



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)

PLASTIC FREE RIVERS AND SEAS FOR SOUTH ASIA PROJECT

Assignment Title: Environmental and Social Development Specialist
Reference No : LK-SACEP-225603-CS-INDV

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) has received Financing under the Agreement signed on 8 June 2020 from the World Bank toward the cost of the Plastic free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (PLEASE) - Grant# IDA-D6480, and intends to recruit staff for the Project Implementation Unit.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include providing the service of Environmental and Social Development Specialist. The Services include overall management of environmental and social safeguards of the project and the implementation of the project specific safeguards instruments. The safeguards instruments include the Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and the Labor Management Procedures (LMP). As stated in the Environment and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), and the Project Operations Manual (PoM), the incumbent will be required to, regularly monitor and report on environment and social performance, conduct proper screening of project related activities for environment and social risks and impacts, ensure labor management issues are properly handled and the stakeholders are kept informed and engaged throughout the life of the project as outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to minimize potential environment and social risks, in compliance with the World Bank regulations, for Bank funded projects.

Initial period for the assignment - 36 months
Implementation period of Project - 5 years
Expected date of assignment - **1st June 2021**

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) [is also attached hereto](#).

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should submit a CV including information demonstrating the fulfillment of the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- a) At least Master’s in Environmental Science and/or Management and Social Sciences, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Law or related discipline from a recognized University; Ph.D. from a recognized University, in any of the fields mentioned would be an asset;
- b) A minimum of five (5) years proven experience in environmental impact assessment process, environmental compliance, environmental policy, monitoring and management, preferably in the South Asia Region;
- c) Knowledge of and experience implementing international social safeguards policies/standards (e.g. GCF, World Bank, GEF, IFC or IADB) would be considered an advantage;

- d) Knowledge of the policies, legislation and procedures associated with environmental management and relevant experience in developing environmental policies;
- e) Demonstrated ability to work independently and within a multi-disciplinary team of experts involved in project/programme design;
- f) Proven ability to generate and sustain ongoing consultation and meaningful participatory processes with a wide cross section of stakeholders throughout the duration of the period of employment;
- g) Strong interpersonal and motivational skills and sensitivity to the local environment, as well as the ability to work with minimal supervision;
- h) High level of proficiency in written and spoken English and report writing;
- i) Computer literacy skills (MS Word, Excel, SPSS, and other statistical software & Power Point).

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraph, 3.17 of the World Bank's 'Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers' (Procurement in Investment Project Financing- Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 Revised November 2017 and August 2018), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment:

3.17 Consultants shall not be hired for any assignment that would be in conflict with their prior or current obligations to other clients, or that may place them in a position of being unable to carry out the assignment in the best interests of the Borrower. Without limitation on the generality of the foregoing, Consultants shall not be hired under the circumstances set forth below:

d. Consultants (including their experts and other personnel, and sub-consultants), that have a close business or family relationship with a professional staff of the Borrower, or of the project implementing agency, or of a recipient of a part of the Bank's financing, or any other party representing or acting on behalf of the Borrower, that is directly or indirectly involved in any part of:

i. the preparation of the TOR for the assignment;

ii. the selection process for the contract; or

iii. the supervision of the contract, may not be awarded a contract, unless the conflict stemming from this relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to the Bank throughout the selection process and the execution of the contract.

The individual will be selected based on the qualification and experience, in accordance with the procedures set out in 'The World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers and the Rules and Regulations of SACEP.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 08:30 – 16:30 Sri Lanka time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by no later than 16:30 hrs Sri Lanka time on **10th May 2021**.

Head of Chancery
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
#146/24A, Havelock Road, Colombo 05
00500, Sri Lanka
Tel: +94-11-2589376 / +94-11-2504708
Fax: +94-11-2589369
E-mail: secretariat@sacep.org; jacintha.tissera@sacep.org;

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST (Project Implementation Unit)

Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia Project

Background

Plastic waste that pollutes the land, flows into rivers and ends up in oceans, threatening 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 project, funded by the World Bank, will help coordinate action 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 the SAR region 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 into 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.

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 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 insertional 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 being 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. In addition, PIU has technical capabilities to advise the SACEP member states on national and regional planning and will hire (through the project) and second through partnership arrangements with member states and project partners [UNEP, UNDP, and PARLEY] the necessary skills required.

The PIU will be led by a Project Director and will include a team of specialized staff responsible for project management, financial management, procurement, environmental safeguards, social safeguards, monitoring and evaluation, communications as well as support staff. The PIU will also recruit specialized consultants necessary for specific technical assistance for overall implementation of activities. The PIU will liaise closely and also ensure overall coordination of all project entities to ensure necessary data and information are shared and collated for reporting to the Project Steering Committee and the World Bank.

Key Tasks

The Environmental and Social Development Specialist will report to the Project Director (PIU), under the Director General of SACEP and will be responsible for the overall management of environmental and social safeguards of the project and the implementation of the project specific safeguards instruments. The safeguards instruments include the Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and the Labor Management Procedures (LMP). As stated in the Environment and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), and the Project Operations Manual (PoM), the incumbent will be required to, regularly monitor and report on environment and social performance, conduct proper screening of project related activities for environment and social risks and impacts, ensure labor management issues are properly handled and the stakeholders are kept informed and engaged throughout the life of the project as outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to minimize potential environment and social risks, in compliance with the World Bank regulations, for Bank funded projects.

A qualified and experienced Environmental and Social Development Specialist is sought for this position, whom will be selected on a competitive basis following the World Bank Consultancy Guidelines.

The Environmental and Social Development Specialist will be required to perform the following tasks:

- Provide overall policy and technical direction for safeguards management under the Project, as defined by the project environmental and social Environment and Social Framework (ESF) instruments;
- Co-ordinate closely with the designated Environmental and Social Officers in the Regional Block Grants (RBG) sub-projects in planning and managing project implementation as per the Environment and Social Framework (ESF) instruments;
- Provide necessary technical assistance to facilitate the implementation, management and monitoring of environmental and social safeguards;
- Provide training to project staff, RBG recipients, project partners, etc. on safeguards as needed;
- Support capacity building efforts aimed at project implementation, gender mainstreaming, environmental and social safeguards and stakeholder engagement;
- Ensure environmental and social due diligence is carried out for each RBG sub-project as soon as conceptual technical design and scope have been defined, as outlined in the Environment and Social Framework (ESF) instruments;
- Closely coordinate with the PIU and RBG recipients for timely preparation of Environmental/Social Assessments/Management Plans for RBG sub-projects, as necessary (depending on screening outcome);
- Coordinate with the PIU for hiring technical assistance, where necessary, and for review and endorsement of these safeguard documents;
- Ensure consistency of safeguard documents with national environmental regulations;

- Assist in obtaining necessary clearances from local environmental regulatory authorities for RBG sub-projects, where applicable;
- Prepare terms of references to undertake Environmental and Social Assessments for complex and new activities and obtain necessary clearances from the World Bank;
- Review draft and final environmental and social assessments for quality and obtain necessary clearances as per the Environment and Social Framework (ESF) instruments;
- Undertake Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and develop associated Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) to ensure compliance with environmental and social safeguard requirements;
- Ensure that applicable measures in the ESMF/ESA/SEP/ESCP/LMP are included in the design, and conditions on compliance with ESMF/ESA/SEP/ESCP is included in the bidding documents liaising closely with the procurement team of the PIU;
- Assist in screening RBG applications to ensure the compliance with environmental and social safeguard requirements;
- Develop, organize and deliver environmental and social training programs and workshops for the RBG recipients and contractors as needed, on safeguard requirements and their management;
- Ensure compliance with ESMF/ESA/SEP/LMP/ESCP during the construction period of the SACEP Headquarters Building;
- Prepare additional technical guidelines, if necessary, to support the Environment and Social Framework (ESF) instruments in order to strengthen the implementation of environmental and social safeguards;
- Ensure adequate public consultation during the preparation of Environment and Social Framework (ESF) instruments as defined by the Environment and Social Framework (ESF) and Project Operations Manual;
- Ensure public complaints relating to RBG sub-project implementation and construction of SACEP Headquarters Building are addressed with corrective action and adequately documented;
- Report to the Project Director and the World Bank on the overall environmental and social performance of the project as part of PIU's periodic progress reporting;
- Maintain close cooperation with RBG recipients to monitor the operations and maintenance during the operation of the project;

- Hold regular review meetings with the safeguards officers of the RBG sub-projects and contractors and visit selected project sites to monitor implementation of the Environment and Social Framework (ESF) instruments;
- Prepare routine monitoring reports, in collaboration with the RBG recipients and contractors as set forth in the Environment and Social Framework (ESF) instruments;
- Liaise closely, where technical guidance is required, with the Environmental and Social Specialists of the World Bank task team;
- Promote community participation in the process of planning, management and monitoring of environmental/social impacts of RBG sub-projects; provide guidelines on community participation in environmental/social monitoring to the RBG recipients;
- Ensure participation of women, youth, waste pickers and other vulnerable groups in community consultations and other project related activities.
- Any other duties that may be assigned from time to time for the effective and efficient delivery of services within the Project Activities.

Required Qualifications, Expertise and Competencies

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

- a) At least Master's in Environmental Science and/or Management and Social Sciences, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Law or related discipline from a recognized University; Ph.D. from a recognized University, in any of the fields mentioned would be an asset;
- b) A minimum of five (5) years proven experience in environmental impact assessment process, environmental compliance, environmental policy, monitoring and management, preferably in the South Asia Region;
- c) Knowledge of and experience implementing international social safeguards policies/standards (e.g. GCF, World Bank, GEF, IFC or IADB) would be considered an advantage;
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- h) High level of proficiency in written and spoken English and report writing.

- i) Computer literacy skills (MS Word, Excel, SPSS, and other statistical software & Power Point).

Contract Period

This is a full-time position. The service is initially for a period of three (03) years. 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 and Director General of SACEP after six months. Thereafter, there will be an annual performance evaluation.

Salary

Appropriate compensation will be offered to the right candidate