

Terms of Reference (ToR)
for Consultant-Environmental and Social Safeguard
(Contract ID: GBCRP/NTNC/S/IND/7)

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 a 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 policy Development for local governments to incorporate climate change adaptation and Ecosystem-based Adaption into their Integrated Development Plans. In this context, there is a need to assess and manage the potential environmental and social risks and impacts on GBCRP and requirements to ensure that the project is carried out in a sustainable and responsible manner, taking into consideration the well-being of both the environment and affected communities. For this, NTNC will be recruiting a Consultant-Environmental and Social Safeguard Expert to work at NTNC's office located in one of the areas of FEOs.

JOB SUMMARY:

Working under the overall leadership and guidance of the Head of Department-Climate Change and Knowledge Management, the consultant is expected to perform the overall management, oversight and monitoring of the implementation of environmental measures in the GBCRP.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Consultant-Environmental and Social Safeguard Expert will be responsible to carry out the following tasks:

- Conduct a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA))/ IEE (Initial Environmental Examination) to identify potential environmental risks and impacts of proposed projects by analysing the project's potential effects on air, water, soil quality, biodiversity, and ecosystems.
- Evaluating the potential social implications of projects on local communities, including effects on livelihoods, access to resources, cultural heritage, and community cohesion through Social Impact Assessment (SIA).
- Develop and implement plans to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse environmental and social impacts, such as implementing environmental management plans or establishing community development programs.
- Establish monitoring systems to track project performance and assess its compliance with environmental and social safeguards over time.
- Provide training and capacity-building programs to project staff and local communities to enhance their understanding of environmental and social issues and build their ability to implement safeguards effectively.
- Conduct regular reviews and audits to ensure ongoing compliance with environmental and social safeguards throughout the project lifecycle.
- Consult and coordinate with the local government, relevant stakeholders and communities.

- Regular coordination with field execution Offices, DoFSC, IUCN, and NTNC for activities implementation.
- Undertake any other task as assigned.

OUTPUTS/ DELIVERABLES

- Submit the periodic progress reports of the approved program and budget as per the assigned task.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

- Master's degree in Environmental Science/ Environmental Engineering/ Environmental Management/ Natural Resource Management or related discipline with at least 5 years of work experience;
- Proven experience in the field of environmental assessments and management on E&S safeguard;
- Strong and demonstrated capacity for organization, and management with excellent reporting and coordination skills;
- 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 applicants 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 and cover letter along with filled application form (refer website) mentioning job title at career@ntnc.org.np before 31st August, 2023, 17:00 hrs.