

Terms of Reference (TOR)

for

“Elephant Conservation & Human Elephant Conflict Resolution (Package SD# 40)”

1. INTRODUCTION:

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, 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. Background and Context of the Assignment:

Elephants have been revered for centuries in Asia, playing an important role in maintaining the ecosystem they inhabit and also in the continent's culture and religion. Despite its clearly established importance, most elephant populations are fragmented and pocketed due to multidimensional threats and challenges across its ranges. Bangladesh is one of the 13 Asian Elephant range countries and holding the responsibility to contribute to the global effort for

conserving this majestic animal. At the moment, the Asian elephant's population in Bangladesh ranges from 210-330 and being categorized as Critically Endangered.

Elephants are in jeopardy in Bangladesh due to negative impact deriving from food scarcity, habitat loss and degradation, and direct killing. Moreover, Bangladesh suffers from severe levels of human-elephant conflict, molded in human killing, crop raiding, resource damage, and ultimately the vengeance killings of elephants by affected local communities. Fragmentation of elephant movement routes and corridors due to encroachment, agricultural expansion, establishment of settlements also directly intimidates the survival of the wild elephant population in nature.

Conservation of elephants requires multifaceted initiatives and partnerships at all levels. In order to build an effective and thriving elephant conservation attempt, there are set of challenges that need to be combated in terms of improving the research and knowledge management, strengthening the relevant policies and institutions, enhancing the protection and fortifying the relevant law enforcements, building awareness through communication and education programs, and developing collaboration between all parties involved.

Over the last couple of decades, the Government of Bangladesh has undertaken few initiatives to conserve the wild elephants in Bangladesh. These initiatives, in most cases were discrete and taken on an impermanent basis. The Bangladesh Elephant Conservation Action Plan (BECAP) is the very first document of its kind and spots the investiture of an organized approach in ensuring long term conservation of elephants. It is a Government owned strategy document that provides a vision, goals, and objectives to steer integrated and focused elephant conservation programs. This Action Plan would act as management prescription for the conservation of Asian elephants in Bangladesh for next ten years.

Based on the extent of practicability and relevance, BECAP addressed the elephant conservation threats and challenges by separating them into six problem pillars: (1) Human-Elephant Conflicts and Elephants Poaching, (2) Habitat Loss and Food Scarcity, (3) Protection and Regulation, (4) Research and Knowledge Management, (5) Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening, and (6) Education, Awareness and Collaboration. Forty high priorities, 43 medium priorities and 35 low priority actions are recommended in this Action Plan to secure the remaining elephant populations of Bangladesh. Success of this Action Plan would depend greatly on the timely implementation.

Considering the above, Bangladesh Forest Department is planning to take initiatives (prescribed in the Action plan) to conserve this mega species and also to minimize the human-elephant conflict under SUFAL project.

3. Objectives of the Assignment:

The main objective of the assignment is to take proper management interventions for the conservation of Asian Elephants in Bangladesh that will contribute to the implementation of Bangladesh Elephant Conservation Action Plan (2018-2027). Proper steps need to be followed to address the main challenges and threats of the action plan. The specific objective

of this assignment will be to contribute to the main objective of the BECAP that is mentioned below:

1. To reduce human-elephant conflict and elephant poaching;
2. To prevent habitat loss and increase food sufficiency;
3. To improve the protection of elephant and its habitat.
4. To augment research and improve knowledge in elephant conservation;
5. To strengthen individual and institutional capacity to conserve elephants; and
6. To educate, aware and engage stakeholders toward elephant conservation.

4. Scope of Services:

The selected firm or organization needs to follow the actions suggested under BECAP when designing and submitting their proposal. Following issues, but not limited to, needs to be bear in mind for selecting activities of elephant conservation and HEC mitigation. The activities will be implemented in Wildlife and Nature Conservation Division, Chittagong, Chittagong South Forest Division and Sherpur. In addition, assessment/stocktaking will also be done in areas where earlier interventions were taken by Bangladesh Forest Department, like Sherpur and Chittagong. The scope of services are as follows:

1. Assess the performance of existing Elephant Response Team (ERT), identify their weakness and causes for being inactive (if any). Also suggest to improve their functionality and take initiatives for improvement.
2. Develop a protocol to establish a linkage among the ERT, community, Collaborative Forest Management Committee (CFMC), Co-Management Committees (CMC), and forest divisions to address human elephant conflict (HEC), conservation and management.
3. Assess the current situation of HEC and measures taken to mitigate or reduce the intensity of the conflict in the HEC zones (measures are: solar fencing, trip alarm, chili rope, alternative crop etc.)
4. Create new ERTs wherever necessary and make them effective by providing training and logistics, and revive the existing ERTs
5. Take initiative to minimize the HEC (like alternate cropping, Elephant Response Team, Watch towers etc.).
6. Develop and publish a module on HEC management, and elephant conservation techniques, including international and regional good practices.
7. Provide training to the front line BFD staffs and the community people on HEC management and elephant conservation issues.
8. Carryout awareness programme through innovative approach to sensitize the community on conservation and HEC management
9. Develop a protection and restoration modality for the identified vulnerable corridors and routes.
10. Develop a 10-minute video documentary on elephant depicting it's status, and conservation for targeting communities, relevant stakeholders as well as for the forest managers and conservationists.

11. A survey need to be conducted to identify sites for building solar fence to mitigate/reduce Human Elephant Conflict.
12. An orientation program need to be conducted for the designated ERT members as well as local forest staffs on the maintenance of the already existing and newly built solar fence.
13. A young group of ERT members (or nominated by ERT members) need to be trained as electrician from any recognized Training Institute. The trained electrician will volunteer to serve for the maintenance of the solar fence under the direction of ERT
14. Co-ordinate with BFD to estimate likely costs and program's implementation arrangements according to 2-3 different scenarios; propose a financing mechanism, including budget allocations, contribution from public and private sector and other sources to ensure sustainability of the conservation efforts.

5. Transfer of Knowledge (Training) - Where appropriate:

The Firm will propose details regarding knowledge Sharing or/and mass Awareness training/campaign for the proposed activity.

- Necessary trainings need to be arranged for the front line BFD staffs on HEC issues and management.
- Needs to organize capacity building training for the community people on emergency HEC management.

6. List of Reports, Schedule of Deliveries, Period of Performance :

Document/Reports/ Deliverable	Reporting To	Delivery schedule
Deliverable 1: Inception Report	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within the 1 st month of the contract period.
Deliverable 2: Performance Report of ERT	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within 3 rd month of contract period
Deliverable 3: Formation and Mobilize the ERT	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within 3 rd month of contract period
Deliverable 4: Protocol on linkage among the ERT, community, CFMC, CMC, and forest divisions to address human elephant conflict (HEC), conservation and management.	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within 5 th month of contract period
Deliverable 5: Situation report of HEC and measures taken to mitigate or reduce the intensity of the conflict in the HEC zones	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within 6 th month of contract period
Deliverable 6: Develop and publish a module on HEC management, and elephant conservation techniques.	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within 8 th month of contract period
Deliverable 7: Develop a 10-minute video documentary on elephant, it's status, and	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within 12 th month of contract period

Document/Reports/ Deliverable	Reporting To	Delivery schedule
conservation		
Deliverable 8: Report on training for the BFD staffs and community people on HEC management	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within 10 th month of contract period
Deliverable 9: Report on formation of farmers group, training and logistics distribution	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within 11 th month of contract period
Deliverable 10: Exit plan for ERT	Project Director through focal person and respective DFO	Within 7 th month of contract period

7. Data, Personnel, Facilities and Local Services to be Provided by the Client :

The PMU will help to collect necessary information for the consultant which is available in the BFD, if needed. No logistic will be provided by the Project Authority.

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 consulting firm will submit the report(s)/deliverable(s) to the Project Director after getting endorsement from Conservator of Forests (CF), Wildlife & Nature Conservation Circle. Concerned Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Wildlife and respective terrestrial DFO will co-ordinate the assignment. The consulting firm will inform their activities to the coordinator regularly. Director, Sheikh Kamal Wildlife Center, Gazipur will assign two associates/officials to work closely with the consultants. The technical experts will undertake activities (scope of services) mentioned in the TOR in order to achieve the stated objectives.

9. Duration of the Assignment:

The duration of this assignment is 1 year

10. Key Professionals:

Interested consultants must be able to make available the following key professionals in their pay roll:

Experience and Qualification of the Key Professionals

Sl. No.	Description	Qualification	Experience
1.	Team leader	MSc in Natural Resource management/Wildlife/Environmental Science with international experience.	Minimum 15 years of experience in leading complex programmes/projects nationally and internationally with at

			least 8 years in a senior manager role.
2.	Project Officer/ Wildlife Biologist	MSc/BSc in Zoology, Experience in the field of elephant conservation will be preferred.	3-5 years of working experience on wildlife with especial focus on elephant and HEC

The consultant has to give the clear picture about the organization's working experience with staff of the firm to access the organizational capability.

(This is not part of ToR but will be reflected in the RFP)

Payment Schedule

The payment schedule will be as follows:

- Ten (10) percent of the contracted amount will be paid by the client upon submission and acceptance of deliverable 1 of TOR i.e. Inception Report (which will include core information on Work Plan, Assessment of the project objectives, Problems encountered, Organogram of the project team and the project management structure, etc.) that need to be submitted within 1 month from the commencement date of contract.
- Twenty (20) percent of the contracted amount will be paid by the client upon submission and acceptance of deliverable 2, 3 and 4 of TOR i.e. Deliverable 2: Performance Report of ERT, Deliverable 3: Formation and Mobilize the ERT and Deliverable 4: Protocol on linkage among the ERT, community, CFMC, CMC, and forest divisions to address human elephant conflict (HEC) that need to be submitted within 5 months from the commencement date of contract.
- Twenty (20) percent of the contracted amount will be paid by the client upon submission and acceptance of deliverable 5 and 6 of TOR i.e. Deliverable 5: Situation report of HEC and measures taken to mitigate or reduce the intensity of the conflict in the HEC zones and Deliverable 6: Develop and publish a module on HEC management, and elephant conservation techniques that need to be submitted within 8 months from the commencement date of contract.
- Thirty (20) percent of the contracted amount will be paid by the client upon submission and acceptance of deliverable 8 and 10 of TOR i.e. Deliverable 8: Report on training for the BFD staffs and community people on HEC management and Deliverable 10: Exit plan for ERT that need to be submitted within 10 months from the commencement date of contract.
- Ten (10) percent of the contracted amount will be paid by the client upon submission and acceptance of deliverable 9 of TOR i.e. Deliverable 9: Report on formation of farmers group, training and logistics distribution that need to be submitted within 11 months from the commencement date of contract.
- Ten (20) percent of the contracted amount will be paid by the client upon submission and acceptance of deliverable 7 of TOR i.e. Deliverable 7: Develop a 10-minute video documentary on elephant, it's status, and conservation that need to be submitted within 12 months from the commencement date of contract.

(This is not part of ToR but will be reflected in the REOI)

Interested Consultants should provide information on prescribed Format issued with the REOI demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- General Experience of the Firm (core business and years in business)
- Specific Experience in similar assignment;
- Experience of working under donor funded projects will be added advantage;
- Firm's relevant managerial and organizational capabilities for the assignment.
- Firm's financial capacity and logistics for the assignment