

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project
Bangladesh Forest Department
Ban Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
www.bforest.gov.bd

Memo No.: FD/SUFAL/ Procurement/SD-66/16/2020/66

Date: 01 March 2020

**Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for
Selection of Forest Management Specialist for Site-Specific Planning**

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments for consulting services to be procured under the project. The following consultant (national) will be recruited on the basis of individual capacity:

Title	Qualification	Experience	Duration
Forest Management Specialist for Site-Specific Planning (SUFAL/SD-66)	Masters in Forestry or Natural Resources Management; Advanced degree will be preferred	- Having 10 (ten) years of field experiences of forest and natural resources planning, forest restoration and Protected Area management; - Experience in Collaborative Forest Management; - Experience in donor supported Natural Resource Management (NRM) project; - Experience in site specific planning in forestry - Experience in Forest inventory, Survey and Monitoring using GIS technology will be an added advantage; - Willingness and ability to make extensive field visit in difficult terrain; - Experience in producing quality technical reports of forestry; - Advanced proficiency in both spoken and written English and Bengali.	24 months

The Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with other details and expected remuneration). The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers - July 2016, Revised November 2017 and August 2018.

Interested applicants may obtain the Terms of Reference (TOR) from the office of the Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project during office hours or download from the website www.bforest.gov.bd.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted by **March 19, 2020 up to 16.00(BST)** and be clearly marked "Application for the post: **Forest Management Specialist for Site-Specific Planning**" to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail).

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications.


(Md. Rakibul Hasan Mukul)

Project Director

Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project
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01.03.2020

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Ban Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Terms of Reference (ToR)
Forest Management Specialist for Site-Specific Planning
(Package # SD-66)

1. Background of the Project

Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with financial assistance from the World Bank (IDA) has been implementing the Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project during 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2023. 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. 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 will improve organizational effectiveness by adopting an improved policy and regulatory framework including infrastructural development, upgrade of management information systems, capacity building of BFD officials and investing in degraded and denuded forest restoration and establishment of green belt along the coast. It 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.

In connection with component 2, the project provisioned for 79,380 ha afforestation/reforestation interventions in hill forests, sal forests, mangroves and trees outside forest ecosystems in order to restore degraded and denuded forests and to expand tree cover. The field interventions required for this programme are being implemented using site-specific planning. This requires close consideration be given to the opportunities and constraints of each site and also to the choice of interventions that will be sensitive to the geobotanical, environmental, social and economic context. Overall, the implemented plans should contribute to the communities that host the forests within their areas and local consultation is key to ensuring the best and most sustainable outcomes.

The project has developed and tested a framework for the Site-Specific Planning (SSP), begun the process of documenting the approach to the work and initiated its application in project sites. To augment the SSP process within BFD for ongoing plantation program under the project and to operationalize it within the BFD's regular activity, the project envisions for contributions from a forestry expert, which sets the premise for this consultancy.

2. Objectives of the Assignment

The assignment aims to supervise and expedite the process of on-going Site-Specific Planning (SSP) activities in 15 Forest Divisions under four ecosystems e.g. hills, sal, coastal and ToF. This consultancy will be responsible for the further development and completion of a field guide for SSP and Index mapping to be used by BFD field personnel. The consultant will collaborate with NGO and field staffs and supervise community consultation and collection of other site information of the Beat using an Android-based smart phone and online platform. Furthermore, the consultancy will cover orientation and training of BFD personnel at all cost centers of the project.

3. Scope of Service

Main scope of work of this assignment will be as follows but is not meant to be comprehensive, nor does the list of important aspects claim to be exhaustive:

- Supervise and expedite the process of on-going Site-Specific Planning (SSP) activities in 15 Forest Divisions under four ecosystems e.g. hills, sal, coastal and ToF. Develop a field operational guideline for SSP to be used by BFD field personnel.
- Ensure a whole-Beat-approach to identify intervention requirements (e.g. 32 types of plantations in SUFAL and beyond) for various sites within the forest beat.
- Train BFD personnel on how to consult community and Index mapping technique
- While conducting SSP, consultant will supervise in developing Index Map (digital) of the concerned Beat.
- Supervise proper community consultation as per given format of SSP.
- Train BFD personnel at all cost centers to use an android-based online platform developed to conduct SSP.
- Coordinate with RIMS and PMU to ensure data transfer in the Server during SSP operation.
- Collaborate with M&E Consultant and provide baseline information of plantation program through SSP documentation;
- Collaborate with NGOs and field staffs;
- Undertake other activities as and when requested by the Project Director.

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

The Project Director (PD) will arrange and provide necessary information and data as per requirement of the assignment. PD will also inform all concerned cost centers, including three Management Plan Divisions, to provide necessary supports, personnel, data and documents as needed for conducting the site-specific planning of concerned forest units (e.g. Beats). Additional supports from Deputy Project Director (DPD) and SSP Coordinator, DCF, RIMS unit and PMU team, Chief Technical Advisor and M&E Specialist will also be provided to the consultant.

5. List of Reports and Deliverables

The Consultant will submit following reports:

- An inception report and a work plan
- Monthly progress reports of the activities

The Consultant will submit following deliverables:

1. A field operational guideline for SSP and Index Mapping in the field
2. A Training module for SSP and Index mapping.
3. Final Report

6. Ownership of the Data, Documents, and Equipment

- SUFAL shall be the owner of all data, reports, documents, etc. prepared by the consultant and any equipment procured under the assignment.
- All the documents collected and software procured, if any, must be handed over to SUFAL before final payment.
- All ICT products should be provided to RIMS Unit of BFD, usable for RIMS team.
- All documents, reports and information from this assignment will be regarded as SUFAL's property, so the mentioned outputs or part of it cannot be sold or used in any case without prior permission of SUFAL.

7. Duration

The assignment needs to be completed within 12 man-months by the Consultants with required visits to the cost centers, and in line with the agreed framework for the Site-Specific Plan (SSP). Final activities plan will be worked out with the consultant, in coordination with the RIMS Unit and PMU-SUFAL. It is envisaged that the consultancy service will be completed by 24 months, with commencement in May 2020.

(This Qualification requirement will not be the part of TOR but will be used in REoI and Evaluation)

Qualifications and Experiences

- Masters in Forestry or Natural Resources Management; Advanced degree will be preferred
 - Having 10 (ten) years of field experiences of forest and natural resources planning, forest restoration and Protected Area management;
 - Experience in Collaborative Forest Management;
 - Experience in donor supported Natural Resource Management (NRM) project;
 - Experience in site specific planning in forestry;
 - Experience in Forest inventory, Survey and Monitoring using GIS technology will be an added advantage;
 - Willingness and ability to make extensive field visit in difficult terrain;
 - Experience in producing quality technical reports of forestry;
- Advanced proficiency in both spoken and written English and Bengali.