

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. 84/2018/ESIP/BCC/ICFRE/325

Dated: 02 June 2022

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

for

Independent evaluation of overall impacts of the project activities in sync with the project objectives and with the indicators under the results framework of the Ecosystem Services Improvement Project

COUNTRY: INDIA NAME OF PROJECT: Ecosystem Services Improvement Project Grant No.: TF0A3990 Reference No.: IN-ICFRE-296182-CS-CQS

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 consulting services ("the Services") include an independent evaluation of overall impacts of the project activities in sync with the project objectives and with the indicators under the Results Framework of the Ecosystem Services Improvement Project.

Terms of Reference (TOR) for engaging a consultant for independent evaluation of overall impacts of the project activities in sync with the project objectives and with the indicators under the Results Framework of ESIP is given in Annexure - I.

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), now invites eligible consultants/ consulting firms to indicate their interest for independent evaluation of overall impacts of the project activities in sync with the project objectives and with the indicators under the Results Framework of ESIP. Interested consultants/ consulting firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experiences to perform the task as per TOR.

The short-listing criteria are:

- 1. The Consultant must be in operation since last 10 years
- 2. Professional experience of handling at least one assignment focusing on natural resource management / sustainable land management
- 3. Annual turnover of consultant during last three financial years should be INR 2.5 million and above.
- 4. The consultant must have handled at least one assignment of INR 2.5 million and above in the last three financial years.
- 5. Qualification and experience of the key experts as per TOR.

ICFRE reserves the right to accept or reject all EOI proposals.

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 [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 Consultant Qualification Selection (CQS) method set out in the World Bank Procurement Guidelines Consultant Guidelines.

Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post or by email) on or before 16 June 2022 (1500 hrs.). The document should be clearly marked as Request for Expression of Interest for 'ESIP: An independent evaluation of overall impacts of the project activities in sync with the project objectives and with the indicators under the Results Framework of the project':

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

The following documents (as given in Annexure-2) are to be furnished with Expression of Interest proposed by the consultant as part of the Expression of Interest:

- a) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of Letter for Expression of Interest
- b) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of filled FORM 1- Details of Consultant/ Consulting Firm
- c) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of filled FORM 2- Compliance to Eligibility
- d) Criterion along with documentary evidence
- e) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of details of the experience as per FORM 3 along with documentary evidence as indicated in FORM 2
- f) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of declaration as indicated in FORM 2
- g) Qualification and experience of the key professionals to be provided in FORM 4
- h) Proposed methodology and work plan for implementation of the assignment to be provided in FORM 5

Further information can also be obtained at the contact details given below during office hours [0900 to 1730 hours].

Project Director Ecosystem Services Improvement Project Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education P.O. New Forest, Dehradun, Uttrakhand-248006 (INDIA) Tel: +91-135-2224803, 2224819, Tele Fax: +91-135-2750296 Email: projectdirectoresip@gmail.com Website: www.icfre.gov.in

Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE

An independent evaluation of overall impacts of the Ecosystem Services Improvement Project activities in sync with the project objectives and with the indicators under the Results Framework of the 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 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 in selected landscapes
- 4. Project management

Project Implementing Agencies: Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh State Forest Departments and Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) are the project implementing agencies.

Project Management Agency: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC), Government of India

2. A PRECISE STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

- To conduct an independent evaluation of overall impacts of the project activities in sync with the project objectives and with the indicators under the Results Framework of the project.
- To assess how ESIP approaches differ from Green India Mission approach given that ESIP is implemented within GIM landscapes. The assignment will highlight which are the ESIP practices/approaches that could be scaled up under GIM.
- To assess and compare the overall effectiveness and efficiency of ESIP and GIM, including both success and failure factors.

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

ICFRE on behalf on the Directorate of Green India Mission, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India intends to conduct an independent evaluation of overall impacts of the project activities in sync with the project objectives and with the indicators under the Results Framework of the project. The evaluation will also focus on the impact of physical interventions undertaken under the project on the local ecology of a particular landscape besides assessing their socio-economic benefits generated in terms of skill enhancement and livelihood augmentation of the beneficiary communities.

The evaluation will cover the whole duration of the project from its starting (July 2017) to the completion (July 2023). It will assess project performance against the evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the project interventions. The terminal evaluation has an additional purpose of drawing lessons and developing recommendations for Green India Mission to which ESIP project was designed to contribute with regards to improving the selection, enhancing the design and implementation of similar future interventions in the country upon project completion. The terminal evaluation report will also include examples of good and innovative practices from the ESIP project replicable under different related projects being implemented and planned in the region and the country.

The evaluation team will also provide an analysis of the attainment of the main objective and specific sub-objectives under the ESIP's three core project components. Through its assessments, the evaluation team will enable the Government and other stakeholders to verify prospects for development impact and sustainability, providing an analysis of the attainment of the project's objectives, delivery and completion of project outputs/ activities, and outcomes/ impacts based on indicators enshrined under the project's results framework. The assessment shall assess, both qualitatively and quantitatively, the ESIP outcomes and how these contribute to the project's result framework.

The terminal evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the World Bank's Evaluation Policy, the GEF's 2008 Guidelines for Implementing and Executing Agencies to Conduct Terminal Evaluations, the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy 2010 and the recommended minimum fiduciary standards for GEF implementing and executing agencies.

Evaluation will be carried out as an independent in-depth evaluation using a participatory approach whereby all key parties and stakeholders associated with the project are kept informed and regularly consulted throughout the evaluation. The evaluation team leader will liaise with the Green India Mission Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and ICFRE on the conduct of the evaluation and the methodology for the evaluation. The terminal evaluation will assess the progress made towards individual indicators defined in the result framework of the project. The evaluation team will be required to use different methods to ensure that data gathering and analysis deliver evidence-based qualitative and quantitative information, based on diverse sources: desk studies and literature review, statistical analysis, individual interviews, focus group discussions, remote surveys and direct observation. This approach will not only enable the evaluation to assess causality through quantitative means but also to provide reasons for why certain results were achieved or not and to triangulate information for higher reliability of findings. The concrete methodological approach and the work plan should be described in the inception report.

The evaluation team will be required to develop interview questionnaires and guidelines. Field interviews can take place either in the form of focus-group discussions or one-to-one interviews. The evaluation process will also focus on the direct observation of the physical investments under the project *viz* water harvesting structures, pond deepening, chain-link fencing, tree plantation, carbon flux towers, nurseries improvement, livelihood augmentation measures and innovations

like Mahua nets etc. Emphasis shall be on the analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the interventions and their efficacy and usefulness, with specific focus on the carbon-monitoring initiatives taken up under the project in the form of carbon flux towers established in the project landscapes. Scope of the services includes the following:

- A desk review of project documents including the original project document, monitoring reports (such as progress and financial reports submitted to MOEFCC and the World Bank, annual/ semi-annual project implementation review reports, safeguards reports and relevant correspondence).
- Meeting proceedings and resolutions of Joint Forest Management Committees involved in the project implementation.
- Project Results Framework to assess performance.
- A comparative analysis of baseline/ background information with the information available at present after the implementation of project activities in terms of social and environmental factors. The socio-economic baselines developed by the ICFRE under the project for both the states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh would be used to assess the project performance with reference to the parameters considered therein to understand the actual outcome from the project baseline.
- Counter-factual sites would also include GIM landscapes without ESIP in both the states. These sites should be selected in consultation with the respective state governments. The agency shall evaluate how only GIM has performed in these non-ESIP sites, what are the qualitative and quantitative differences in terms of coverage of beneficiary groups, sustainable land and ecosystem activities, livelihood training and activities, including relating to NTFP value chain, assessment of carbon pools, restoration of forest quality, improvement in ecosystem services etc.
- While comparing ESIP and non ESIP GIM sites, the agency should focus on observing differences in processing, procedures, community involvement, improvement in departmental capacity etc.
- A comparative analysis of GIM and GIM plus ESIP sites should be given on technical, operational and financial strengths and shortcomings to bring out the value addition of ESIP.
- It is suggested to include two additional states where ESIP was not implemented and only GIM is being implemented. This is to assess how GIM alone is performing in terms of its coverage, technical, operational and financial performance and are there any lessons that ESIP could take on board. ICFRE/ MOEFCC will identify the two states.
- The agency will also analyse and confirm whether the two states have replicated some or any of the ESIP good practices to non-ESIP GIM landscapes. A quantitative measure of the extent of such replication and/or scaling up should be provided.
- On-site observation of results achieved in demonstration projects, including interviews of actual and potential beneficiaries of improved technologies.
- Interviews with project management and technical support including staff and management at Project Implementing Units (PIUs) at SFDs of MP & CG and ICFRE, Project Management

Unit (PMU) at MOEFCC and the World Bank including - if necessary - staff associated with the project's financial administration and procurement at all the three levels.

- Interviews and telephonic interviews with intended users for the project outputs and other stakeholders involved with this project. The evaluator shall determine whether to seek additional information and opinions from representatives of any donor agencies or other organizations. At least 10% sample survey is required for the interviews/ surveys.
- Other interviews, surveys or document reviews as deemed necessary by the evaluator/ consultant.
- Assessment of the impacts and effectiveness of various support activities/livelihood improvement programs/capacity building programs taken up under the project will be conducted at the beneficiary and the forest department levels.
- Cost benefit analysis of physical investments taken up under the project will also be conducted. Documentation of best/innovative practices will be one of the important deliverables of the assignment.
- Efficacy and impact assessment of trainings and capacity building and skill development (both technical and livelihood) initiatives including all the beneficiaries shall be taken up under the project.
- Other project-related material produced by the project.

The evaluation work plan will include the following:

- Desk review, briefing by project manager and development of methodology: Following the receipt of all relevant documents, and consultation with the Project Manager about the documentation, including reaching an agreement on the Methodology, the desk review could be completed. Submission of template for Project Evaluation parameter will be submitted within 25 days from the date of commencement of hiring of the consultant.
- At the time for departure to the field visit, a brief inception report along with the detailed Methodology and Work Plan will be submitted to the MOEFCC and ICFRE. A presentation to the PMU, PIUs and the World Bank on the same will be made by the consultant.
- The principal responsibility for managing this evaluation lies with MOEFCC. It will be responsibility of the Consultant for liaising with the PIUs to set up the stakeholder interviews, arrange the field missions, in coordination with the Government. At the end of the field visit, there will be a presentation of preliminary findings to the key stakeholders where the project is being implemented.
- Following the field visit, the main findings, conclusions and recommendations would be prepared and presented to the PMU, PIUs and the World Bank.

The consultant should be able to provide information relevant for follow-up studies, including evaluation verification on request up to two years after the completion of the evaluation. Members of the consultant must not have been directly involved in the design and/or implementation of the programme/ projects. The ESIP PMU at Directorate of Green India Mission, MOEFCC/ ICFRE will support the evaluation team.

4. SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF TASKS

The implementation period of the assignment will be four months from the date of award of the contract subject to monthly review of achievement of agreed key milestones.

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

The ESIP PMU at the MOEFCC will provide project documents/ reports and liaising with the PIUs to set up the stakeholder interviews, arrange the field visits, and facilitating the necessary coordination with the Government.

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

Key Milestone	Duration	Deliverables
• Review project documentation and relevant country background information (e.g., national policies and strategies, GEF Strategies and general economic data); determine key data to be collected from the field and prepare key instruments (e.g., questionnaires, logic models) and collect these data through interviews and/or surveys during and prior to the field visits, and preparation and submission of draft inception report	15 days	Draft inception report comprises of evaluation methodology, work plan, list of detailed evaluation questions; questionnaires/ interview guidelines; logic models; list of key data to be collected, draft list of stakeholders to be interviewed during the field visits and template(s) for the project evaluation and timelines. The inception report will provide details on the methodology used by the evaluation team and include a detailed evaluation matrix and the work plan for undertaking the evaluation.
• Submission of final inception report after addressing the review comments	15 days	Final inception report.
• Conduct field visits to the Project Implementing Units, and submission of initial findings and preparation of contents of the evaluation report	30 days (Including travel days)	Submission of initial findings, draft conclusions, recommendations, and content/ outline of the evaluation report.
Present preliminary findings to the stakeholders, MOEFCC, World Bank and PIUs	15 days	Presentation on preliminary findings before the MOEFCC, World Bank and PIUs.
• Prepare the evaluation report according to TOR and as per the approved contents/outlines	20 days	Submission of final draft evaluation report

• Revise the draft project evaluation	15 days	Submission of final evaluation report
report after addressing the comments from MOEFCC /ICFRE	2	L. L
and other stakeholders, if any.		

7. COMPOSITION OF REVIEW COMMITTEE TO MONITOR CONSULTANTS WORK

- Project Director, ESIP, ICFRE: Chairman
- IGF/DIGF (GIM), MOEFCC: Member
- ADG (Monitoring and Evaluation), ICFRE: Member
- ADG (Biodiversity and Climate Change), ICFRE: Member
- Project 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 consultant shall periodically review the progress against the key milestones/ deliverables.

The draft report will be delivered to MOEFCC/ ICFRE and circulated to the World Bank team and the stakeholders associated with the project for factual validation and comments. Any comments or responses, or feedback on any errors of fact to the draft report provided by the stakeholders will be sent to MOEFCC for collation and onward transmission to the consultant who will be advised of any necessary revisions. On the basis of this feedback, and taking into consideration the comments received, the consultant will prepare the final version of the terminal evaluation report.

The consultant will present its preliminary findings to the local stakeholders at the end of the field visit and take into account their feed-back in preparing the evaluation report. A presentation of preliminary findings shall be made to the MOEFCC/ ICFRE.

The terminal evaluation report should be brief, to the point and easy to understand. It must explain the purpose of the evaluation, exactly what was evaluated, and the methods used. The report must highlight any methodological limitations, identify key concerns and present evidence-based findings, consequent conclusions, recommendations and lessons. The report should provide information on when the evaluation took place, the places visited, who was involved and be presented in a way that makes the information accessible and comprehensible. The report should include an executive summary that encapsulates the essence of the information contained in the report to facilitate dissemination and distillation of lessons.

At the end of the field visits, there will be a presentation of the preliminary findings for all stakeholders involved in this project. After the field visits, the leader of consultant will visit to MoEFCC/ ICFRE for debriefing and presentation of the preliminary findings of the Terminal Evaluation. The draft terminal evaluation report will be submitted within 4-6 weeks after the end of the field visits. The consultant will present the overall achievement of the project in terms of predefined project development objectives and indicators as per the result framework of the Project.

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

The Consultant must have been in operation for a minimum of 10 years with experience of handling at least one assignment focusing on natural resource management/ sustainable land management. Details of key professionals position required for conducting the assignment whose CV and experience would be evaluated are as under:

S. No.	Key Professional Position	Area of Specific Expertise desired	Minimum Qualification and Professional Experience Desired
1	Team Leader (Full Time)	Expertise in handling projects related to natural resource management and environment management, forest conservation and cost benefit analysis.	 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/water conservation/afforestation etc. Experience of independent evaluation and impact assessment of projects related to Natural Resource Management and Forestry Sector.
2	Institutional Expert (Full Time)	Expertise in dealing with institutional reforms	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	Monitoring and Evaluation Expert (Full Time)	Expertise in Monitoring of project activities related to land governance, protected areas management, environment management and development projects	Post-graduation in the relevant field Minimum 8 years of experience in Monitoring and Evaluation of land governance, protected areas management and water conservation activities. Experience in evaluation of GEF and World Bank projects

Other non-key professional required for conducting the assignment are as under:

1	Social Expert (Part Time)	Expertise in the field of social development and community mobilization	Post-graduation in the relevant field Minimum 8 years of experience in the field of social development
2	Economics Expert (Part Time)	Expertise in Cost benefit analysis of the Identified priority sub-projects and	Post-graduate degree in environmental science, engineering, economics,

Ecosystem-based adaptation measures	water/disaster/climate change policy; political science or closely related field
Experience in the World Bank/GEF projects would	Minimum 8 years of experience and 6 years of practical experience in the field;
be preferred	In-depth and proven knowledge and experience in the implementation of development initiatives, policies and programs relating to natural resource management, including impacts on environment related to human development and poverty reduction;
	Excellent communication, analysis and writing skills and interpersonal skills (the consultants will contact various actors and stakeholders of the project)

Note: 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 ICFRE. Sub-contracting shall not be permitted.

Documents to be furnished with Expression of Interest

The Expression of Interest proposal 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: Credentials/ Past Experiences for projects cited under eligibility criterion 4
- d) FORM 4: Qualification and experience of the key professionals
- e) FORM 5: Proposed methodology for implementation of the assignment

	Section 1: About the Consultant/ Consulting Firm		
1	Name of Consultant/ Consulting Firm		
2	Details of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm	Address of the Registered Office:Telephone:Facsimile:	
		• Website:	
3	Information about Consultant/ Consulting Firm	 Year of Establishment: Status of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm (Govt/ Public Ltd./Private Ltd./LLP/Others): 	
4	Name and designation of the person authorized to make commitments to the O/o Project Director, ESIP, ICFRE	 Name: Designation: E-mail: Contact Number: 	
5	Annual Turnover of the last three Financial Years	Financial YearsAnnual Turnover (Indian Rupees)2019-202020-212020-212021-22	
6	Number of Personnel	 Total employee strengths of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm as on 31.12.2021 Number of professionally qualified key professionals working in the area related to Natural Resource Management 	

FORM 1: Details of Consultant/ Consulting Firm

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. Consultant/ Consulting Firm needs to mention its Technical and managerial capability for executing the indicative scope of works as per Terms of Reference. Please provide details (in not more than 2 pages):

FORM 2: Compliance to Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria		Compliance (Yes/ No)	Documentary Evidence Provided
1	The Consultant must be a registered legal entity and must be in operation since last 10 years as on 31 December 2021 with professional experience in handling at least one assignment focusing on evaluation of natural resource management project/ programme		Copy of Certificate of registration issued by relevant authority in country of establishment
2	Annual turnover during last 3 financial years should be INR 2.5 million and above.		Statutory Auditor's certificate (for FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22) that provides the information explicitly as per the specific requirement of the criterion. OR Financial statements duly certified by the Chartered Accountant (for FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22) clearly indicating the turnover of the firm
3	The Consultant must have handled at least one assignment related to evaluation of the project for INR 2.5 million and above in last three financial years		Statutory Auditor's certificate that provides the information explicitly as per the specific requirement of the criterion. OR Self-certification from authorized signatory on letter head of Consultant/ Consulting Firm stating information explicitly as per the specific requirement of the criterion
4	Experience of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm in the last 5 years in assignment focusing on evaluation of natural resource management/ sustainable land management programme/ project		Details of the experience should be submitted as per format in FORM 3 along with the following details: For completed projects: a. Copy of Purchase Order/ Contract AND b. Copy of the Completion Certificate from the client. OR Certificate from authorised signatory on letter head of Consultant/ Consulting Firm indicating that the project has been successfully completed. For on-going projects: a. Copy of Purchase Order/ Contract

		AND b. Certificate from authorised signatory on letter head of Consultant/ Consulting Firm indicating the activities completed under the assignment and the amount of payment received
5	Other relevant documents	 a. Declaration that the Consultant/ Consulting Firm is not blacklisted by any Government agencies in India b. Declaration that the Consultant/ Consulting Firm does not have any conflict of interest in terms of taking any assistance/ support from individual/ ICFRE who have been part of ESIP or the EOI publication process

FORM 3: Credentials/ Past Experiences for projects cited under eligibility criterion 4 of Form 2 (Maximum 2 pages per credential)

Assignment Name:	Country:		
	Location within the country		
Name of Client:	Address:		
Name of the Legal Entity in whose name the contract is:	Duration of assignment (months):		
No. of man months of the assignment:	Start date (Month/ year):		
	Completion date (Month/ year):		
Approx. value of the overall contract (in Indian Rupees):	Approx. value of the services provided by your firm under the contract (in Indian Rupees):		
Name of associated organizations, if any:	Role of Consortium member:		
Narrative description of the Project:			
Detailed Scope of services, coverage and relevance to this project:			
Copy of Purchase Order/ Contract attached?	YES/NO		
	VEGNIO		
Copy of completion certificate/ Certificate from authorized signatory indicating the current status of the project attached?	YES/NO		

FORM 5: Proposed methodology and work plan for implementation of the assignment