

Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project
Bangladesh Forests Department
Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Changes
Ban Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Terms of Reference
Senior Livelihoods Specialist
(Package:SD-11)

1. Background

The 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 forest-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. The 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 improve organizational effectiveness by adopting improved policy and regulatory framework including infrastructural development, upgrading management information systems, building the capacity 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 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 major objective of this assignment is to enhance livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities and thereby improve their socio-economic conditions. Enhancement will be carried out through diversification of livelihoods, enhancement of ecosystem services and capacity building in support of professional shifts or changes in livelihood practices. Building on the contents of the Community Operations Manual (COM) already adopted by the project, a sustainable livelihood framework has to be developed within the contract period.

3. Scope of Services

Subject to the assignment's needs, the selected individual will be responsible for but not limited to the following:

- Review the existing livelihood practices to identify and evaluate livelihood enhancement opportunities (including through value chain analysis in the project area, for example),

thereby assessing the effectiveness of livelihood practices in reducing dependency on the forest resources and improving socio-economic conditions of the participating communities;

- Develop site-specific opportunities for AIGAs through individual and group enterprises appropriate for the three different landscapes (Hills, Plains and Coastal) of the project area;
- Develop a sustainable livelihood framework exploring ecosystem services benefits, traditional/ non-traditional ways of managing forest resources, market facilities, etc.;
- Promote effective engagement of vulnerable group (such as small ethnic minorities and other forest-dependent communities) in the livelihood activities;
- Develop a strategy for enhancing livelihood opportunities for increasing ecosystem services, diversifying existing livelihoods and creating new options for income generation in the beneficiary communities;
- Prepare necessary work plans for the implementation of the livelihood component;
- Organize training and capacity building activities/initiatives under the project, in particular for those who are part of Component 3;
- Collect data for monitoring the livelihood activities;
- Monitor progress of the livelihood practices;
- Produce quarterly reports on the progress of activities under Component 3;
- Provide advisory support to NGOs through relevant technical backstopping and ensure coordination of their day-to-day activities; and
- Undertake any other tasks assigned by the Project Director.

4. Reporting and Team Coordination Arrangements

The consultant will work under the supervision of the CTA and report to the PD SUFAL. The consultant will work closely with other consultants working at the PMU. In particular, the consultant will work with the project's Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists to ensure that the necessary provisions of the environment and social safeguards for the project are adhered to during the implementation of the livelihood support activities.

5. Working Conditions

The consultant will be stationed in the PMU at Dhaka, Bangladesh and be required to travel to various project sites throughout the country as and when needed. The consultant will also be required to work under pressure.

6. Facilities to be provided by the Client

The project will provide appropriate office space and associated items (data, information, furniture, stationeries, etc.) necessary to carry out the assignment.

The PD will also inform all cost centers to provide necessary data and documents as needed for the tasks assigned to the consultant.

7. Deliverables:

The deliverables expected from the consultant will be the following, at a minimum:

- Inception Report and work plan explaining detail activities ;
- Monthly progress reports (at the end of each calendar month with associated time sheets);
- Report of the sustainable livelihood framework explaining strategy for implementation of livelihood activities of three different landscapes;
- Monitoring Progress of the livelihood activities;

8. Duration

The duration of the assignment will be 30 months.



Qualification and Experience (not part of TOR but will be published in the REOI)

The consultant is required to possess (as appropriate) the following:

- BSc (Hons) in relevant fields such as Forestry, Botany or Natural Resource Management; Higher relevant degree will be an added advantage
- Having minimum 20 years' experience in livelihood-based project planning and/or monitoring and implementation with reputed national and international NGOs, government agencies or bi-lateral or multi-lateral agencies is required;
- Minimum 5 years' experience in large NGO's livelihoods program implementation or NGO partnership management experience;
- Working experience in Project Implementation in in Forestry, Natural Resource or Environment subsector will be an added advantage;
- Relevant experience of implementing donor funded projects;



