

# Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Nepal

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

### Terms of Reference for National Expert: Forest Governance and Policy, and Coordination

#### 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 partner of the Facility, whereas Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation is the applicant/applicant support organization with Bakas Renewable Energy Limited as the implementing partner.

The project aims to contribute the Government of Nepal's long-term strategy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. The Country's 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 suffers from invasive species, forest fires, and unsustainable management of forests. Waste biomass has been identified as major sources of GHG emissions. The country is combatting the spread of invasive species which are causing the spread of forest fires. 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 of forests and achieve behavioural change of fossil and conventional fuel users to switch over to sustainable bioenergy. The NSP promotes sustainable forest management practices and converts hazardous biomass into biomass pellets which will lead to the reduction of forest fires. The NSP will further initiate behavioural change in brick and cement industries to switch from fossil fuel to sustainable biomass pellets. After the implementation of the NSP, 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 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<sub>2</sub>e.

In order to prepare the DPP as per the template provided by NAMA Facility, analysis of some of the aspects (see Annex 1a) of the proposed project is felt necessary. It is in this context that this consultancy service is sought.

## 2 Objectives of the assignment

The overall objective of the assignment is to contribute to the development of quality NSP proposal from forest, environment, climate and bio-energy governance perspective and by securing the participation and commitment of the sector stakeholders. Specific objectives are to:

- *Analyze of Nepal's forest, environment, climate change, SMEs governance and related policy and legal framework, and identification of systemic policy constraints and opportunities for bio-energy in general and pellet value chain in particular.*
- *Analyze of stakeholders - government agencies, donors, private sector and local community groups - in forest, environment, climate change and bio-energy sector at federal, provincial and local level and the existing coordination mechanism among them*
- *Secure commitments and co-funding of these stakeholders (governments, potential pellet producing industries, pellet using industries, forest user groups) and facilitate their MoU/commitment letters with Helvetas.*
- *Assess potential synergies with and lessons learnt from other donors and/or governmental initiatives.*
- *Make recommendations on how best to use the existing coordination mechanisms (e.g. NDC Partnership) or a new one to be established to leverage strengths and avoid duplication*
- *Support Helvetas in DPP planning, coordination, and implementation, as necessary and mutually agreed.*

## 3 Deliverables

- Policy analysis report
- Stakeholder engagement report. The report shall include the followings:
  - ~ *List of pellet stakeholders including government agencies, biomass suppliers, potential pellet producing industries, pellet buyers, business development service providers, equipment and technology providers*
  - ~ *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 – governments, pellet producers and users, financial institutions, community user groups , NGOs*

*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 75 days spread over mid-November 2023 and mid-November 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 forestry sector policy and processes, community forestry, environment, climate change and bio-energy sector
- Work experience in and with public sector agency
- Coordination and management experience in leading national and/or international organizations in managing a multi-disciplinary team in designing and implementing the projects and programmes
- Excellent analytical report writing skill in English language  
Good communication and facilitation skill