

Terms of Reference (ToR)
for Consultant-Policy Specialist (Payment for Ecosystem Services-PES)
(Contract ID: GBCRP/NTNC/S/IND/3)

PROJECT:

Improving Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin, Nepal.

BACKGROUND:

The project 'Improving climate resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin, Nepal' or 'Gandaki Basin Climate Resilient Project (GBCRP)' in-short, aims to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change in the region.

The project is a seven-year undertaking developed to mainstream and operationalize a sustainable river basin approach for watershed management by building climate resilience of both vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin and has three components: community resilience; ecosystem resilience and climate governance. Each of the project components has an outcome which will be contributed by seven project outputs and yield number of deliverables.

It targets 19 districts in three provinces—Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini. Benefitting 1.9 million people and with over 847k tonnes of emissions avoided, the project is anticipated to be used as a model for showcasing how climate-resilient development in large river basins can occur successfully throughout Nepal.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as a GCF-Accredited Entity, is the implementing entity while the Department of Forest and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) under the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) are the executing entities of the project. The total budget of the project is USD 32.7 million, including a grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) of 27.4 million and a co-financing amount of USD 5.3 million from the executing entities. The field activities are executed through DoFSC's Field Execution Offices (FEOs)- Basin Management Centre Gandaki, Kaski and Federal Watershed Management Resource Center, Kulekhani, Makawanpur in collaboration with NTNC and IUCN Nepal. The Project Management Unit (PMU), housed at the DoFSC, is responsible for overall project execution under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

The project focuses on sustainable ecosystem management by reducing risk of landslide and producing ecosystem products and services for the livelihood in GBCRP. For this, NTNC will be recruiting a Consultant- Policy Specialist (PES) to work at NTNC's office located in one of the areas of FEOs.

JOB SUMMARY:

Working under overall leadership and guidance of the Head of Department-Climate Change and Knowledge Management, the Consultant - Policy Specialist (PES) is expected to develop a mechanism to link upstream-downstream communities to cooperate to reduce the impact of flooding, inundation and sedimentation during monsoon.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Policy Specialist (PES) will be responsible to carry out the following tasks:

- Explore and analyse the existing modalities for PES in Nepal.
- Identify and establish sites that need linking of communities in the upstream and downstream on the basis of the local government's priority.
- Develop a cooperation modality and MOU between the communities.
- Facilitate in introducing the PES mechanism and mainstreaming the model into local government's plans and policies.
- Develop a framework for assessment for economic valuation of ecosystem and ecosystems services to support planning.
- Develop a methodology including a user's manual on framework for assessment of economic valuation of ecosystem and ecosystem services to support planning.
- Pilot the methodology and collect the feedback for further improvement of the methodology and user's manual.
- Provide training to the communities to be able to participate in preparing watershed level management plan with the integration of riverine watershed and water resources.
- Submit reports and propose PES framework suitable for the project.
- Consult and coordinate with the local government, relevant stakeholders and communities.
- Coordinate regularly with DoFSC, IUCN, Basin Management Centre (Gandaki), and Federal Watershed Management Resource Centre, Kulekhani.
- Undertake other duties as assigned.

OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES

- Submit the periodic progress reports of the approved program and budget and as per the assigned task.
- Manual on ecosystem valuation and accounting.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

- Master's degree in Natural Resource Management / Economics/ Environmental Economics/ Environmental Management/ Forestry, and closely related fields with at least 8 years of working experience;
- Proven record of similar assignments, development of policies, plans, manuals and guidelines related to PES/ Environmental sector;
- Excellent analytical, problem-solving, and decision-making skills;
- Effective communication and interpersonal abilities to collaborate with diverse project teams;
- Ability to work under pressure, prioritize tasks, and meet tight deadlines.

Duty Station: The work location will primarily be at NTNC's office located in one of the areas of FEOs, with occasional visits to other project-related sites.

Travel Requirement: Frequent Visit (as required) to NTNC Office along with travels to project sites. Travelling Costs will be as per the NTNC norms.

Period of Involvement: Six (6) Months subject to renewal based on performances and availability of the Funds. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing one month prior written notice in case of unsatisfactory performance, breach of contract, or any other compelling reason.

Selection Criteria: The consultant will be selected based on relevant work experience and qualifications. The consultant will be selected based on the approved criteria of NTNC. The main criteria for the selection will be relevant work experience, qualifications followed by interview.

Application Submission Procedure: Interested Consultants should email their updated CV, cover letter along with filled application form (refer website) mentioning job title at career@ntnc.org.np before **31st August, 2023, 17:00 hrs.**