

Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project (AIRBMP)
Terms of Reference for the position of Environmental Specialist

A. Background and Project Description

Assam faces some of the most daunting water resource settings found anywhere in the world. Various initiatives are underway through internally funded state department programs and in cooperation with international partners to address these issues. Despite the immense potential of its water resources, Assam has not been able to either fully manage floods, erosion and wetland degradation or make fuller productive use of these resources. The specter of climate change that could bring an increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme events makes finding new and innovative long-term solutions and responses even more imperative to be identified and implemented.

- B.** Therefore, The Government of Assam (GoA) proposes to associate with the World Bank for development of an integrated approach for river basin management in Assam. Water Resources Department, Government of Assam thus has applied through Government of India for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the **Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project (AIRBMP)**. The proposed World Bank investment project would help lay the foundation for finalizing and implementing a pragmatic integrated basin flood, erosion and sediments management approach for several tributaries in the Brahmaputra and Barak basins. While details of project components and specific activities will be developed during project preparation, it is proposed that the project would aim to establish the core platform for engaging in a systematic manner on overall flood and erosion management in Assam. The Project will thus also focus on technical capacity building, and systems development for improved water resource and flood/erosion management and equipping water resources management institutions with modern analytical tools, to upgrade overall planning and design of programs, and their implementation. The project shall be implemented by the SPV-Flood & River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) under the Assam Water Resource Department.

C. Project Development Objectives and Project components

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of the project is to strengthen institutional capacity for water resources planning and management, to build resilience to flood and erosion risks, improve integrated water resources management and development and improve productive water use and manage flood and erosion risks in selected areas of the Brahmaputra-Barak system in Assam. Details of project components and specific activities will be developed during project preparation. It is proposed that the project would aim to establish the core platform for engaging in a systematic manner on overall flood and erosion management in Assam.

The **Project components** are as described below:

- Component 1 – Institutional Strengthening.
- Component 2 – Integrated River Basin Planning and Demonstrative Investments.
- Component 3 – Flood and Erosion Management.
- Component 4 – Project Management

Component 5 – Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC)

D. The project shall be implemented by the SPV-Flood & River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) the implementing agency, Government of Assam, under the Assam State Water Resource Department. FREMAA now invites applications from eligible Indian citizens to provide the Services of Environmental Specialist. Interested Candidates should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The Scope of work and eligibility criteria is as follows:

E. Scope of work

The Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project (AIRBMP) plans to carry out various river basin management activities including erosion and sediment management at different locations of the Assam River Basin. These activities may lead to adverse environmental impacts during pre-construction and construction phases. Adverse environmental impacts may include environmental health and safety, air pollution, water pollution, and loss of biodiversity, among others.

Assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts arising from the AIRBMP activities would be undertaken in accordance with World Bank Environment and Social Framework (ESF), and safeguard instruments to assess and mitigate the adverse environmental impacts will be prepared.

The safeguard instruments to address adverse environmental impacts may include Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). These safeguard instruments will assess the relevance of the Environment and Social Standards (ESS) under the ESF and involve preparation of detailed environmental and social assessments and preparation of mitigation measures in compliance with existing and relevant national and state legislations and requirements of the ESS.

The PIU/PMU of AIRBMP wants to hire an experienced Environmental Specialist to effectively lead the preparation and implementation the safeguard instruments required by the project. Specific tasks for the preparation and implementation of the safeguard instruments are provide below.

F. Specific Tasks of Environmental Specialist

Preparation of safeguard instruments

- (i) Prepare or support to modify ToR and Bidding/contractual documents for hiring of consultant firms for undertaking ESIA, ESMF and ESMP studies.
- (ii) Facilitate co-ordination with WRD technical design team as well as other relevant governmental officials / departments.

- (iii) Provide all necessary support and facilitation on behalf of FREMAA to ESIA and ESMF consultants and to investment planning and design teams on environment related aspects during site assessments, stakeholder consultations, field surveys, etc.
- (iv) Prepare plan for stakeholder engagement and communication with affected communities, relevant government agencies, and other stakeholders about the project
- (v) Ensure that engagement of local people for lay man works during field works is promoted and required to the extent possible in bidding documents and works activities.
- (vi) Assist in impact assessment of fauna, including fish and benthic diversity, and flora and river ecology through the consultant firm when appointed.
- (vii) Assist in assessment of impacts to physical, biological, cultural and social environment, and identification of effective mitigation and management measures, as required.
- (viii) Review all draft and final deliverables submitted by the ESIA team and provide detailed comments. Provide overall evaluation, oversight and co-ordination during preparation of Environmental Screening/Scoping, ESIA, ESMP reports including various other reports, formats, checklists and guidelines.

Implementation of safeguard documents

- (i) Ensure integration of ESIA/ESMP findings in investment plans, engineering designs and bidding documents.
- (ii) Facilitate environmental, SPCB, and forest related regulatory clearances and royalties as required.
- (iii) Carry out capacity building activities for FREMAA and WRD, including general training of FREMAA and WRD officers and Contractors on environmental aspects of flood and erosion management planning and implementation - classroom and on-site (including preparation of training material); intensive training to selected/designated field Officials of the State Government and Environmental Officers of the Contractors.
- (iv) Look for opportunities and propose / plan proactive measures to enhance sustainability of the project activities, as applicable.
- (v) Compilation of pollution monitoring data, reports preparation and co-ordination with the monitoring agencies.
- (vi) Assist and guide FREMAA for information dissemination, stakeholder consultations, and proper disclosure of documents.
- (vii) Preparation of checklists/guidelines for sustainability of practices/ long term usage by FREMAA and implementing agencies (WRD, ASDMA, etc.).
- (viii) Supervision and monitoring to ensure compliance of environmental aspects with particular reference to preparation of status/monthly/quarterly reports for

FREMAA and the World Bank on environmental aspects (such as regulatory clearances and reporting, tree cutting / forest clearance, EMP implementation, afforestation program etc.); preparation of compliance reports for the Environment and Forests of State Governments/ Ministry of Environment and Forests (Govt. of India) (as required); preparation of compliance/completion reports of each phase; and review and follow up on reports submitted by the Contractors and/or Supervision Consultants.

- (ix) Co-ordination with other departments and agencies with particular reference to preparation (as needed with regard to project scope) of applications and follow-up on Environmental Clearances; SPCB NOC; forestry clearances, tree cutting permissions, NOC for construction activities on river, near ASI monuments etc.
- (x) Any other duties as may be assigned for the efficient and smooth execution of the project by FREMAA.

G. Qualifications:

- (1) Master's/Post Graduate Degree in Environmental Planning/ Environmental Engineering/ Environmental Sciences or other technical disciplines like Civil Engineering/ Natural Resources/ Forestry/ Bio Sciences/ Chemical Management.

H. Experience:

- (2) Minimum ten (10) years in the area of conducting ESIA, environment modelling & preparing Environmental Management plans for infrastructure projects, including at least one flood/erosion management related project.
- (3) At least five (05) years experience of working as environmental official/expert for water and flood/erosion management related infrastructure and investment projects.
- (4) Strong understanding and past experience of implementing World Bank Environmental Safeguard policies and ESHS guidelines.
- (5) Field experience in assessing project site issues, vulnerabilities/risks, as well as supervising/inspecting/monitoring projects during implementation to mitigate and monitor environmental impacts
- (6) Experience/familiarity with non-structural / ecologically focused flood management measures to prevent and minimize river based flood and erosion issues, such as catchment area treatment, wetlands conservation, etc.
- (7) Proficiency in use of Computers to manage data base and generation of reports, with overall good communication skills (in English and Hindi/local language.)

I. Duration of Assignment:

The duration shall be for a minimum period of one year, to be reviewed and renewed based on review of performance and work requirement. The Specialist must be willing to travel extensively in other districts of Assam to different project sites.

J. Travel Requirements:

The consultant shall be based full time at the WRD/FREMAA project office in Guwahati and will be required to undertake field-visits and tours as per the project requirements.

K. Reporting and Performance Review:

The Specialist will report to the Project Director of WRD/FREMAA. The work and performance of the Specialist shall be reviewed by the project director on a periodic basis.

L. Facilities to be Provided by the Client (WRD/FREMAA):

FREMAA/WRD will provide the team with the following facilities and services:

- Office space including furniture and utilities.
- Access to all reports, studies, data, photographs, maps, and institutions relating to the works, access to all sites for surveys and investigations.
- Counterpart staff to work with.
- All day to day office travel, transportation, and accommodation arrangements will lie entirely with the consultant. However, in case of necessary travel to field and or outside the PIU office, the Project will provide transportation or travel costs and per diem as per contract. The PIU may provide further reasonable assistance in connection with carrying out his / her responsibilities, upon the request of the ES.

M. Age:

The Candidate should not be above 50 years as on the last date of this advertisement.

N. Remuneration:

Rs 1,00,000/- to Rs 1,20,000/- per month (inclusive of local taxes) and will be fixed during negotiations. TA/DA and other allowances admissible as per FREMAA norms

O. Selection Method:

Selection of the ES will follow the procedures for recruiting Individual Consultants described in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations 2016 (Revised August 2018).