

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Rural Enterprise and Economic Development (REED) Project

Terms of Reference for

**RECRUITMENT OF ENVIRONMENT RISK MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)**

Assignment title	Recruitment of Environment Risk Management Specialist
Contract ID	NP-MOALD-418571-CS-INDV
Type of Contract	Time based
Assignment duration Contract period	May 2024 to 15 July 2025
Primary assignment location	Project Headquarter (Lalitpur) and with frequent travel in the project command districts and selected Sub-Project Sites, Economic Corridor Offices (ECOs)
Funding source(s)	Credit 6787-NP
Contracting entity	Rural Enterprise and Economic Development (REED) Project, Hariharbhawan, Lalitpur, Nepal Phone: +977 1 5901736, 5900352, 5900356 Website: reed.moald.gov.np Email: procurement.reed@gmail.com

(March, 2024)

1. Context and rationale

The Government of Nepal with assistance from the World Bank is implementing the Rural Enterprise and Economic Development (REED) Project under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD) to stimulate the development of rural enterprises by strengthening market linkages among smallholder producers and players in agricultural commodity value chains; and by strengthening the enabling environment for the development of enterprises in five key economic corridors covering six provinces (Koshi, Madhesh, Bagmati, Gandaki, Lumbini, and Sudurpashchim Provinces). The economic corridors are:

- a. Mid-hill Highway (Koshi, Bagmati and Gandaki Provinces)
- b. East-West Highway (Madhesh Province)
- c. Postal Highway (Madhesh Province)
- d. Bhalubang-Rolpa Highway (Lumbini Province)
- e. Mahakali Highway (Sudurpashchim Province)

The Project will, among others, provide funding for productive partnership & SMEs start-up business plans, upgrading and building demand-driven market centers, value chain related infrastructures and semi-public infrastructures and facilities at local level to support the partnerships and their communities and construct market and export promotion infrastructure in the form of regional market centers and agriculture centers of excellence.

The project has five components: (1) Strengthening Market Linkages through Productive Partnerships; (2) Strengthening the Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in the Federal Structure; (3) Restoring and Strengthening COVID-19-Disrupted Food Supply Chain and Local Economy; (4) Project Management; and (5) Contingent Emergency Response Component. It is designed to support market linkages, enhance the entrepreneurship ecosystem and restore COVID-19-disrupted food and agriculture supply chain.

The Project Development Objective Indicators shows following targets to be achieved during whole project periods:

- Beneficiary interventions - 24,000 numbers (out of which 9,600 female)
- Number of SMEs and agritech startups reached - 100 numbers (Out of which 20 female)
- Increase in the average gross value of sales of producer organizations under productive partnerships – 20 percentage
- Increase in the average gross value of sales of producers under productive alliances - Female – 35 percentage
- Jobs created by COVID-19 intervention – 5700 number (out of which 2850 female)

The project areas are 171 municipalities in 6 Provinces through which the economic corridor passes. The Office of the Project Director (OPD) and Economic Corridor Offices (ECOs) under MoALD are the project implementing units of the project. The four ECOs are located at Pakhribas, Dhankuta (for Koshi and Bagmati Provinces); Bardibas, Mahottari (for Madhesh Province); Butwal, Rupandehi (for Lumbini and Gandaki Province) and Dadeldhura (for Sudurpashchim Province) with 2 focal offices each at Kaski (Pokhara) and Dhulikhel (Kavre)

The OPD is responsible for the overall implementation of project activities, coordinating with stakeholders, and providing guidance and training to staff of the Economic Corridor. The OPD is led by the Project Director, who is the Joint Secretary heading REED project within Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, and consists of permanent government staff and consultants for various task. The OPD will be staffed with an Environmental Safeguard Specialist to support the implementation and management of associated environmental risks, mitigation and monitoring measures. The Environmental specialist, and in particular, the implementation of the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and sub project specific environmental safeguard documents. OPD is currently seeking to recruit an Environment Safeguard Specialist for the OPD.

2. Objectives

The Environmental Risk Management Specialist will support the OPD in identifying, assessing and managing environmental risks and impacts under the project, including activities to support the environmental safeguard capacity of ECOs and selected local level, and to enhance project quality and compliance with the World Bank's Safeguards policies.

3. Scope of Services

The scope of service of the consultant shall include but shall not necessarily be limited to the following:

- Support OPD and ECOs to undertake environmental screenings for project activities as per the project's ESMF and support the completion of any environmental and social studies and environmental and social management plans (ESMPs), or development of mitigation measures as required by the World Bank and GoN requirements.
- Provide environmental review and technical support to the OPD in identifying, assessing, and managing environmental risks and impacts, and in enhancing project quality and compliance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (ESS).
- Support the OPD and ECOs to avoid and minimize environmental degradation to the extent possible due to either directly or from indirect, induced and cumulative effects of project activities thereby enhancing the positive/sustainable environmental and social outcomes from project activities.
- Establish the monitoring and supervising mechanism of project activities to ensure that projects are implemented in line with ESMF or mitigation measures developed, and provide reporting on the implementation of activities to the Project Director and to the World Bank as required per the ESMF.
- Provide training and support to staff on preparing the reports relating to the environmental matters as required by the WB and GON and transfer the knowledge to the staffs of the OPD and ECOs according to the need of donor requirements;
- Liaise with the Social Risk Management Specialist to ensure that stakeholder and community consultations are undertaken in line with the ESMF.
- Prepare and establish the guidelines so that that project activities are being undertaken in line with COVID-19 related OHS standards developed for the project.
- Ensure the compliances of environmental risk management measures aligning with the site specific ESMPs.
- Capacitate the OPD staff so as to undertake periodic review of the ESMF to ensure it reflects up-to-date information, and incorporate revisions and updates where required.
- Design and undertake capacity building including knowledge sharing and training on the ESMF and World Bank safeguards, including in relation to occupational health and safety (OHS) and COVID-19 OHS-related guidelines, with relevant staff including OPD, ECOs, related local level, contractors, and other relevant government officials.
- Maintain regular communication with relevant project staff, World Bank and other stakeholders to help report on project activities including implementation of ESMPs that are prepared in line with ESMF.
- Participate in World Bank missions and provide progress summaries on environmental activities.
- Manage any other unanticipated project-related environmental issues which emerge.
- Any other tasks related to the assignment assigned by the Project Director to support the implementation of project activities.

4. Reporting and Deliverables

The Consultant shall delivery the following output to the project as follow:

- **Inception report:** consisting of the desk review as indicated above with list of high-risk sub-projects, well defined methodology and site visit plans etc.(within 15 days from the date of the contract period)
- **Field visit reports:** It will include, but not limiting, to type of environmental issues associated with the production/manufacturing process and land availability, other complexities and the detail plan for collecting the samples
- Design and Estimates of economical, cost effective and sustainable wastewater treatment system of selected sub-projects and mitigation measures for other similar sub-projects
- **A concise final report:** depicting key activities and accomplishments of the consultant during the contract period with recommendations.

The Environmental Risk Management Specialist will report to the Project Director of REED project and will submit deliverables in line with the ESMF and other project requirements. The consultant also needs to report Senior Officers and other concerned project staff in regarding the accomplishment of his/her assignment. The Consultant shall prepare and submit all necessary reports (monthly, quarterly, and other reports) as prescribed by ESMF and the OPD.

5. Consultant qualifications and expertise required

- Candidate should have Minimum Master's Degree in the field of Environmental Science, Environmental Management Environmental Engineering, Ecology or equivalent with minimum 8 years of overall experience and minimum 5 years of professional experience in preparation, management and implementation of environmental safeguards instruments.
- Experience of working with of WB's E&S risk management policies, ESF and ESS and other international experiences
- A minimum of one year of working experience in similar World Bank funded agriculture project will be an asset.
- Experience of working in the area of environmental safeguards in agricultural/natural resource management will be an advantage. Familiarity with environmental policies, acts, regulations, guidelines, norms, standards as well as social laws, regulations, and policies of Nepal.
- Good experience and knowledge of undertaking environmental assessments including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) as well as implementing Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), environmental actions/mitigation measures, supervision, and monitoring.
- Experience in working with the World Bank and/or demonstrated knowledge of World Bank safeguard policies and Environmental and Social Standards.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in both Nepali and English

6. Duration of the Service

The consultant will be assigned for about 14-person months over the project period, i.e. 15 July, 2025 with a provision of renewal of contract, in case of satisfactory performance and requirement of the service. The consultant is expected to work full time during office hours be based at OPD with occasional visits to the ECOs and project areas and within Nepal on project related matters

7. Selection of the Consultant

The consultant shall be selected based on the Individual Consultant Selection method set forth in World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, fifth edition, September 2023.

8. Facilities and logistics to the consultant by the Client:

The consultant will be provided with the office space, internet facilities, and office furniture. Necessary stationery, printing and copying facilities will also be provided by the Client. Necessary computer/laptop need to be managed by the Consultant.