



Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
(An Autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248 006 (Uttarakhand), INDIA

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

for Developing an online National Reporting Database Portal for Capturing Trends and Status of Key Progress and Performance Indicators on Land Degradation and Desertification

COUNTRY: INDIA

NAME OF PROJECT: Ecosystem Services Improvement Project

Grant No.: TF0A3990

Reference No.: IN-ICFRE-101330-CS-QCBS

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include development of online National Reporting Database Portal for Capturing Trends and Status of Key Progress and Performance indicators or other indicators agreed by COP of UNCCD on Land Degradation and Desertification. The online national reporting database portal will work as a repository of information on desertification, land degradation and drought as well as the best practices in the field of natural resources management. This will help in increasing national capacity for monitoring the status of land degradation and desertification and SLEM outcomes, as well as the results of UNCCD action programs at the country level. It would also facilitate reporting on key indicators under the UNCCD. This would help develop and implement a web based national MIS that would allow capturing trends and status of key impact and process indicators on land degradation and desertification. The data input would be collected at the sub-national and local level and would be consolidated at the national level through the project. This would improve the timeliness and quality of the National Reporting to UNCCD.

The detailed TOR along with necessary documents for submitting REOI is available at ICFRE website (www.icfre.gov.in).

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun now invites eligible consultants/ consultancy firms to indicate their interest for developing an online National Reporting Database Portal for Capturing Trends and Status of Key Progress and Performance Indicators on Land Degradation and Desertification. Interested consultants/ consultancy firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the task.

The attention of interested Consultants/ Consultancy firms is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers [Government of India, 16 August 2017]* (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

The Consultants/ Consultancy Firms will be selected in accordance with the selection based on the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines. Consultants/

consultancy firms shall submit their Expression of Interest Proposal as per the prescribed format (Annexure-I). The consultants/ consultancy firms are to be selected based on their relevant experience, qualifications, and capability to carry out the assignment.

Expression of interest proposals must be delivered in written through postal mail in prescribed format available at ICFRE website (www.icfre.gov.in) on or before 17 December 2019 (17:30 hours).

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [Monday to Friday 0900 to 1730 hours]:

Project Director,
Ecosystem Services Improvement Project,
Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun, Utrakhand-248006 (INDIA)
Tel: +91-135-2224831, 2224803, Tele Fax: +91-135-2750296
Email: projectdirectoresip@gmail.com
Website: www.icfre.gov.in

Note: Those consultant/ Consultancy firms who have already submitted their proposals to this REOI online need not submit their proposal again.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

‘Developing an online National Reporting Database Portal for Capturing Trends and Status of Key Progress and Performance Indicators on Land Degradation and Desertification’

1. BACKGROUND

In India almost 47% of land is under cultivation, about 70% of population dependent on agriculture, 69% of the country is dry land i.e. arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid, 24.8% area is undergoing desertification, and more than 32 % of India's total land area is affected by land degradation. While 72% of India’s population is rural and depends mainly on land and water resources, almost 80% of all Indian farmers are under the poverty line. The major causes for land degradation are unsustainable water management, poor agricultural practices, human and livestock pressure on land, deforestation, climate change and industrialization.

In India, there is a major focus on reducing poverty through enhanced productivity from irrigated as well as dry land ecosystems, which requires an approach with adequate emphasis on conservation of natural resources. There are significant opportunities for improving land management practices in order to improve productivity and reduce land degradation. Profitable and sustainable land use and ecosystem practices can be the principal means for protecting India’s significant environmental assets and alleviating poverty in the largest and poorest segments of Indian society.

Despite considerable financial investments, studies indicate that the rate of degradation of land in rainfed areas in the 1990s is likely to have proceeded at more than twice the rate observed in the earlier years. Further, our agricultural land is also shrinking at a faster rate due to urbanization and developmental activities. The over exploitation of ground water has become serious problem not only in dry states but also in food producing states like Punjab and Haryana. Appropriate land use and sustainable management of the country’s natural resources and agro-ecosystem are the avenues to meet the challenges and to sustain environmental services. Given this background, the Eleventh Five Year Plan of the Government has placed high priority on raising agricultural productivity to achieve an annual agricultural growth of more than 4.1 percent. The XIth Plan acknowledges that this goal cannot be achieved with the ongoing shrinking and degradation of the

country's natural resources, and therefore, stresses upon conservation, harnessing and developing of natural resources. This will require that we move away from existing inefficient use of land and water resources, including ground water mining, recognize the additional challenges resulting from current climate variability, and expected extreme climate conditions.

Desertification along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The dry areas of the world, which are the most vulnerable to desertification, land degradation and drought, directly affect food security, rural incomes and national economies. The recent Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report indicates that desertification threatens over 41% of the Earth's land area and almost 20–70% of drylands are already degraded, resulting in a decline in agricultural productivity, loss of biodiversity and the breakdown of ecosystems. Land degradation, Desertification, and drought (DLDD) impacts millions of people globally and along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity, is a major global concern. Desertification is not simply a force of nature, it is caused by a combination of multiple social and biophysical factors that can be grouped into two categories: those due to climatic and natural causes including variations in climate (drought), wind and water erosion, and those due to human activities including overgrazing, deforestation, intensification of agriculture, salinization, urbanization, pollution and conflicts.

ICFRE has implemented the World Bank/GEF assisted SLEM project and now, ICFRE is one of the implementing partners of the World Bank/GEF assisted project on 'Ecosystems Improvement Project (ESIP)' and may implement one of the component of, *i.e.*, Scaling up of Integrated Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) Approaches for Reducing Land Degradation and Desertification. The main objectives of this component are to prevent land degradation and desertification and increase above-ground forest carbon stock through a combination of investments to implement and scale-up tried-and-tested SLEM best practices, increase national capacity for monitoring land degradation and track associated indicators and generate knowledge exchange on SLEM approaches so as to benefit small and marginal farmers and other rural poor. These activities are designed to overcome the twin challenges of arresting land degradation and meeting food security targets. In particular, this component will draw heavily from the lessons and best practice approaches to sustainable land and ecosystem management that were developed and piloted under the GEF financed SLEM project.

The United Nations to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. All parties have adopted the UNCCD's PRAIS online reporting model for the National reporting which is indicator based and requires information for measuring, monitoring and assessment and evaluation. The online PRAIS system provides opportunity to upload information in desired formats which are later analyze and generate reports by the system. This provides opportunity for effective review the implementation of the UNCCD Strategy and the Convention, based on a new methodological approach, which envisages reporting on performance and impact indicators, best practices and financial flows. The National Reports of India therefore provide information on:

1. Impact/ progress indicators
2. Performance indicators (developed to measure the progress of the five operational objectives of the 10 Year Strategy)
3. Financial flows (through the Financial Annex (FA) and Programme and Project Sheet (PPS))
4. Best practices on sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation
5. Feedback on indicators and methodologies applied in this reporting and review process, as well as other pertinent information that reporting entities may wish to provide to the COP.

The present assignment on developing an online National Reporting Database for Capturing Trends and Status of Key Progress and Performance Indicators, and other indicators agreed by COP of UCCD on Land Degradation and Desertification and for up-scaling and mainstreaming SLEM best practices will help in strengthening the India's reporting to UNCCD and combating DLDD in India. The database will be used by number of stakeholders including various Central Ministries/ State Governments, NGOs and others.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

1. Developing an online National Reporting Database Portal for Capturing Trends and Status of Key Progress and Performance Indicators on Land Degradation and Desertification and mainstreaming of the same for enhancing ecosystem services and combating desertification, land degradation and drought.
2. Organisation of training programmes of trainers/ Nodal Officers (national/sub-national/agency) on the use of national online National Reporting Database Portal to the line Ministries, Departments, Science and Technology Institutions

3. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of the assignment is to develop an interactive online National Reporting Database Portal for Capturing Trends and Status of Key Progress and Performance Indicators on Land Degradation and Desertification with respect to India's national reporting to UNCCD. The online national reporting database portal will work as a repository of information on desertification, land degradation and drought as well as the best practices in the field of natural resource management. This will help in increasing national capacity for monitoring the status of land degradation and desertification and SLEM outcomes, as well as the results of UNCCD action programs at the country level. It would also facilitate reporting on key indicators under the UNCCD. Current capacity to prepare National Reports (NR) to report back to the Conference of Parties (COP) on the National Action Plans (NAPs) is limited. This would help develop and implement a web based national MIS that would allow capturing trends and status of key impact and process indicators on land degradation and desertification. The data input would be collected at the sub-national and local level and would be consolidated at the national level through the project. This would improve the timeliness and quality of the NR to UNCCD. Other objective would be to training programmes of trainers/ Nodal Officers (national/sub-national/agency) on the use of online national reporting data base portal to the line Ministries, Departments, Science and Technology Institutions.

4. TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

1. To develop online National Reporting Database Portal for India's national reporting to UNCCD. It should provide online space to upload required information for UNCCD reporting purpose with the logins id which will be generated by the approval of database administrator. It should also generate report as per the UNCCD reporting formats.
2. Develop an interactive online National Reporting Database Portal with restricted access for data inputs and uploading of documents by designated officials granted login IDs and passwords y the administrator
3. To develop national database on SLEM practitioners for the development of institutional and individual networks.
4. The database should have a public interface where any user can access data information/report as marked 'public' by administrator
5. Provide links and virtual access to repositories of best practices and analytical reports.
6. The knowledge network should help in developing a community of practice by connecting stakeholders with common interests in adopting and expanding SLEM approaches.

7. It should help in organizing and implementing learning events at the interface of the community, farm and common lands through the web-based platform.
8. A user friendly web-portal which can work offline and online.
9. To organize training programmes of trainers/ Nodal Officers (national/sub-national/agency) on the use of national online portal to the line Ministries, Departments, Science and Technology Institutions

5. TEAM COMPOSITION AND QUALIFICATION OF THE KEY EXPERTS

S no.	Key Experts	Qualifications and Experiences
1	Team Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Graduation in the relevant field • Minimum 10 years of experience in developing databases related to natural resource management, rural livelihood, land degradation and science & technology in India. • Experience in developing web-based systems on issues related to land management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. Preferably on land degradation. • Proven experience in developing MIS at national level.
2	Software Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Tech./ MCA/ M.Sc. in Computer Science or IT • Minimum 8 years of experience in developing web-based applications. • Experience in developing and maintaining virtual, interactive web-based database systems.
3	Networking Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Tech./ MCA/ M.Sc. in Computer Science and IT • Minimum 8 years of experience in developing and maintaining web-based and offline database systems.
4	Natural Resource Management Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Graduation in the relevant field or doctorate degree • Minimum 8 years of experience in natural resource management and issues related to land governance, protected areas management, climate change adaptation etc.
5	Training Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Graduation in the relevant field or doctorate degree

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 8 years of experience in organizing trainings on IT related web system/ softwares/ data bases etc.
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The successful Consultants (consulting firm) may engage more experts if required to fulfill the assignment in a time bound manner on his own without any additional financial burden implicated on Client (ICFRE). Sub-contracting shall not be permitted.

6. ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of 10 years of professional experience in developing web-based database systems and MIS.
- Experience should include developing interactive and user friendly database for natural resource management, climate change adaptation and related field.
- Familiarity with natural resource management knowledge management systems.
- Experience in organization of training programmes.

7. DELIVERABLES

1. Inception report and template of online National Reporting Database Portal within 30th days of contract signing.
2. Interim progress report along with interactive database and linking domains on 90th days from contract signing.
3. Rough online/ offline online National Reporting Database Portal on 180th days from contract signing.
4. One national level dissemination and demonstration workshop of the online National Reporting Database Portal with presentation
5. Final online National Reporting Database Portal after incorporating the suggestions/ comments raised by the experts during the national level dissemination and demonstration workshop, ICFRE and MoEFCC.
6. Training programmes for trainers/ Nodal Officers (national/sub-national/agency) on the use of online National Reporting Database Portal to the line Ministries, Departments, Science and Technology Institutions

8. TIME SCHEDULE

The implementation period of the assignment shall be eight months from the date of award of the contract.

9. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Deliverables	Payment Schedule
Site map and template of online National Reporting Database Portal within 30 days of contract signing	20%
Interim progress report along with interactive online National Reporting Database Portal and linking domains on 90 th days from contract signing	20%
Rough online/ offline National Reporting Database Portal on 180 th days	20%
One national level dissemination and demonstration workshop of the web-based and offline database with presentation	10%
Final online National Reporting Database Portal after incorporating the suggestions/ comments raised by the experts during the national level dissemination and demonstration workshop and ICFRE	20%
Training programmes for trainers/ Nodal Officers (national/sub-national/agency) on the use of online National Reporting Database Portal to the line Ministries, Departments, Science and Technology Institutions	10%

10. CLIENT'S INPUT AND COUNTERPART PERSONNEL

(a) Services, facilities and property to be made available to the Consultant by the Client:

Relevant documents (Fifth and Sixth National Report submitted to UNCCD Secretariat, SLEM Base line report) required for developing an online national reporting database for capturing trends and status of key progress and performance indicators on land degradation and desertification.

(b) Professional and support counterpart personnel to be assigned by the Client to the Consultant's team: NIL

**Format for Submission of Expression of Interest Proposal for
(Developing an online National Reporting Database Portal for Capturing Trends and Status
of Key Progress and Performance Indicators on Land Degradation & Desertification)
Ecosystem Services Improvement Project**

1. Name of Consultant/ Consultancy Firm:
(in block letters)
2. Details about office of the Consultant/ Consultancy Firm Address:
Phone No.:
Fax.:
Email ID:
Website:
Contact Person:
Mobile No.:
3. Profile and track record of the Consultant/ Consultancy Firm:
4. Details of registered office of the Consultant/ Consultancy Firm:
5. Status of the applicant (partnership firm/ Pvt. Ltd. Co./ Public Ltd. Co.):
6. Details about directors/ partners:
7. Copy of Memorandum/ Articles of Association (to be enclosed):
8. Total Experience of the Consultant/ Consultancy Firm and list of important consultancies delivered in past 3 years:
9. Membership of professional bodies/ accreditations/ awards etc.:
10. Balance sheet for the last 3 years (to be enclosed):
11. PAN No. (copy to be attached):
12. GST Registration, if any (Copy to be attached):

Declaration

I/We affirm that all information supplied by me/us as stated above is true and correct, I/We also fully understand that if at any stage, it is discovered that any attempt has been made by me/ us/ the firm to willfully conceal or misrepresent the facts, my/our EOI proposal is liable be summarily rejected. *Curriculum vitae* (in case of individual consultants) and self-attested copies of all the necessary documents and certificates are enclosed for proof.

Place:

Date:

Stamp & Signature of the Authorised Signatory