

TERMS OF REFERENCE

International Plastic Waste Consultant in Project Implementation Unit of Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (PLEASE) Project

Background

Plastic waste that pollutes the land flows into rivers and ends up in oceans, threatens development, and has far-reaching economic, ecological, and health impacts. South Asia is the third-largest contributor to global plastic waste, and unless action is taken, the region's waste is estimated to double by 2050.

The Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (PLEASE) project, financed by the World Bank, helps coordinate activities and facilitate the region's transition to a circular plastic economy by encouraging investments and greater collaboration between the public and private sectors and across countries. Since many of South Asia's rivers and seas span across national boundaries, a regional approach is necessary to address plastic pollution that leaches into waterways and ends up in the ocean.

The objective of the Project is to strengthen innovation and coordination of circular economy solutions to plastic pollution flowing into South Asian Seas.

The Project consists of the following components:

Component 1. Supporting Competitive Block Grant Investments to Reduce Plastic Waste

1.1 Supporting circular plastic economy solutions to reduce plastic waste by implementing a program of regional competitive block grant investments, providing Regional Competitive Block Grants ("RBGs") to eligible organizations in South Asia ("Eligible RBG Beneficiaries").

1.2 Facilitating the exchange of circular plastic economy knowledge between Eligible RBG Beneficiaries and selected South Asian countries and promoting awareness-raising activities.

Component 2. Leveraging Public and Private Sector Engagement and Solutions

2.1 Supporting the development of strategies, action plans, policies, and standards to harmonize plastic pollution mitigation measures through (a) developing and implementing a multi-year plastic policy support program, working with leading universities and organizations; (b) developing a database for lifecycle analysis, data collection, and modeling related to plastic across selected industry value chains; and (c) supporting communication activities.

2.2 Supporting circular use of plastic in the economy through regional public-private collaboration and engagement in South Asia, including designing and organizing annual or more frequent meetings of representatives from public and private sectors.

Component 3. Strengthening Regional Integration Institutions

3.1 (a) Carrying out works to support the construction of the SACEP new headquarters and providing technical assistance to, and building capacity of, SACEP to discharge its functions, including coordination with relevant regional organizations and uniform collection, analysis, and interpretation of pollution data. The implementation of construction and supervision of the new headquarters building for SACEP is supported by UNOPS.

3.2 Supporting SACEP in the implementation and overall management of the Project, regarding the aspects related to social and environmental safeguards, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation, complaints handling mechanisms, as well as financial audits.

Implementing Agency

SACEP is the responsible implementing agency for this project. SACEP is an inter-governmental organization established by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka in 1982 to promote and support the protection, management, and enhancement of the environment in the region. In addition, SACEP serves as the secretariat of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), one of 18 such Regional Seas Programmes of the United Nations Environment Program. The regional project would strengthen SACEP to administer relevant project activities via the following sectional structure, which includes a Ministerial Level Governing Council (GC), Consultative Committee (CC), National Focal Points (NFPs), Subject Area Focal Points (SAFP), and a Colombo-based Secretariat.

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is established by the SACEP Secretariat to assist the project implementation and be administratively housed within the Secretariat as a subsidiary organ, which it is able to establish according to its existing mandate. The PIU is responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day management of the project, including planning, budgeting, technical coordination, implementation supervision, M&E, and ensuring compliance with the World Bank environmental and social (E&S) standards.

Key Tasks:

The International Plastic Waste consultant will report to the PIU Project Director and work alongside the plastic waste expert. S/he will provide technical assistance to support innovative circular economy solutions for plastics and facilitate knowledge exchange, support for regional policy harmonization, dialogue among partners, stakeholders, and support mobilization across the South Asia region under the PLEASE project.

Under the overall supervision of the Director General and the Project Director, the consultant will focus primarily on ensuring the successful execution of PIU technical activities and leveraging his/her deep background and knowledge of technical plastic waste issues to proffer global

international best practice solutions to address the regional marine plastic waste menace in South Asia countries.

Specific tasks include:

1. Ensure high quality technical review of various deliverable reports and knowledge products (documents, background papers, analyses, publications, etc.) submitted by consultants. This will entail validation and quality review, from the technical point of view, of deliverable reports and knowledge products of the project.
2. Contribute to the preparation of Project Reporting such as Progress Reports, Annual Reports, Project Completion Report and other reports that may be required.
3. Advise on options and avenues for financing project ideas/concepts, and develop concept notes, proposals, and develop a roadmap for project sustainability
4. Support PLEASE PIU to facilitate consultations with relevant stakeholders and partners.
5. Provide high-level technical inputs to the technical content of the events, including annual or more frequent meetings and conferences of representatives from the public and private sectors, organized under PLEASE project to enable and support circular use of plastic in the economy through regional public-private collaboration and engagement in South Asia.
6. Coordinate the development of a database for lifecycle analysis, data collection, and modeling related to plastic across selected industry value chains.
7. Collaborate with the team to provide comprehensive oversight and validation of the innovation efforts generated by the PLEASE project, and advise on fostering those innovations
8. Recommend the endorsement of finalized testing protocols, establishing a foundation for reliable and consistent innovation assessment.
9. Oversee quality assurance at key milestones within the testing protocols' implementation, delivering constructive feedback and recommendations to maintain high standards.
10. Provide recommendations for endorsing final innovation reports, enabling accurate reporting and alignment with project Development Objectives.
11. Assist in preparing speeches, briefs etc. for the Project Director and Director General for national, regional and international events if required.
12. Any other task necessary for effective and timely implementation of the project as assigned by the Project Director.

Required Qualifications, Expertise, and Competencies

Eligible candidates should have the following minimum qualifications, experience, and competencies:

- A minimum of 10 years' experience in plastic waste management with a focus on marine plastics and circular economy, policy and regulatory frameworks, standards, methodologies, and tools, technical solutions and business models for waste management, recycling, innovative packaging design, and plastic packaging management solutions, solid waste management and extended producer responsibility, plastic credits, and innovative financing models .
- University degree in environmental science, Marine Science, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Law or any related discipline from a recognized University; a Ph.D., in any of the fields mentioned from a recognized University would be an asset.
- Excellent drafting and writing skills including for a variety of reports and audiences
- Experience in providing similar services in the last five years.
- Experience in the South Asia Region in the last five years.
- Experience in coordination with national governments and/or enforcement authorities, managing stakeholder relations with other key players, including academic, civil society, business, and international organizations, is required.
- Prior experience in managing and developing projects of projects financed by development agencies will be preferable.
- Prior experience supervising a team of contractors in multiple locations in South Asia Region or any other region.
- Prior experience convening international conferences and sharing views and working as a resource person in international conferences.
- A deep knowledge of the political and policy structures of South Asia countries and relationships with leading academic voices, policymakers, and civil society throughout the region.
- Proven experience working with Government, civil society, international organizations, and donors.
- Demonstrated ability in team management and collaboration.
- Excellent communicating skills in English and understanding of one or more language in South Asia region will be an advantage.
- Computer literacy of acceptable standards.
- Willingness and ability to travel to South Asia countries and globally.

Working Schedule

This is a part-time position, and on remote work modality. The service is for a period of 6 months. The contract is renewable, subject to satisfactory performance, for the duration of the project. There will be an initial performance review by the Project Director after 2 months.

Salary

Appropriate compensation will be offered to the right candidate.