

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Nepal

Nepal's Mitigation Action: Promoting Sustainable Forest Management and Bioenergy

Terms of Reference for National Expert: GESI and Social Safeguard

1 Background

Mitigation Action Facility (earlier known as NAMA Facility) entrusted Helvetas with a Detailed Preparation Phase (DPP) for the proposed project "Promoting Sustainable Forest Management and Bioenergy in Nepal". Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) is the main government partner of the Facility, whereas Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation is the applicant/ support organization.

The project aims to contribute the Government of Nepal's long-term strategy to achieve net-zero emission target by 2045. The Country's 2nd NDC policy document sets an ambitious target to increase the sustainable management of forests, maintain 45% of the country under forest cover and enhance carbon sequestration. Further, by 2030, Nepal aims to ensure 15% of the total energy demand is supplied from clean energy sources. Country's forests suffer from invasive species, forest fires, and inadequacy of sustainable management practices of forests. Hazardous waste biomass has been identified as major sources of forest fire leading to GHG emissions. In order to prevent such fires and unsustainable practice of forest and biomass management, the promotion of sustainable forest management and the management of invasive species are considered to be crucial. It is in this context that a project, commonly called NAMA Supported Project (NSP) with an approach to transformational change is proposed. The NSP intends to enhance carbon sequestration capacity of forests and achieve behavioral change of fossil and conventional fuel users to switch over to the use of sustainable bioenergy. The NSP promotes sustainable forest management practices and facilitate stakeholders to convert hazardous biomass into biomass pellets which will lead to the reduction of forest fires. The NSP will further initiate the intervention for behavioural change in brick and cement industries to gradually switch from the use of fossil fuel to sustainable biomass pellets. After the implementation of the NSP, about 75,060 ha of forest will be sustainably managed thereby contributing to the production of 100,000 Mt of bio-pellets per year. In addition, the NSP intends to promote occupational health and safety measures, as well as gender sensitive approaches in bio-energy Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs). With the promotion of sustainable bioenergy and increased production of biomass pellets, the NSP promotes the creation of jobs in rural areas.

In terms of the mitigation potential of the project, it is intended that this will be the first dedicated project of its kind in the implementation of Nepal's 2nd NDC by focusing on two mitigation actions: Firstly, it proposes to substitute fossil fuel with densified biomass pellets produced from forest floor biomass of sustainably managed forests; and secondly, it targets to enhance the carbon sequestration capacity of forests. Over the course of its implementation, the NSP thereby expects to reduce around 4.91 million tCO_{2e}.

In order to prepare the detailed project proposal, analysis of some of the aspects of the proposed project is felt necessary. It is in this context that this consultancy service is requested for.

2 Objectives of the assignment

The overall objective of the assignment is to contribute to the development of quality NSP proposal from ensuring the inclusivity of GESI and safeguard actions. Specific objectives are to:

- Carry out analysis of gender equality, social inclusion and human right issues and options for forest users, forest workers, forest and related industries, government partners and forest stakeholders.
- Carry out safeguard analysis for human rights, workers' rights (OHS, equal pay, timely pay, insurance) and, staff safety and security
- Support Helvetas in ensuring that the project proposal sufficiently addresses the finding of these analyses. Reference shall be made to MAF's Gender Vision and the upcoming Gender Action Plan.
- Provide the results of the systematic screening of possible intended and unintended negative impacts and risks of the project human rights and gender based on the TSU checklist.
- Prepare Gender Action Plan and Social Safeguard Plan for the project.

3 Deliverables

- GESI and social safeguard analysis report
- GESI and safeguard action plan
- Stakeholder engagement report. The report shall include the followings:
 - ~ List of stakeholders including government agencies, community forest user groups, community people, private sector industries (bio-energy production and use) and their staff, and those affected by the proposed biomass pellet value chain.
 - ~ Minutes of meetings with stakeholders
 - ~ Workshop proceedings if applicable
 - ~ Summary of interview with the resource persons and key informants
 - ~ Commitment letters of or MoU with stakeholders, if applicable

The report templates shall be provided by Helvetas upon signing of the contract.

4 Estimated time frame and scale of inputs

The assignment is for 24 days spread over January 2024 and June 2024. The distribution of time over this period shall be mutually agreed between Helvetas and the consultant.

5 Competencies and requirements of skills and knowledge

- Higher University Degree in relevant field, Ph.D. is preferred
- Good knowledge of gender, social inclusion and human rights
- Demonstrated prior experience in GESI and safeguard analysis and action plan
- Excellent analytical report writing skill in English language
- Good communication and facilitation skill