



Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
(An Autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248 006 (Uttarakhand), INDIA

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

for Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India

COUNTRY: INDIA

NAME OF PROJECT: Ecosystem Services Improvement Project

Grant No.: TF0A3990

Reference No.: IN-ICFRE-68368-CS-QCBS

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include development of a roadmap for institutional and policy mainstreaming of sustainable land and ecosystem management in India with a detailed action plan for implementing the findings/ recommendations made by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education under SLEM Project (SLEM Baseline Study and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework). The consultant/ consultancy firm would look into the current state of institutional and policy arrangements in India, identify key gaps and challenges (institutional mechanism, data and capacity gaps etc.) and how these may be required to be realigned and /or what policy reforms and changes are required to mainstream SLEM practices in making investments choices etc. The road map would provide specific guideline to various line Ministries/ Departments/ Research Organizations/ Civil Society Originations etc. involved in restoration of degraded lands and to combat land degradation/desertification. The road map would also provide the guidelines/plans for achieving the targets of land degradation neutrality (LDN), sustainable development goals (SDGs) and NDC targets etc. of India.

The detailed TOR along with necessary documents for submitting REOI is available at ICFRE website (www.icfre.gov.in).

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), now invites eligible consultants/ consultancy firms to indicate their interest for **Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India**. Interested consultants/ consultancy firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experiences to perform the task.

The attention of interested Consultants/ Consultancy firms is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers [Government of India, 16 August 2017]* (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

The Consultants/ Consultancy Firms will be selected in accordance with the selection based on the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines. Consultants/ consultancy firms shall submit their Expression of Interest Proposal as per the prescribed format

(Annexure-I). The consultants/ consultancy firms are to be selected based on their relevant experience, qualifications, and capability to carry out the assignment.

Expression of interest proposals must be delivered in written through postal mail in prescribed format available at ICFRE website (www.icfre.gov.in) on or before 17 December 2019 (17:30 hours).

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [Monday to Friday 0900 to 1730 hours]:

Project Director,
Ecosystem Services Improvement Project,
Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun, Utrakhnad-248006 (INDIA)
Tel: +91-135-2224831, 2224803, Tele Fax: +91-135-2750296
Email: projectdirectoresip@gmail.com
Website: www.icfre.gov.in

Note: Those consultants/ Consultancy firms who have already submitted their proposals to this REOI online need not submit their proposals again.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

**Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of
Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) in India**

1. BACKGROUND

In India almost 47% of land is under cultivation, about 70% of population dependent on agriculture, 69% of the country is dry land,*i.e.*, arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid, 24.8% area is undergoing desertification, and more than 32% of India's total land area is affected by land degradation. While 72% of India's population is rural and depends mainly on land and water resources, almost 80% of all Indian farmers are under the poverty line. The major causes for land degradation are unsustainable water management, poor agricultural practices, human and livestock pressure on land, deforestation, climate change and industrialization.

In India, there is a major focus on reducing poverty through enhanced productivity from irrigated as well as dry land ecosystems, which requires an approach with adequate emphasis on conservation of natural resources. There are significant opportunities for improving land management practices in order to improve productivity and reduce land degradation. Profitable and sustainable land use and ecosystem practices can be the principal means for protecting India's significant environmental assets and alleviating poverty in the largest and poorest segments of Indian society.

Despite considerable financial investments, studies indicate that the rate of degradation of land in rainfed areas in the 1990s is likely to have proceeded at more than twice the rate observed in the earlier years. Further, our agricultural land is also shrinking at a faster rate due to urbanization and developmental activities. The over exploitation of ground water has become serious problem not only in dry states but also in food producing states like Punjab and Haryana. Appropriate land use and sustainable management of the country's natural resources and agro-ecosystem are the avenues to meet the challenges and to sustain environmental services. Given this background, the 11th Five Year Plan of the Government has placed high priority on raising agricultural productivity to achieve an annual agricultural growth of more than 4.1 percent. The 11th Five Year Plan acknowledges that this goal cannot be achieved with the ongoing shrinking and degradation of the country's natural resources, and therefore, stresses upon conservation, harnessing and developing of natural resources. This will require that we move away from existing inefficient use of land and water resources, including ground

water mining, recognize the additional challenges resulting from current climate variability, and expected extreme climate conditions.

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has implemented the World Bank/GEF supported Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management Project as Technical Facilitation Organisation under Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management - Country Partnership Programme (SLEM-CPP) of the Government of India and Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Ecosystem Services Improvement Project. ICFRE is one of the implementing partners of 'Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP)' and implementing one of the components of ESIP, i.e., Scaling up Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) in Selected Landscapes. The main objectives of this component are to prevent land degradation and desertification and increase above-ground forest carbon stock through a combination of investments to implement and scale-up tried-and-tested SLEM best practices, to increase national capacity for monitoring land degradation and track associated indicators, and to generate knowledge exchange on SLEM approaches. The goal is to benefit small and marginal farmers and other rural poor and to develop a national knowledge platform for supporting a community of practice on SLEM. These activities are designed to overcome the twin challenges of arresting land degradation and meeting food security targets. This component will finance on-the-ground sustainable land management investments in private land holdings and common property lands and enhance knowledge and capacity for further scaling up of SLEM approaches at the national level. It will draw heavily from the best practices and approaches that were tried and successfully developed under SLEM project. This component can help increase national capacity for monitoring the status of land degradation and desertification and SLEM outcomes, as well as the results of UNCCD action programmes at the country level.

The SLEM Approach:

The Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) approach was a joint initiative under the Country Partnership Programme (CPP) of the Government of India and Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The Programme was led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the national level, and collaborates closely with State government authorities and other stakeholder groups at the local level. The SLEM-CPP conceived as a multi-stakeholder project supports adoption and implementation of sustainable land and ecosystem management, the essence of which is to apply a multi-sectoral approach to land management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation issues in several states of India. In order to do so, a number of organizations representing different capacities related to the issues at hand were participated in the program. These include government organizations at union and state levels, non-governmental and civil society organizations. The

complexity of the program requires significant efforts at multiple institutional levels in order to achieve the planned results, and secure scaling-up of successful results.

Six SLEM projects were implemented in India with assistance from the World Bank, UNDP and FAO. The project sites under SLEM-CPP cover diverse ecological zones including arid, coastal and mountainous ecosystems and address diverse aspects of land and ecosystem management including coastal agriculture, shifting cultivation, watershed management, and groundwater management.

The SLEM project on “Policy and Institutional Reform for Mainstreaming and Up-scaling Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India” was anchored at the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun. The project envisages identifying gaps and barriers to sustainable land management, and documenting best practices across the country, which could be up-scaled and mainstreamed. The project outcome contributing towards harmonization of the institutional and policy framework, coordination and monitoring of interventions in agricultural and natural resource management strategies that promotes sustainable land management and enhances agricultural productivity while minimizing environmental impacts.

The Baseline study:

SLEM-CPP being a multi-sectoral approach to land management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation requires a long gestation period for its impacts to become visible and apparent. In this context technical and institutional baselines have been prepared to monitor the changing status of land degradation and land management over time and to identify gaps/needs for sustained interventions in future. The baseline study has been designed to develop a preliminary understanding of the status of land degradation issues and its impacts on biodiversity and impacts of climate change/variability on land use practices and policy and institutional framework for land and ecosystem management across the country.

The baseline study has been conducted through a choice of indicators for all SLEM components viz., land degradation, biodiversity and impacts of climate change/variability on land use practices and policy and institutional framework across the country. Given the fact that land in India is expected to be in various stages of degradation, the findings of the study shall serve as a benchmark for assessments of the status in future. This may help in drawing inferences on impacts of interventions that aim at reversing the process of land degradation through SLEM. The study is based on secondary sources of information available, information gathered through field visits, focused group discussions and stakeholder consultations. Apart from the comprehensive National level baselines, Baseline has also been prepared for eight selected States.

Outcome of SLEM-CPP

In the SLEM program, the multi-sectoral approach to combating land degradation also takes account the need to conserve biodiversity and consider the implications of climate variability and change, as additional factors that need to be considered to arrive at sustainable solutions. While the focus is on maintaining the integrity of watersheds and landscapes, increasing vegetative cover through agro-forestry, reforestation and afforestation and through ensuring sustainable extraction practices of natural resources are the other thrust areas. An overall decreasing trend in land degradation is expected as well as an improved protection of ecosystem functions and processes resulting in an increase in carbon stocks in the soil as well as in the vegetative cover.

The expected global benefits with regard to biodiversity will be obtained both in terms of ecosystem components and services. Global benefits will in particular be related to agro-biodiversity and be obtained through agro-ecosystems managed as habitats for indigenous species and through sustainable management of vulnerable habitats such as wetlands, drylands and mountains. Through the integration of climate variability and change as a factor in the planning and implementation of SLEM, the global benefits (as well as local benefits) will be better safeguarded against climate factors.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

To develop a road map for sustainable land and ecosystem management in India.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES, TASKS (COMPONENTS) AND EXPECTED DELIVERABLES:

The main objective of the assignment is to develop a roadmap with a detailed action plan for implementing the findings/recommendations made by ICFRE under SLEM Project (SLEM Baseline Study and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework). The consultants would look into the current state of institutional and policy arrangements in India, identify key gaps (institutional mechanism, data and capacity gaps etc.) and how these may be required to be realigned and /or what policy reforms and changes are required to mainstream SLEM practices in making investments choices etc. The road map would provide specific guideline to different Ministries/ Departments/ Research Organizations/ Civil Society Originations/involved in restoration of degraded lands and to combat land degradation/desertification. The road map also provide the guidelines and plans for achieving the targets of land degradation neutrality (LDN), sustainable development goals (SDGs) and NDC targets of India.

Tasks to be undertaken:

1. Identify the key institutional actors at the central and state level responsible for policies regulation and public investments on land management in India.

2. Develop a time sensitive action plan for implementing the key recommendation made by ICFRE under SLEM project for policy reform or realignment and harmonization of the institutional and policy framework to mainstream SLEM.
3. The action plan should detail the specific actions, who will implement that action, what would be the roles and responsibilities of key institutional stakeholders etc. This should specifically suggest any changes in the roles and responsibilities that may be required for implementing the recommendations made by ICFRE.
4. The roadmap would prepare an institutional matrix for implementing the key recommendations made by ICFRE under SLEM Project.
5. The roadmap should provide capacity building needs for the identified institutions in order to enable them to implement the recommendations made by ICFRE.
6. The roadmap should include institutional arrangements for monitoring selected indicators that are already developed by the ICFRE under SLEM Project.
7. The roadmap and the action plan should be cost estimated and provide a timeline for implementing the recommendations.

4. TEAM COMPOSITION AND QUALIFICATION OF THE KEY EXPERTS:

S. No.	Key Experts	Qualifications and Experience
1	Team Leader (Full Time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post graduation in natural resource management/ environment management/ land management etc. • Minimum 10 years of experience in policy and institutional reforms area • Experience in issues related to land management, preferably on natural resource management and environment management
2	Institutional Expert (Full Time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post graduation in the relevant field • Minimum 8 years of experience in evaluating the performance of national/state level institutions • Experience of dealing with institutional reforms
3	Legal Expert (Full Time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation in the relevant field • Minimum 8 years of experience in policy/ legal environment on issues related to land governance, protected areas management, environment management etc.
4	Agriculture, forestry biodiversity, land management,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post graduation in the relevant field • Minimum 8 years of experience in the field of forestry, biodiversity, climate change, land management and agriculture, environment management

	environment management and climate change experts (Part Time)	
5	Social Expert (Part Time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post graduation in the relevant field • Minimum 8 years of experience in the field of social development

The time requirement for part time experts shall be determined by the successful Consultants (consulting firm), as these would be required to provide specific advice on sectors/sub-sectors related to their expertise. The consulting firm may engage more experts if required to fulfill the assignment in a time bound manner on his own without any additional financial burden implicated on Client (ICFRE). Sub-contracting shall not be permitted.

5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND TIME SCHEDULE FOR DELIVERABLES

Deliverables:

1. Inception report within three weeks from the date of contract signing
2. Interim progress report within two months from the date of contract signing
3. Draft final report within four months from the date of contract signing
4. An executive summary of the final report translated in Hindi within five months from the date of contract signing
5. A powerpoint presentation on the final report translated in Hindi within five months from the date of contract signing
6. The consultants will organize one national level consultation workshop of the final report with presentation within six months from the date of contract signing
7. Final report incorporating the suggestions/ comments raised by the experts during the national level dissemination workshop, ICFRE and MoEFCC within three weeks from the date of the consultation workshop.

Time Schedule:

The implementation period of the assignment shall be 7 months from the date of award of the contract.

Payment Schedule:

Deliverables	Payment Schedule
Inception report	25%

Interim progress report	25%
Draft final report	30%
Final report incorporating all the suggestions/ comments raised by the experts during the dissemination workshop, and ICFRE	20%

6. CLIENT'S INPUT AND COUNTERPART PERSONNEL

- a) **Services, facilities and property to be made available to the Consultant by the Client:**
Relevant documents (SLEM base line report & monitoring and evaluation report) required for preparation of a road map.
- b) **Professional and support counterpart personnel to be assigned by the Client to the Consultant's team:** NIL

**Format for Submission of Expression of Interest Proposal for
(Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land and
Ecosystem Management in India)
Ecosystem Services Improvement Project**

1. Name of Consultant/ Consultancy Firm:
(in block letters)

2. Details about office of the Consultant/ Consultancy Firm Address:
Phone No.:
Fax.:
Email ID:
Website:
Contact Person:
Mobile No.:

3. Profile and track record of the Consultant/ Consultancy Firm:

4. Details of registered office of the Consultant/ Consultancy Firm:

5. Status of the applicant (partnership firm/ Pvt. Ltd. Co./ Public Ltd. Co.):

6. Details about directors/ partners:

7. Copy of Memorandum/ Articles of Association (to be enclosed):

8. Total Experience of the Consultant/ Consultancy Firm and list of important consultancies delivered in past 3 years:

9. Membership of professional bodies/ accreditations/ awards etc.:

10. Balance sheet for the last 3 years (to be enclosed):

11. PAN No. (copy to be attached):

12. GST Registration, if any (Copy to be attached):

Declaration

I/We affirm that all information supplied by me/us as stated above is true and correct, I/We also fully understand that if at any stage, it is discovered that any attempt has been made by me/ us/ the firm to willfully conceal or misrepresent the facts, my/our EOI proposal is liable be summarily rejected. *Curriculum vitae* (in case of individual consultants) and self-attested copies of all the necessary documents and certificates are enclosed for proof.

Place:

Date:

Stamp & Signature of the Authorised Signatory