

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES



BANGLADESH WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Coastal Embankment Improvement Project – Phase I (CEIP-I)

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

FOR

Senior Forestry Specialist

Under

Project Management Unit

(Contract Package No. CEIP-1/D1/S12)

January , 2016

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Bangladesh is a low lying country. Most of its Southern coastal zone is within 1 to 1.5 meter PWD and gets inundated with saline water during high tides. In 1960s, polderization (i.e., land encompassed by earthen embankment) was initiated to protect the agricultural lands from tidal inundation. The coastal embankment system for Bangladesh was originally designed to protect the agricultural lands from tidal inundation by saline water, without much attention to cyclonic storms and associated tidal surges. Recent cyclonic storm surges caused substantial damage to the embankments and further threatened the integrity of the coastal polders. The above reasons have led the Government to reformulate its strategy from tidal protection alone to protection against frequent storms and tidal surges. The long term objective of the Government is to enhance the resilience of the entire coastal population against tidal flooding, storm surges and similar disasters by upgrading the embankment system as a whole. With an existing network of embankments of nearly 5,700 km length in 139 polders, the magnitude of the task is not only massive but also requires a very prudent planning. Under such situation a multi-phased approach of embankment improvement and rehabilitation is the only alternative. In view of that a 15 to 20 year project has been proposed of which this '**Coastal Embankment Improvement Project – Phase 1 (CEIP-1)**' is the first phase of the long term program.

1.2 The overall **objective** of the CEIP-1 is to increase the resilience of coastal population to natural disasters and climate change. More specifically, the project aims at (a) reducing the loss of assets, crops and livestock during natural disasters; (b) reducing the time of recovery after natural disaster such as cyclone; (c) improving agricultural production by reducing saline water intrusion which is expected to worsen under climate change adversities; and (d) improving the Government of Bangladesh's capacity to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency. This objective will be achieved by **rehabilitating and improving the polder system in the coastal area**. The project is expected to be implemented during 7-8 years' time frame.

1.3 The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) has received financing from International Development Association (IDA) to meet part of the cost of the CEIP-1. The Project would be implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), through the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). BWDB has set up a Project Management Unit (PMU) to oversee the development and execution of the project. The PMU is led by a Project Director and located in BWDB's headquarters in Dhaka. Also, one Field Level Offices (FO), at Khulna has been set up headed by an Executive Engineer. PMU is being assisted by a Detailed Design & Construction and Supervision (DDCS) & Project Management Support (PMS) Consultants

and a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Consultants. The PMU will /has appoint/appointed an Independent Panel of Experts (IPOE) to oversee the technical implementation of the project. PMU has already appointed a Senior Environmental Specialist who is now working based at Dhaka.

1.4 As part of CEIP-1 field offices at Khulna, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, & Barguna, the BWDB is planning to hire a highly qualified Senior Forestry Specialist (Personnel) with sound knowledge and expertise on technical, social, environmental and economic dimensions of coastal afforestation (mangrove afforestation) as well as raising of plantations of suitable species on the embankment slopes including implementation and monitoring.

2. OBJECTIVE

2.1 The main role of the Senior Forestry Specialist is to provide continued guidance towards successful establishment of coastal afforestation and raising of plantations of suitable species (including fruit species) on the BWDB lands to provide the protection of the embankment.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

3.1 The Senior Forestry Specialist will provide technical supports of various dimensions on coastal afforestation to the Project Director and the NGOs responsible for implementing the social afforestation programs. S/he will work in close collaboration with Construction Supervision Consultants, Local Government Authorities, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Water Management Organizations (WMOs) and the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD). The technical support will include guidance, leadership and transfer of knowledge in the preparation of an implementation plan, supervision of foreshore and social forestry inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes in accordance to the proven best practices, standards and social forestry approaches.

3.2 The outputs of the Senior Forestry Specialist will to provide all possible assistance towards successful implementation, management, planning and monitoring at the project as well as at field level, where in about 200 hectares of embankment plantation and about 120 hectares of foreshore plantation will be established on BWDB land.

3.3 The Senior Forestry Specialist is to provide technical support to the BWDB (the PD of the Project) in the following specific tasks:

- (i) Supervise and guide preparation and implementation of foreshore and social forestry afforestation operational plans in all project polders adopting appropriate best practices, standards and social forestry provisions, to encourage community involvement from the very beginning of the project.

- (ii) Monitor and deliver foreshore and social forestry best practices standards, including selection of project beneficiaries (social forestry participants), by undertaking regular field visits.
- (iii) Provide technical guidance and leadership to build the afforestation capacity of relevant field personnel including NGOs, CBOs, WMOs, contractors and sub-contractors on nursery and afforestation techniques;
- (iv) Assist the NGO(s) in recruiting skilled and experienced personnel on afforestation and participatory forestry;
- (v) Provide guidance to NGOs on participatory approaches to resolve land-use conflicts, selection of social forestry beneficiaries and adopt proven mechanisms for benefit sharing;
- (vi) Guide on the strengthening of public awareness activities of the NGOs, CBOs and WMOs on the critical role of coastal afforestation in protecting embankments and supporting lives and livelihoods;
- (vii) Liaison and collaborate with key stakeholder groups (NGOs, CBOs, WMOs), project personnel (staff and DDCs & M&E consultants) and government authorities (Ministry of Water Resources, BWDB, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, BFD and local government) to deliver project inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts;
- (viii) Provide support to NGOs, CBOs and WMOs on alternative livelihoods activities) to reduce the pressure on afforestation in coastal areas;
- (ix) Provide afforestation related inputs to the NGO(s) in undertaking the implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan, Social Forestry and the Environmental Management Plan.
- (x) Undertake project administration and reporting of delivery of financial and physical progress of the afforestation component to the Project Director;
- (xi) Provide assistance and support to the Project Director on afforestation related issues as and when required;
- (xii) The Senior Forestry Specialist is mainly based in the field offices, s/he will be required to spend a substantial amount of time in the visiting all polders.
- (xiii) Assist PD in guiding the Supervision Consultant in relevant to afforestation for better administration and evaluate their performance.
- (xiv) Conduct diagnostic analysis and identify delay, bottlenecks, inefficiency, slippage etc. and provide remedial measures.
- (xv) Carry out the above services in the best interest of the government with reasonable care, skill and diligence with sound knowledge, administrative and financial practice.
- (xvi) Assist PMU to perform any other relevant activates/takes assigned by the project Director.
- (xvii) He/she will attached with the DDCs Consultant & close liaison with M&E Consultant.

4. DURATION

4.1 Duration of the consultancy services would be for **24 months (twenty months)**. However the performance for first year will determine the continuity of the contract for the remaining year. The Contract may be extended based on project needs and subject to satisfactory performance of the Consultant during the contract period.

5. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

5.1 The Senior Forestry Specialist will submit a brief monthly report to the Project Director covering achievement/progress towards all the tasks indicated above. The payment will be made against submission of monthly report.

6. PLACE OF PERFORMANCES DIFFERENT TASKS

6.1 The Specialist will be based in the CEIP Field Offices at Khulna, Bagerhat, Patuakhali and Borguna. The specialist will have to arrange own transportation for attending office on all regular workdays.

7. SPECIFIC TASK TO BE APPROVED BY THE CLIENT

7.1 There is no specific task to be mentioned that requires Client approval. But the Consultant shall perform the tasks following the scope and requirements included in the ToR.

8. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

8.1 The Senior Forestry Specialist should have Masters' degree in Forestry / Forest Management/ Silviculture/Forest Biology with strong forestry background with a minimum of 10 years of work experience of which at least 7 years should be directly related to the relevant technical, social, environmental and economic tasks of coastal foreshore afforestation (mangrove afforestation) and social forestry activities. The expert must have demonstrated sound technical expertise in international good afforestation and social forestry practices and have proven track record of providing forest management, planning, monitoring and capacity building oversight functions. Knowledge of World Bank/ Asian Development Bank or similar development partner's procedures and guidelines will be preferred. S/he must have excellent communication and writing skills with higher-level computer skills in Windows operating system (Word, Excel, Power Point Access, etc.) and other applications.