract signing	Project Director (PD)
1 st Progress report (including baseline information)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 training workshops on shark and ray data collection and monitoring • 1 consultation workshop for sharing knowledge on the status of sharks and rays and developing National 	6 months	PD

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	<p>Conservation Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary results reported on shark and ray research • Draft conservation strategy for sharks and rays 		
2 nd Progress report (including updates on all activities, progress on achieving objectives and expenditures to date)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 consultation workshop for sharing knowledge on the status of sharks and rays and developing National Conservation Strategy • 2 training workshops on developing NDFs • Draft NDFs for commercially valuable priority species according to CITES Appendix-2 listing. 	12 months	PD
3 rd Progress report (including updates on all activities, progress on achieving objectives and expenditures to date)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 consultation workshops to finalize NDFs • 5 educational outreach programs • Responses formulated as needed to CITES Secretariat on NDFs • National Conservation Strategy for Sharks and Rays finalized, and implementation started. • NDFs submitted to CITES Secretariat by Forest Department 	18 months	PD
Final report (including final results on all activities and achievements related to project objectives)	Comprehensive report on project submitted to Forest Department with copies of all deliverables including NDFs and the National Conservation Strategy for Sharks and Rays	Within one month from the ending date of the assignment	PD

The deliverables will be submitted by the consultant to the Project Management Specialist /Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) with a copy to the PD of the SUFAL Project and Bangladesh Forest Department

6. Data, Facilities and Local Services to be provided by the Client

Consulting Firm will arrange field trips and engage stakeholders in consultations, collecting data and participating in awareness raising programs. The PD, SUFAL Project will invite the participants for the training workshops and consultations as required for achieving the project objectives, and the firm will organize and deliver these training workshops and consultations.

7. Key Professionals and their qualification and experience requirements

The consulting firm must be able to make available the following key professionals/experts for the assignment:

SL No.	Key Professionals	Qualification	Experience
1	Marine	Master of Science in Natural	15 years of experience in marine

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	Wildlife Specialist (Team Leader)	Resource Management	science, conservation and policy
2	Program Manager (Wildlife Trade)	Master of Science in Zoology with specialization in wildlife ecology, management and conservation biology	10 years of experience in marine wildlife research and conservation, project management and policy development
3	Program Manager (Marine Mega fauna)	Master of Science in Zoology with specialization in wildlife ecology, management and conservation biology	10 years of experience in wildlife research, research design, and analysis

8. Institutional Arrangement

The consulting firm will deploy team leader and appropriate technical experts to work at different areas as mentioned in the TOR and will collaborate with the PMU in Dhaka. The firm is expected to undertake scope of services detailed in the TOR to achieve the stated objectives. The consulting firm will submit report(s)/deliverable(s) to the Project Director after getting endorsement from Conservator of Forests (CF), Wildlife & Nature Conservation Circle. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Khulna and Chattogram Wildlife Management & Nature Conservation Division will co-ordinate the assignment. The consulting firm will inform their activities to the coordinator regularly. Director, Sheikh Kamal Wildlife Center, Gazipur will assign one (1) associates/officials to work closely with the consultant. Under this consultancy, the consulting firm will bear all travel and administration expenses.

9. Duration of the assignment

The duration of the assignment will be 21 months from the date of commencement.

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