



## **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**

No. 8/2018/ESIP/BCC/ICFRE/

Dated 28/05/2020

### **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

**Country:** INDIA

**Name of Project:** Ecosystem Services Improvement Project

**Grant No.:** TF0A3990

**Assignment Title:** Engagement of Technical Partner Agency/Agencies for supporting the scaling up of SLEM best practices in selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

**Reference No.:** IN-ICFRE-173906-CS-QCBS

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is one of the project implementing agencies of 'Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP)' and implementing the component 3 of ESIP i.e. Scaling up sustainable land and ecosystem management (SLEM) in selected landscapes. Under this component proven and tested SLEM best practices are to be upscaled in the selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

The consulting services ("the Services") include engagement of Technical Partner Agency/Agencies for supporting the scaling up of SLEM best practices in selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The key objective of the assignment is to support ICFRE in identifying and scaling up the appropriate SLEM best practices in the selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Implementation period will be about 2 years or completion of the project period, whichever is earlier. Terms of Reference for engagement of Technical Partner Agency/Agencies is given in Annexure - I.

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), now invites eligible consulting firms ("consultants") to indicate their interest for engagement as Technical Partner Agency/Agencies for supporting the scaling up of SLEM best practices in selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

The short listing criteria are:

1. The Consultant/Consulting Firm must have been in operation for a minimum of 05 years with demonstrable experience of handling at least one assignment focusing on community level beneficiary oriented sustainable land and natural resource management at village

level with experience in converging for generating additional resources for benefitting the community. Work experience in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in the field natural resource management will be an added advantage. Consultant shall provide list of such projects undertaken with copies of work order and completion report or self certified certificate.

2. Consultant/Consulting Firm should be legal registered entity with proven experience of working in in rural areas of India (copies to be provided)
3. Turnover of Consultant/Consulting Firm should not be less than Rs. 5 Lakh during the previous three financial years (copies of the CA report to be provided)
4. Qualification and experience of the key professionals

The consultant must provide relevant signed copies of documents in support of the above. An undertaking also must be provided that the consultant never been backlisted by any government or other agency.

Consultant/Consulting Firms blacklisted or placed under funding restriction by any Ministry or Department of the Government of India/ State Governments and the World Bank shall not be eligible. ICFRE reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

The attention of interested Consultants 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.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a subconsultancy to enhance their qualifications.

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

Expression of interest (with the documents to be furnished as per Annexure- II) must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post or by email) on or before 17 June 2020 (1730 hrs). The document should be clearly marked as Request for Expressions of Interest for Engagement of Technical Partner Agency/Agencies for supporting the scaling up of SLEM best practices:

Project Director  
Ecosystem Services Improvement Project  
Room No: 143  
Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education  
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248006 (INDIA)  
Tel: +91-135-22248331, 2224803, 2224819, Tele Fax: +91-135-2750296  
Email: projectdirectoresip@gmail.com, Website: www.icfre.gov.in

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Engagement of Technical Partner Agency/Agencies for supporting the scaling up of SLEM best practices in selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh under Ecosystem Services Improvement Project**

**1. BACKGROUND**

The World Bank is supporting the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant project titled Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP) which supports the goals of Green India Mission by demonstrating models for adaptation based mitigation approaches through sustainable land and ecosystem management and livelihood benefits. Objective of the project is to improve forest quality, land management and non-timber forest produce benefits for forest dependent communities in selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The project has following four components:

1. Strengthen capacity of government institutions in forestry and land management programs in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh
2. Investments for improving forest quality in selected landscapes
3. Scaling up sustainable land and ecosystem management (SLEM) in selected landscapes
4. Project management

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is one of the project implementing agencies of 'Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP)' and implementing the aforesaid component 3 of ESIP for scaling up the SLEM best practices, which are socially and culturally acceptable to people, are low cost and proven to benefit ecologically and economically. The main objectives of this component are to prevent land degradation and desertification and increase 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. Direct beneficiaries of the project include 25,000 people, comprising of forest dwellers, small landholders, marginal farmers, and landless livestock holders at the community level in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The indirect beneficiaries include larger population in these states which will benefit from improved forest quality and ecosystem services such as improved water flows, climate amelioration, and land productivity. Some of these best practices were documented by ICFRE under a previous World Bank – GEF funded SLEM project (Annex 1). This will give a fairly good idea about the nature and scope of SLEM best practices.

To achieve these actions on ground, ICFRE is looking to contract a suitable Technical Partner Agency/Agencies (TPA) for supporting the scaling up of SLEM best practices in selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. TPA can also suggest some more tested and proven SLEM best practices which can be up scaled in the project areas of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. TPA must have at least 05 years of demonstrable experience in community-level, beneficiary oriented sustainable land and natural resource management at village level with experience in converging for generating additional resources for benefitting the community. TPA should be legal registered entity with proven experience of working in the field related to sustainable land management in rural areas of India. Working experience of TPA in rural areas of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in the field natural resource management will be an added advantage. TPA blacklisted or placed under funding restriction by any Ministry or Department of the Government of India/ State Governments and the World Bank shall not be eligible. Turnover of TPA should not be less than Rs. 0.5 million during the previous three financial years.

## 2. A PRECISE STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The key objective of the assignment is to support ICFRE in identifying and scaling up the appropriate SLEM best practices in the selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

The key deliverables and indicative performance indicators against which performance of TPA would be assessed are:

- At least 75% villages in the ESIP landscapes have applied at least one SLEM best practice.
- At least 25,000 hectare project areas are subjected to implementation of at least one SLEM best practice.
- At least 5000 land users (with about 10000 beneficiaries) in the target villages of the ESIP landscapes have applied at least one SLEM best practice.

## 3. AN OUTLINE OF THE TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT (SCOPE OF THE SERVICES)

The project is being implemented in the selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The geographic spreads where the TPA has to work and deliver the outputs are given in the table below:

State	Forest Division	Forest Ranges	Villages
Madhya Pradesh	North Betul	Bhaura	Banabehda, Koyalari, Kachhar, Koyalbuddi, Handipani, Kuppa and Tater (Mal & Ryt)
	Sehore	Budhni	Naganpur, Chachmau, Khatpura, Akola, Paraswada, Hathlewa, Saidganj and PaharKhedi
	Hoshangabad	Sukhtawa	Kohda, Pipariya Khurd
		Itarsi	Bhatna, Khatama, Lalpani, Ranjhi
		Banapura	Bhawanda, Nanderwada, Narri, Sotachikli, Pipalgota, Banapura,

State	Forest Division	Forest Ranges	Villages
			Banspani, Chandakhad, Ghoghara, Gotabarri, Jondhal, Keolajhir, Salai and Nayagaon
Chhattisgarh	Katghora	Pali	Kodar, Karanawadhi, Chanwari Para, Jamnipani, Kanhaiya Para, Karranawa Para and Parsapani
	Marwahi	Marwahi	Madai, Banshitaal, Ameritikra, Thiatola (Rumga), KolbiraBagharra, Bahrijhorki, Danikundi, Matiyadand, Moharitola, Naka, Pathrra, and Silpahri
	Kawardha	West Pandaria	Amilitola, Neur, Amania, Bhangitola, Rahidand, Rokhni, Rukhmidadar and Taitirni
	Balrampur	Ragunathnagar	Girwani, Babhani, Kesari, Navgai, Raghunathnagar, Rameshpur and Shankarpur

### ***Stakeholder Consultation and Community Mobilization***

- a) The selected TPA would undertake stakeholder consultations to select the appropriate SLEM best practice(s) for scaling up at the village level in the project areas. At least one consultation should be done at the level of the each *Gram Sabha*/ Joint Forest Management Committee of the project areas.
- b) The TPA would prepare a list of beneficiaries who are willing to upscale the SLEM best practice(s) and document their consent. A special focus would be for ensuring that the poor and vulnerable communities and women are included in beneficiary selection.
- c) The TPA would also prepare a list of village level groups adopting SLEM best practices.
- d) The selected best practices shall not lead to any adverse environmental and social impacts.

### ***Facilitation and Implementation Support***

Once the SLEM best practice(s) is identified and confirmed, the TPA will assist in implementation/ scaling up of the SLEM best practice(s) in the project areas. This will include:

- Help and mobilize communities/ beneficiaries in preparing concise implementation plan with timeline, inputs required, 1-2 monitoring indicators for each selected SLEM best practice,
- Handholding the community/ beneficiaries during implementation and scaling up of the SLEM best practice(s),
- Identify and assist in leveraging additional resources through convergence with other government/departmental schemes and programs for additional scaling up of SLEM best practices and, where possible, linking the best practices with livelihood gains,
- Training and capacity building of the community/ beneficiaries for building sustainability of the best practice beyond the project period,

- Hold regular meetings and discussions with the local communities/ beneficiaries for documenting their experiences and gather feedback, and
- Participatory monitoring for tracking of relevant indicators that would finally lead to assessment of impacts.

#### 4. SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF TASKS

The implementation period of the assignment shall be about two years\* from the date of award of the contract, subject to six monthly review of achievement of agreed key milestones.

Key Milestones	Duration	Payment Schedule
Inception report including 24 months work plan and identification & placement of at least 50% project team members in different Forest Ranges of the project areas	Within 1 month from the date of signing of contract	10 % of Contract value
Identification 50% of beneficiaries and best practices and identification & placement of at least 90% project team members in different Forest Ranges of the project areas	Within 3 months from the date of signing of contract	20 % of Contract value
Implementation of SLEM best practices covering 10000 hectare and 3500 beneficiaries (with 50% female beneficiaries)	Within 9 months from the date of signing of contract	20 % of Contract value
Implementation of SLEM best practices covering cumulative 15000 hectare and 5000 beneficiaries (with 50% female beneficiaries)	Within 12 months from the date of signing of contract	15 % of Contract value
Implementation of SLEM best practices covering cumulative 20000 hectare and 7500 beneficiaries (with 50% female beneficiaries)	Within 18 months from the date of signing of contract	15 % of Contract value
Implementation of SLEM best practices covering cumulative 25000 hectare and 10000 beneficiaries (with 50% female beneficiaries)	Within 22 months from the date of signing of contract	15 % of Contract value
Submission of Draft Final Report	End of 23 months from the date of signing of contract	3 % of Contract value
Submission of Final Report and acceptance	End of 24 months from the date of signing of contract	2 % of Contract value

*\*Two years or completion of the project, whichever will be earlier*

**Note:** List of beneficiaries and area identified for up scaling of SLEM best practices can be changed minimally up to a mutually agreed limit between ICFRE and TPA.

It is expected that the TPA will work in close collaboration with the ICFRE - ESIP team or any other entity duly authorized by ICFRE and will report to the Project Director, ESIP, ICFRE.

#### **5. DATA, SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT**

Besides the funds as per the contract value, relevant documents (Project Appraisal Document, Project Implementation Plan, Progress Report, Baseline Reports), SLEM Best Practices Manual required for scaling up of SLEM best practices in selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh will also be provided to the TPA by ICFRE for implementation of tasks related to scaling up of SLEM best practices in the project areas.

#### **6. FINAL OUTPUTS (i.e., REPORTS, DRAWINGS, etc.) THAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF THE CONSULTANT**

- Inception Report including 24 months work plans
- Identification of beneficiaries and SLEM best practices to be scaled up in the project areas
- Scaling up of SLEM best practices covering cumulative areas 25000 hectare and minimum of 10000 beneficiaries (with 50% female beneficiaries) in the project areas with 5000 land users adopting sustainable land management practices
- Final Report

#### **7. COMPOSITION OF REVIEW COMMITTEE TO MONITOR CONSULTANTS WORK:**

- Project Director, ESIP, ICFRE: Chairman
- Project Manager, ESIP, ICFRE: Member
- Project Coordinator, ESIP, ICFRE: Member
- Land Management Consultant: Member
- NRM-cum-Biodiversity Consultant: Member
- Social Development and Community Mobilization Consultant: Member
- State Coordinating Consultant: Member
- Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant, ESIP, ICFRE: Member
- Technical Manager, ESIP, ICFRE: Member Secretary

#### **8. PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF PROGRESS REPORTS, INCEPTION, STATUS, FINAL DRAFT AND FINAL REPORTS**

The review committee constituted for monitoring of works of TPA shall periodically review the progress of the TPA against the set milestones/ deliverables.

#### **9. LIST OF KEY PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS WHOSE CV AND EXPERIENCE WOULD BE EVALUATED**

The TPA/TPAs must have been in operation for a minimum of 05 years (in the states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh) with experience of handling at least one assignment

focusing on community mobilization/ natural resource management/ sustainable land management etc. in these states. The TPA is expected to provide services of staff experienced in community mobilization & participation and sustainable land management. For each Forest Range of the ESIP areas in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, a team of about 05 experts is required to be deployed for execution of the project tasks. In addition, the TPA shall deploy at least one local resource person for each village, who can preferably be from within the project village.

Details of key professionals are as under:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Key Professional</b>	<b>Area of Specific Expertise</b>	<b>Qualifications and Experience</b>
1	Team Leader	Expertise in handling projects related to natural resource management/ sustainable land management related field	Post-graduation with minimum 05 years of experience in natural resource management/ sustainable land management related field
2	Agriculture, Agro-forestry, Social Development & Community Mobilisation, Natural Resource Management and Land Management Experts	Expertise in the field of agriculture, agro-forestry, social development & community mobilisation, Natural Resource Management and land management	Graduation with minimum 03 years of experience in the related field
3	Field Level Experts	Expertise in field works	Graduation with minimum 01 year of experience in related field and having knowledge of the project area

*The TPA may engage more experts if required to fulfil the assignment in a time bound manner on its own without any additional financial burden implicated on ICFRE. Sub-contracting shall not be permitted.*

### SLEM Best Practices

*ICFRE had documented following 22 best practices for sustainable land and ecosystem management under the World Bank funded SLEM Project:*

1. On farm conservation of genetically important crop landraces of Rajmash for sustainable land and ecosystem management in Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh.
2. Managing ground water for adaptation to climate change in Southern India.
3. Integrated farm development for sustainable land productivity in Nagaland
4. Lac cultivation for livelihood generation and biodiversity conservation in Madhya Pradesh.
5. Land shaping for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods in Sundarbans.
6. Chauka system for management of common property resources for sustainable livelihood and adaptation to climate change in dry regions of Rajasthan.
7. Dissemination of sustainable land and ecosystem management practices and traditional knowledge through community radio station in Andhra Pradesh.
8. “Wadi” A tree based farming system model (TBF) for sustainable land and ecosystem management.
9. Agarbatti preparation from degraded bamboo forest of Madhya Pradesh.
10. Rehabilitation of degraded bamboo forests in Madhya Pradesh.
11. Agro-Biodiversity innovations for sustainable land and ecosystem management in Odisha.
12. Sustainable land and ecosystem management in shifting cultivation areas of Nagaland.
13. Participatory model for water harvesting and development of community pastures in Thar Desert.
14. Rejuvenation of *gharats* (water mills) for sustainable land and ecosystem management in Uttarakhand.
15. Rain water harvesting and augmentation of water resources for sustainable land and ecosystem.
16. Aonla based agro-forestry as sustainable land and ecosystem.
17. System of rice intensification for sustainable land and ecosystem management.
18. Role of the *Van Panchayats* in sustainable land and eco-system management.
19. Mangrove afforestation in Sundarbans with community participation to combat climate change and sustainable and ecosystem management.
20. Sustainable management of resources for livelihood improvement through watershed management in hills of Uttarakhand.
21. Climate change adaptation by promotion of fodder and pasture development for animal based farming system in hills of Uttarakhand.
22. Mulberry cultivation-A diversification climate change adaptation practice for sustainable livelihood under semi – arid regions.

*MoEFCC/ GIZ have identified following best practices for natural resource management:*

23. Climate-proofing fish farming
24. Eco-restoration and institution strengthening
25. Improving pasture management and livestock rearing
26. Livelihood diversification through integrated production systems

**Documents to be furnished with Expression of Interest**

The Expression of Interest for ‘Engagement of Technical Partner Agency/Agencies for supporting the scaling up of SLEM best practices in selected landscapes of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh’ must be submitted along with the following documents:

- a) FORM 1: Details of Consultant/ Consulting Firm
- b) FORM 2: Compliance to Eligibility Criteria
- c) FORM 3: List of the assignments/ projects (focusing on community level beneficiary oriented sustainable land and natural resource management at village level with experience in converging for generating additional resources for benefitting the community) handled by the consultant/ consulting firms

**FORM 1: Details of Consultant/ Consulting Firm**

<b>Section1: About the Consultant/ Technical Partner Agency</b>										
1	Name of Consultant/ Consulting Firm									
2	Details of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address of the Registered Office:</li><li>• Telephone:</li><li>• Facsimile:</li><li>• Website:</li></ul>								
3	Information about Consultant/ Consulting Firm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year of Establishment:</li><li>• Status of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm (Govt/ Public Ltd./ Private Ltd./ LLP/ NGO/ Others):</li></ul>								
4	Name and designation of the person authorized to make commitments to the O/o Project Director, ESIP, ICFRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name:</li><li>• Designation:</li><li>• E-mail:</li><li>• Contact Number:</li></ul>								
5	Annual Turnover of the last three Financial Years	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Financial Years</th><th>Annual Turnover (Indian Rupees)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2017-18</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2018-19</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>2019-20</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	Financial Years	Annual Turnover (Indian Rupees)	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Financial Years	Annual Turnover (Indian Rupees)									
2017-18										
2018-19										
2019-20										
6	Number of Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Total employee strengths of the Consultant/ Technical Partner Agency as on 31.03.2020</li><li>• Number of professionally qualified key professionals working in the area related to community mobilization/ natural resource management/ sustainable land management/ rural development etc</li></ul>								

**Section 2:** Consultant/ Consulting Firm needs to mention its core expertise areas and any other relevant details/experience of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm in a descriptive format.

*Please provide details:*

**Section 3:** Qualification and experience of the key professionals

**FORM 2: Compliance to Short-listing Criteria**

Short-listing Criteria		Compliance (Yes/ No)	Documentary Evidence Provided
1	<p>The Consultant/ Consulting Firm must be a registered legal entity and should have been in operation for at least 05 years as on 31 March 2020</p> <p>Experience of working in rural areas of India</p>		<p>Copy of Certificate of registration issued by relevant authority in country of establishment</p> <p>Self certification or other documentary evidence</p>
2	<p>Average annual turnover in last 3 years should not be less than Rs. 5 Lakh</p>		<p>Statutory Auditor's certificate (for last three financial years) that provides the information explicitly as per the specific requirement of the criterion.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Financial statements duly certified by the Chartered Accountant (for last three financial years) clearly indicating the turnover of the consultant</p>
3	<p>The consultant/ consulting firm must have handled at least one assignment focusing on community level beneficiary oriented sustainable land and natural resource management at village level with experience in converging for generating additional resources for benefitting the community</p>		<p>Self-certification from authorized signatory on letter head of Consultant/ Consulting Firm stating information explicitly as per the specific requirement of the criterion</p>
4	<p>Other relevant documents</p>		<p>Declaration that the Consultant/ Consulting Firm is not black-listed by any Government agencies in India</p>

**FORM 3:** List of the assignments/ projects (focusing on community level beneficiary oriented sustainable land and natural resource management at village level with experience in converging for generating additional resources for benefitting the community) handled by the consultant/ consulting firms

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