

Government of Nepal
National Reconstruction Authority
Central Level Project Implementation Unit
(Grant Management and Local Infrastructure, GMaLI)
Jwagal, Lalitpur

Terms of Reference (ToR)
For the Hiring of an Environmental Specialist, Individual Consultant for
Central Level

1. Background

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake of shallow depth struck central Nepal with an epicenter approximately 77 km northwest of Kathmandu on April 25th 2015 causing widespread destruction. On May 12, 2015 a large aftershock of a magnitude 7.3 hit Nepal and caused further casualties and damage. As of 3 June 2015, the reported casualties include: 8,702 deaths and 22,493 people injured. As the earthquake sequence destroyed 490,000 houses—mostly traditional mud brick and mud stone built and occupied by the rural poor and rendered another 265,000 houses at least temporarily uninhabitable, the largest single need identified in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was housing and human settlements, accounting for US\$ 3.27 billion of needs.

The Government of Nepal (GON) has requested support from a number of development partners, including the WB, to address the immediate and medium term impacts of the damage inflicted by the earthquake in Nepal. In response to this, World Bank approved a US\$200 million loan to finance the Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Project (EHRP) approved on 18 June 2015. The project has been supporting in restoring affected houses with multi hazard resistant core housing units in target areas and to enhance government's ability to improve long-term disaster resilience. Initially, the EHRP is to be completed by July 2020. Considering the further need to support GoN, International Development Association (the World Bank) has agreed to support additional US\$300 million loan to finance the Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Project (EHRP). Initially, WB support of loan to finance EHRP was limited 55 thousand households of three severely affected districts namely: Dolakha, Dhading and Nuwakot. The recent loan support will cover another eight severely affected districts (Okhaldhunga, Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, Rasuwa, Makwanpur and Gorkha). The project's direct beneficiaries are expected to be approximately 154,200 households (55,000 from Original Financing (Credit No. 5706-NP), 96,000 households from Additional Financing (Credit No. 6164-NP) and 3,200 households from the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), who will receive grants and technical support to rebuild their houses, incorporating multi-hazard resistant features. As per additional finance agreement, the closing date of the project is delineated on June 30, 2023.

The Government of Nepal has established the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) for the purpose of coordinating and implementing the post-disaster reconstruction program. Thus a Project management Unit (PMU) has been established within NRA to provide high level oversight and policy decision on project activities. Housing reconstruction activities will be implemented by dedicated Project Implementation Units (PIUs) in Central Level Project

Implementation Unit (CLPIU) of Building and in Central Level Project Implementation Unit (CLPIU) of Grant Management and Local Infrastructure (GMaLI) under the NRA. NRA has already established a Central Level Project Implementation Unit (CL-PIU). As per the requirement; the CL-PIU intends to hire a national expert for the post of **Environment Specialist**, hereafter referred to as the Consultant.

2. Objective of the assignment

The NRA is working to restore and improve the living condition of the victims of the earthquake by reconstructing the destroyed and damaged houses with an adequate seismic standard in the districts severely affected by the earthquake, thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development of the region and build back better.

The main objective of hiring the Consultant is to assist the CL-PIU for planning and coordinating environmental management activities, concerning all the environmental aspects of the Project.

3. Tasks and responsibilities

- Provide overall oversight and guidance in implementing EHRP's ESMF and environmental provisions of the POM effectively, efficiently and maintaining the quality across the project activities. Monitor overall compliance with Project ESMF/POM, GoN's environmental regulations, and World Bank policies.
- At the central level, analyze environmental risks, environmental issues and integrate these into the overall/ central-level planning and implementation of the project activities.
- The Central Level Environmental Specialist will, at central level, facilitate the implementation of ESMF, coordinate with central agencies, and help in resolving environmental issues, provide clarifications and advices to DL-PIUs.
- Coordinate between central level-PIUs (GMaLI and Building- PIUs) and among central agencies on environmental matters relevant to project, including working together with other programs/ projects and making use of opportunities for promoting good practices, building better opportunities, enhancing social and environmental sustainability etc
- Provide guidance and technical support to DL-PIUs on environmental matter including on mitigations, good practices, consultation, information dissemination, grievances handling/ management,
- Provide guidance and technical support, as needed, to District Level PIUs in managing and complying with projects environmental safeguard requirements (such as in implementing ESMF/ POM) including applicable requirements of the World Bank and GoN. This, for example may include, guidance and support in preparing Screening and ESMP, reviewing them and submitting it to the CL-PIU etc as well as in assisting the Supervision Consultants in establishing dialogue with the affected communities and in ensuring incorporation and implementation of environmental concerns and suggestions from such interactions. on environmental mitigations, good practices, consultation, information dissemination, grievances handling/ management..

- Prepare consolidated annual Environmental Safeguard Work Plan including plans for environmental monitoring, training and capacity building, orientation and awareness raising as part of central PIUs annual work plan in consultation with DL-PIUs. Coordinate and support DL-PIUs in implementing these plans.
- Review the environmental performance of the project through site visits and assessment of the submitted periodic environmental reports. Prepare project level (central level) environmental due diligence reports as necessary, such as quarterly reports to CLPIU on project's environmental progress and challenges, and opportunities as necessary as well as prepare half-yearly and annual environmental status reports..;
- Review consolidated environmental screening reports, Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and the environmental assessments submitted by the DL-PIUs, provide necessary feedbacks, and support in getting approval where necessary.
- Review consolidated quarterly environmental monitoring report submitted by district-PIUs to the Central PIUs, and also share the report with the World Bank
- .Check and verify thorough site visits, on sample basis, compliance with the ESMF/POM, and environmental requirements. Visit, typically once in six months, to validate screening and ESMP, as well as monitoring reports, and to resolve complex issues, if any. Monitor overall implementation of the ESMP and assess and ensure their compliance with the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Undertake field visits in project districts and affected settlements (on sample sites) and hold supervision meetings and consultations
- Guide DL-PIUs in coordinating and interacting with district level agencies, Partner Organizations (POs), NGOs, field Staff, Consultants, and contractors and guide them in addressing environmental issues related to the project activities.
- Guide and support DL-PIUs and participate, if necessary, in the evaluation of POs and firms with environmental support responsibilities. Interact with relevant officials of concern agencies (government and non-government) and Environmental Specialist of the World Bank on environmental management activities of the project; Report to the Project Director/Deputy Project Director/Team Leader on the Environmental aspects pertaining to the project
- Document good practices and lessons learned for dissemination within the GoN and externally;
- Orient the district environmental team on the Grievance Redress Mechanism and proper documentation process of environmental issue related grievances lodged by the people.
- Provide support to CLPIU in commissioning, including hiring and managing consultant for, third party monitoring of environmental compliance and performance
- Any other relevant activity designated by the CL-PIU to ensure proper implementation of the environmental measures in the project.

4. Management of Assignment

The CL-PIU will administer the Consultant's work. The Consultant will work in close coordination with CL-PIU, GMaLI under NRA. In order to accomplish the roles and responsibilities in a timely manner, s/he has to start the work immediately after signing the contract agreement. The Consultant is responsible for coordination with CL-PIU and other stakeholders. Similarly CL-PIU will facilitate the Consultant to coordinate with

stakeholders/offices. The Consultant shall perform the task under the guidance of CL-PIU. Consultant should report to client through Team Leader and under take their defined work on the guidance/supervision of TL and s/he will be required to spend the entire assignment period on base office, Kathmandu Nepal but with frequent visit to field as per the requirement.

5. Recruitment of the Consultant

Recruitment of the Consultant shall be done as per ‘Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers’.

6. Duration of Assignment

The Consultant will provide his/her inputs on a full time basis for 20 months assignment period. The Consultant will be based in Kathmandu with frequent visits to sites outside Kathmandu.

7. Payment to Consultant

Payments toward monthly remuneration will be made based on the time sheet supported by progress reports. The out of pocket expenses shall be paid after completion of said task and upon submission of bills or invoices and said reports. In case of air travel, the price of air ticket shall be reimbursed upon submission of air ticket and boarding pass.

8. Office Space, Equipment and other Logistic Support

The office space, equipment and other relevant facilities shall be provided by CL-PIU as per the contract agreement. The CL-PIU office will assist in obtaining all available reports, materials and data necessary and facilitate the Consultant for access to stakeholders/offices for the efficient execution of the assignment.

9. Minimum Qualification Requirements

- Post-Graduate in Environmental Science or Environmental Engineering or Environmental Assessment or Environmental Planning or Environmental Management or related fields such as forest, geotechnical, etc
- Minimum 8 years of experience in environmental management, environmental assessment, environmental mitigation, environmental monitoring/ evaluation preferably in restoration and reconstruction projects
- Previous professional work experience in the project districts or in disaster response activities or earthquake affected areas and work in the World Bank/ADB assisted projects shall be considered favorably.
- Proficiency in computer skills including experience of MS Word, Excel, Project, and GIS.
- Fluency in both English and Nepali.

10. Indemnity

The Consultant shall be responsible for any damage of life, property that may arise out of his works and he shall take all necessary insurance provision to indemnify any claims for compensation that may arise through his negligence.

11. Taxation

The Consultant is fully responsible for all taxes applicable as per the rules and regulations of Government of Nepal and for that the taxes shall be deducted at the source at the time of payment. All payments shall be made after deducting taxes.

12. Disposition of Facilities

At the end of the project, the Consultant shall hand over to the CL-PIU office all equipment, apparatus or other things procured by the project funding used by the Consultant during the assignment. All items handed over to the CL-PIU office shall be in good operating condition but fair wear and tear is expected. Items, which have become unserviceable due to negligence or causes other than fair usage, shall be replaced at the Consultant's expense.

13. Selection Criteria

The consultant shall be selected following the procedure for Selection of Individual Consultants set forth in Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011, revised July 2014 on the basis of consultant's qualification, experiences and capability to carry out the assignment.