



## **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**

No. 9/2018/ESIP/BCC/ICFRE/421

Dated: 14/02/2020

### **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

**Country:** INDIA

**Name of Project:** Ecosystem Services Improvement Project

**Grant No.:** TF0A3990

**Assignment Title:** Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) in India

**Reference No.:** IN-ICFRE-154297-CS-CQS

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

The consulting services (“the Services”) include development of a roadmap for institutional and policy mainstreaming of sustainable land and ecosystem management in India with a detailed action plan for implementing the findings/ recommendations made by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education under SLEM Project (SLEM Baseline Study and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework). The consultant/consulting firm would look into the current state of institutional and policy arrangements in India, identify key gaps and challenges (institutional mechanism, data and capacity gaps etc.) and how these may be required to be realigned and /or what policy reforms and changes are required to mainstream SLEM practices in making investment choices etc. The road map would provide specific guideline to various line Ministries/ Departments/ Research Organizations/ Civil Society Originations etc. involved in restoration of degraded lands and to combat land degradation/desertification. The road map will also provide the guidelines/plans for achieving the targets of land degradation neutrality (LDN), sustainable development goals (SDGs) and NDC targets etc. of India. Terms of Reference for Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) in India is given in Annexure - I.

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), now invites eligible consulting firms (“consultants”) to indicate their interest for Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

The short listing criteria are:

1. The Consultant must have 10 years of experience
2. Experience of the consultant in handling of assignment related to natural resource management/ sustainable land management

3. Experience of the consultant in handling similar type of assignment
4. Annual turnover of consultant during last three financial years should be Rs. 10 Million and above.
5. The consultant must have handled at least one assignment of Rs. 2 Million and above in the last three financial years
6. Qualification and experience of the key professionals
7. Proposed methodology and work plan for execution and completion of the assignment

ICFRE reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

The attention of interested Consultants 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.

Consultant may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant Qualification Selection (CQS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

**The following documents (as given in Annexure-2) are to be furnished with Expression of Interest by the consultant as part of the Expression of Interest:**

- a) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of Letter for Expression of Interest
- b) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of filled FORM 1- Details of Consultant/ Consulting Firm
- c) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of filled FORM 2- Compliance to Eligibility Criterion along with documentary evidence for eligibility criteria 1, 2 and 3
- d) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of details of the experience as per FORM 3 along with documentary evidence as indicated in FORM 2
- e) Signed (and scanned, if submission via email) copy of declaration as indicated in S. No. 5 in FORM 2
- f) Qualification and experience of the key professionals to be provided in FORM 4
- g) Proposed methodology and work plan for implementation of the assignment to be provided in FORM 5

**Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post or by email) on or before 05 March 2020 (1500 hrs).** The document should be clearly marked as Request for Expression of Interest for Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India:

Project Director  
Ecosystem Services Improvement Project  
Room No: 143  
Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education  
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248006 (INDIA)  
Tel: +91-135-22248331, 2224803, 2224819, Tele Fax: +91-135-2750296  
Email: projectdirectoresip@gmail.com, Website: www.icfre.gov.in

Further information or clarification on REOI can be obtained at the contact details given above during office hours [0900 to 1730 hours].

**TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**  
**Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of**  
**Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) in India**

**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year 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.

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has implemented the World Bank/GEF supported Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management Project as Technical Facilitation Organization under Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management - Country Partnership Programme (SLEM-CPP) of the Government of India and Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Ecosystem Services Improvement Project. ICFRE is one of the implementing partners of 'Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP)' and implementing one of the components of ESIP, i.e., Scaling up Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) in Selected Landscapes. 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, to increase national capacity for monitoring land degradation and track associated indicators, and to generate knowledge exchange on SLEM approaches. The goal is to benefit small and marginal farmers and other rural poor and to develop a national knowledge platform for supporting a community of practice on SLEM. These activities are designed to overcome the twin challenges of arresting land degradation and meeting food security targets. This component will finance on-the-ground sustainable land management investments in private land holdings and common property lands and enhance knowledge and capacity for further scaling up of SLEM approaches at the national level. It will draw heavily from the best practices and approaches that were tried and successfully developed under SLEM project. This component can help increase national capacity for monitoring the status of land degradation and desertification and SLEM outcomes, as well as the results of UNCCD action programmes at the country level.

*The SLEM Approach:*

The Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) approach was a joint initiative under the Country Partnership Programme (CPP) of the Government of India and Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The Programme was led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the national level, and collaborates closely with State government authorities and other stakeholder groups at the local level. The SLEM-CPP conceived as a multi-stakeholder project supports adoption and implementation of sustainable land and ecosystem management, the essence of which is to apply a multi-sectoral approach to land management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation issues in several states of India. In order to do so, a number of organizations representing different capacities related to the issues at hand were participated in the program. These include government organizations at union and state levels, non-governmental and civil society organizations. The complexity of the program requires significant efforts at multiple institutional levels in order to achieve the planned results, and secure scaling-up of successful results.

Six SLEM projects were implemented in India with assistance from the World Bank, UNDP and FAO. The project sites under SLEM-CPP cover diverse ecological zones including arid, coastal and mountainous ecosystems and address diverse aspects of land and ecosystem management including coastal agriculture, shifting cultivation, watershed management, and groundwater management.

The SLEM project on "Policy and Institutional Reform for Mainstreaming and Up-scaling Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India" was anchored at the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun. The project envisages identifying gaps and barriers to sustainable land management, and documenting best practices across the country,

which could be up-scaled and mainstreamed. The project outcome contributing towards harmonization of the institutional and policy framework, coordination and monitoring of interventions in agricultural and natural resource management strategies that promotes sustainable land management and enhances agricultural productivity while minimizing environmental impacts.

*The Baseline study:*

SLEM-CPP being a multi-sectoral approach to land management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation requires a long gestation period for its impacts to become visible and apparent. In this context technical and institutional baselines have been prepared to monitor the changing status of land degradation and land management over time and to identify gaps/needs for sustained interventions in future. The baseline study has been designed to develop a preliminary understanding of the status of land degradation issues and its impacts on biodiversity and impacts of climate change/variability on land use practices and policy and institutional framework for land and ecosystem management across the country.

The baseline study has been conducted through a choice of indicators for all SLEM components viz., land degradation, biodiversity and impacts of climate change/variability on land use practices and policy and institutional framework across the country. Given the fact that land in India is expected to be in various stages of degradation, the findings of the study shall serve as a benchmark for assessments of the status in future. This may help in drawing inferences on impacts of interventions that aim at reversing the process of land degradation through SLEM. The study is based on secondary sources of information available, information gathered through field visits, focused group discussions and stakeholder consultations. Apart from the comprehensive National level baselines, Baseline has also been prepared for eight selected States.

*Outcome of SLEM-CPP*

In the SLEM program, the multi-sectoral approach to combating land degradation also takes account the need to conserve biodiversity and consider the implications of climate variability and change, as additional factors that need to be considered to arrive at sustainable solutions. While the focus is on maintaining the integrity of watersheds and landscapes, increasing vegetative cover through agro-forestry, reforestation and afforestation and through ensuring sustainable extraction practices of natural resources are the other thrust areas. An overall decreasing trend in land degradation is expected as well as an improved protection of ecosystem functions and processes resulting in an increase in carbon stocks in the soil as well as in the vegetative cover.

The expected global benefits with regard to biodiversity will be obtained both in terms of ecosystem components and services. Global benefits will in particular be related to agro-biodiversity and be obtained through agro-ecosystems managed as habitats for indigenous species and through sustainable management of vulnerable habitats such as wetlands, drylands and mountains. Through the integration of climate variability and change as a factor in the planning and implementation of SLEM, the global benefits (as well as local benefits) will be better safeguarded against climate factors.

## **2. A PRECISE STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES:**

To develop a road map for institutional and policy mainstreaming of sustainable land and ecosystem management (SLEM) in India

## **3. AN OUTLINE OF THE TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT (SCOPE OF THE SERVICES):**

The main objective of the assignment is to develop a roadmap with a detailed action plan for implementing the findings/recommendations made by ICFRE under SLEM Project (SLEM Baseline Study and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework). The consultants would look into the current state of institutional and policy arrangements in India, identify key gaps (institutional mechanism, data and capacity gaps etc.) and how these may be required to be realigned and /or what policy reforms and changes are required to mainstream SLEM practices in making investments choices etc. The road map would provide specific guideline to different Ministries/ Departments/ Research Organizations/ Civil Society Originations/involved in restoration of degraded lands and to combat land degradation/desertification. The road map also provides the guidelines and plans for achieving the targets of land degradation neutrality (LDN), sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets of India.

Following tasks are to be carried out:

1. Identify the key institutional actors at the central and state level responsible for policies regulation and public investments on land management in India.
2. Develop a time sensitive action plan for implementing the key recommendation made by ICFRE under SLEM project for policy reform or realignment and harmonization of the institutional and policy framework to mainstream SLEM.
3. The action plan should detail the specific actions, who will implement that action, what would be the roles and responsibilities of key institutional stakeholders etc. This should specifically suggest any changes in the roles and responsibilities that may be required for implementing the recommendations made by ICFRE.
4. The roadmap would prepare an institutional matrix for implementing the key recommendations made by ICFRE under SLEM Project.
5. The roadmap should provide capacity building needs for the identified institutions in order to enable them to implement the recommendations made by ICFRE.
6. The roadmap should include institutional arrangements for monitoring selected indicators that are already developed by the ICFRE under SLEM Project.
7. The roadmap and the action plan should be cost estimated and provide a timeline for implementing the recommendations. Detailed implementation strategy shall also be included in the Road Map.

## **4. SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF TASKS:**

The implementation period of the assignment shall be 7 months from the date of award of the contract.

## **5. DATA, SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT:**

Relevant documents (SLEM baseline report & monitoring and evaluation report) required for preparation of a road map.

## **6. FINAL OUTPUTS (i.e., REPORTS, DRAWINGS, etc.) THAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF THE CONSULTANT:**

1. Inception report within three weeks from the date of contract signing
2. Interim progress report within two months from the date of contract signing
3. Draft final report within four months from the date of contract signing
4. The consultant will organize two or more regional consultation workshops for inviting suggestions/inputs of all the stakeholders
5. An executive summary of the final report translated in Hindi within five months from the date of contract signing
6. A PowerPoint presentation on the final report translated in Hindi within five months from the date of contract signing
7. The consultant will organize one national level consultation workshop of the final report with presentation within six months from the date of contract signing
8. Final report incorporating the suggestions/ comments raised by the experts/participants during the regional consultation workshops and national level consultation workshop, ICFRE and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India within three weeks from the date of the National level consultation workshop.

## **7. COMPOSITION OF REVIEW COMMITTEE TO MONITOR CONSULTANTS WORK:**

- Project Director, ESIP, ICFRE: Chairman
- ADG (Monitoring and Evaluation), ICFRE: Member
- ADG (External Project), ICFRE: Member
- Procurement Officer, ICFRE: Member
- Project Manager, ESIP, ICFRE: Member
- Project Coordinator, ESIP, ICFRE: Member
- Technical Manager, ESIP, ICFRE: Member
- Knowledge-cum-Policy Management Consultant, ESIP, ICFRE: Member Secretary

## **8. PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF PROGRESS REPORTS, INCEPTION, STATUS, FINAL DRAFT AND FINAL REPORTS:**

The review committee constituted for monitoring of works of consultant shall periodically review the progress of the consultant against the deliverables.

## **9. LIST OF KEY PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS WHOSE CV AND EXPERIENCE WOULD BE EVALUATED:**

The Consultant must have been in operation for a minimum of 10 years with experience of handling at least one assignment focusing on natural resource management/ sustainable land management. Details of key professionals are as under:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Key Experts</b>	<b>Area of Specific Expertise desired</b>	<b>Qualifications and Experience</b>
1	Team Leader (Full Time)	Expertise in handling projects related to natural resource management and environment management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-graduation in natural resource management/ environment management/ land management etc.</li> <li>• Minimum 10 years of experience in policy and institutional reforms area</li> <li>• Experience in issues related to land management, preferably on natural resource management and environment management</li> </ul>
2	Institutional Expert (Full Time)	Expertise in dealing with institutional reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-graduation in the relevant field</li> <li>• Minimum 8 years of experience in evaluating the performance of national/state level institutions</li> <li>• Experience of dealing with institutional reforms</li> </ul>
3	Legal Expert (Full Time)	Expertise in policy/ legal issues related to land governance, protected areas management, environment management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduation in the relevant field</li> <li>• Minimum 8 years of experience in policy/ legal issues related to land governance, protected areas management, environment management etc.</li> </ul>
4	Agriculture, forestry biodiversity, land management, environment management and climate change experts (Part Time)	Expertise in the field of forestry, biodiversity, climate change, land management and agriculture, environment management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-graduation in the relevant field</li> <li>• Minimum 8 years of experience in the field of forestry, biodiversity, climate change, land management and agriculture, environment management</li> </ul>
5	Social Expert (Part Time)	Expertise in the field of social development and community mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-graduation in the relevant field</li> <li>• Minimum 8 years of experience in the field of social development</li> </ul>

*The time requirement for part time experts shall be determined by the successful Consultants (consulting firm), as these would be required to provide specific advice on sectors/sub-sectors related to their expertise. The 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.*



**Documents to be furnished with Expression of Interest**

The Expression of Interest for Development of Road Map for Institutional and Policy Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in India must be submitted along with the following documents:

- a) FORM 1: Details of Consultant/ Consulting Firm
- b) FORM 2: Compliance to Eligibility Criteria
- c) FORM 3: Credentials/ Past Experiences for projects cited under eligibility criterion 4
- d) FORM 4: Qualification and experience of the key professionals
- e) FORM 5: Proposed methodology for implementation of the assignment

**FORM 1: Details of Consultant/ Consulting Firm**

<b>Section1: About the Consultant/ Consulting Firm</b>										
1	Name of Consultant/ Consulting Firm									
2	Details of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address of the Registered Office:</li> <li>• Telephone:</li> <li>• Facsimile:</li> <li>• Website:</li> </ul>								
3	Information about Consultant/ Consulting Firm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year of Establishment:</li> <li>• Status of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm (Govt/Public Ltd./Private Ltd./LLP/Others):</li> </ul>								
4	Name and designation of the person authorized to make commitments to the O/o Project Director, ESIP, ICFRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name:</li> <li>• Designation:</li> <li>• E-mail:</li> <li>• Contact Number:</li> </ul>								
5	Annual Turnover of the last three Financial Years	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Years</th> <th>Annual Turnover (Indian Rupees)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017-18</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Years	Annual Turnover (Indian Rupees)	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
Financial Years	Annual Turnover (Indian Rupees)									
2016-17										
2017-18										
2018-19										
6	Number of Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total employee strengths of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm as on 31.12.2019</li> <li>• Number of professionally qualified key professionals working in the area related to Natural Resource Management</li> </ul>								

**Section 2:** Consultant/ Consulting Firm needs to mention its core expertise areas and any other relevant details/experience of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm in a descriptive format. Consultant/ Consulting Firm needs to mention its Technical and managerial capability for executing each component of the indicative scope of works as per Terms of Reference.

Please provide details (in not more than 2 pages):

**FORM 2: Compliance to Eligibility Criteria**

Eligibility Criteria		Compliance (Yes/ No)	Documentary Evidence Provided
1	The Consultant/ Consulting Firm must be a registered legal entity and should have been in existence for at least 10 years as on 31 December 2019		Copy of Certificate of registration issued by relevant authority in country of establishment
2	Average annual turnover in last 3 years should be not be less than Rs. 10 Million. In case of Joint Venture, the requirement needs to be fulfilled by the lead Partner.		Statutory Auditor's certificate (for FY 2016-17, FY 2017-18, FY 2018-19) that provides the information explicitly as per the specific requirement of the criterion.  OR Financial statements duly certified by the Chartered Accountant (for FY 2016-17, FY 2017-18, FY 2018-19) clearly indicating the turnover of the firm
3	The Consultant/ Consulting Firm must have handled at least one assignment of INR 2 Million related to natural resource management/ sustainable land management in the last three financial years		Statutory Auditor's certificate that provides the information explicitly as per the specific requirement of the criterion  OR Self-certification from authorized signatory on letter head of Consultant/ Consulting Firm stating information explicitly as per the specific requirement of the criterion
4	Experience of the Consultant/ Consulting Firm in undertaking projects related to natural resource management/ sustainable land management in the last 10 years (comprising of completed or ongoing projects).		Details of the experience should be submitted as per format in FORM 3 along with the following details: For completed projects: a. Copy of Purchase Order / Contract AND b. Copy of the Completion Certificate from the client.  OR Certificate from authorised signatory on letter head of Consultant/ Consulting Firm indicating that the project has been successfully completed. For on-going projects: a. Copy of Purchase Order / Contract AND b. Certificate from authorised signatory on letter head of Consultant/ Consulting Firm indicating the activities

			completed under the assignment and the amount of payment received
5	Other relevant documents		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Declaration that the Consultant/ Consulting Firm is not black-listed by any Government agencies in India</li> <li>b. Declaration that the Consultant/ Consulting Firm does not have any conflict of interest in terms of taking any assistance/ support from individual/ ICFRE who have been part of ESIP or the EOI publication process</li> </ul>

**FORM 3:** Credentials/ Past Experiences for projects cited under eligibility criterion 4  
(Maximum 2 pages per credential)

Assignment Name:	Country: Location within the country
Name of Client:	Address:
Name of the Legal Entity in whose name the contract is:	Duration of assignment (months):
No. of man months of the assignment:	Start date (Month/year): Completion date (Month/year):
Approx. value of the overall contract (in Indian Rupees):	Approx. value of the services provided by your firm under the contract (in Indian Rupees):
Name of associated organizations, if any:	Role of Consortium member:
Narrative description of the Project:	
Detailed Scope of services, coverage and relevance to this project:	
Copy of Purchase Order / Contract attached?	YES / NO
Copy of completion certificate/ Certificate from authorized signatory indicating the current status of the project attached?	YES/NO

**FORM 4: Qualification and experience of the key professionals**

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**FORM 5**: Proposed methodology and work plan for implementation of the assignment

