

(For Advertisement in the website)

F. No. 9/ 2/2014-GIM
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Green India Mission Division

Dated: 19th September, 2016

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Project Implementation Agency

Project title: Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP)

Assignment Title: **Project Implementation Partner for “Improving Forest Quality Through Effective Management of Invasive Alien Species”**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is in the process of receiving a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant through The World Bank for undertaking a technical assistance and demonstrative investment project titled “Ecosystem Services Improvement Project” (ESIP). As part of the proposed project, part of the grant would be utilized for developing and testing models for “**Improving Forest Quality through Effective Management of Invasive Alien Species**”. For this, MoEFCC is seeking a qualified and experienced Project Implementing Agency, who would, under the overall supervision of the Green India Mission Directorate, MoEFCC, would independently manage and execute the suite of activities for developing and testing the models for management of invasive alien species.

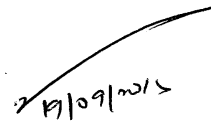
An organization to be selected as Implementing Agency, will need to manage and control alien invasive species in selected forest landscapes; of approximately 30,000 hectares; develop and test models for such management and control in Central Indian Highlands. The details of Scope of Work, Specific Tasks to be undertaken, Qualification and Experience required are enclosed. The total outlay for this work will not exceed US\$ 1.5 million.

The selection of the Implementing Agency would be based on the basis experience and qualifications. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours **(0900 to 1730 hours)**.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) latest by 5.00 PM of the tenth day from the date of publication of the Notice Inviting the proposal in the Employment News excluding the date on which such notice is published in the Employment News. Proposals received after 5.00 PM of the tenth day from the date of publication of the Notice Inviting the Proposals in the Employment News shall not be considered. The EOI should include: (i) organizational profile; (ii) capability statements related to management and control of alien invasive species; (iii) capability statements related to use of bio-control measures/agents; (iv) evidences of work undertaken on alien invasive species, including published scientific literature; (v) curriculum vitae of key experts who are on the rolls of the organization; and (vi) audit reports of the last three financial years.

Under Secretary (GIM)

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(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Scope of Work and Tasks for Implementing the Sub-Component 2.2 – “*Improving forest quality through effective management of invasive alien species*” under the World Bank / GEF funded– “Ecosystems Service Improvement Project ”

Background

The Government of India has launched the Green India Mission (GIM) with the objectives of improving forest quality over 5 million hectares (Ha) and developing new forests over another 5 million Ha. It is expected that this effort will contribute towards achieving India’s “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions” of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. Achieving this would require a multi-disciplinary and multi-pronged approach with respect to improving forest quality. It would require extending technical support to State Forest Departments and developing workable models that could be replicated over large areas. The proposed *Ecosystem Service Improve Project* (ESIP), in many ways, brings a new and novel approach to addressing some of the challenges in management of ecosystems and land. For example, adopting new tools and technologies for better management of natural resources, including biodiversity and carbon assets, and use of advanced monitoring systems has become imminent and a necessity in forestry sector. The GEF grant would provide incremental support to leverage significant gains in terms of the use of new tools and technologies in the forestry sector. Therefore, while focusing on afforestation and related activities through GIM, a new effort on management of invasive species for improving forest quality would be brought in through technical assistance under ESIP. Management of invasive species is already included in GIM and therefore, the proposed project aligns well with GIM. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is seeking a technical qualified and globally experienced Implementing Agency to provide the technical backstopping and undertaking demonstrative pilots on management of invasive species under ESIP. The demonstrative sites would be in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Context of Sub-component 2.2 - *Improving forest quality through effective management of invasive alien species*:

This sub-component will support development and implementation of an integrated invasive species management framework for select ecosystems that builds on regulatory, preventive and restorative aspects of managing invasive species. Multi stakeholder consultations for developing a national research agenda and strategies for specific invasive species will be supported under this sub-component. It will also develop and implement innovative approaches and field based activities for invasive species removal, replanting with native species, and biological control. This sub-component will result in improved guidelines and an enhanced national knowledge base to support the science-policy interface in India on preventing the introduction of invasive alien species, which would be able to underpin potential future regulatory actions towards preventing their further spread. This sub-component will result in improved guidelines and a national knowledge base to support the science-policy interface in India on preventing the introduction of invasive alien species as well as management of invasive species to contain their geographic spread, which would be able to underpin potential future regulatory actions towards preventing their further spread.

Scope and the Role of the Implementing Agency:


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The selected Implementing Agency would have a wide role during the course of implementing the Sub-component 2.2. The scope of work and the role of the Implementing Agency would be:

- Support a consultative development and implementation of an integrated invasive species management framework for selected ecosystems that builds on regulatory, preventive and restorative aspects of managing invasive species.
- Develop, pilot and scale up implementation of innovative approaches and field based activities for invasive species removal, replanting with native species, and biological control.
- Collaborate with different research institutions, including MoEFCC funded Centers of Excellence that have been working on developing technologies and techniques for removal of invasive species in developing the framework and approaches for managing invasive alien species.

Specific Tasks and deliverables for the Implementing Agency:

While the IA would provide overall technical support, develop innovative models and scale up the successful pilots as well as build capacity of State Forest Departments in addressing the issue of invasive alien species, the following are the specific tasks and deliverables for the IA:

- Undertake a study on *pathways of introduction* of invasive species in India.
Deliverable: a study report with recommendations on measures to be undertaken for closing the potential pathways
- Undertake multi stakeholder consultations (4 regional and two national consultative workshops) for developing a national research agenda and strategies for specific invasive species.
Deliverable: Workshop proceedings; national research agenda report; and strategies for specific invasive species, as agreed with MoEFCC.
- Support for review and amendment of invasive species and NTFP legislation.
Deliverable: Final report on the review findings and recommended amendments.
- Develop and implement an integrated invasive species management framework for select ecosystems:
Deliverable: Integrated Invasive Species Management Framework Document.
- Support for research on invasive species for developing the protocols and manuals for their management and technical training in invasive species risk assessment.
Deliverable: Species specific protocols and manuals for invasive species management and related training modules.
- Demonstrative pilots on invasive species management, including physical removal approaches, replanting with native species mix and bio-control methods. Scaling up the successful pilots.
Deliverable: Successful demonstration of various invasive species management approaches on forest habitats as identified by the two State Forest Departments. Scaling up as agreed with MoEFCC.
- Any other specific task, once identified during the implementation of the project and mutually deemed critical for the success of Sub-component 2.2.

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Team Composition and Qualification of Key Experts

Sl. No.	Key Experts	Qualifications
1	Invasive Species Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctorate in a related field (biology/ecology/environmental management) with at least 10 years' experience of which at least 5 years should be in the field of invasive alien species • Familiarity with the invasive species issues in India would be an advantage • Proficiency in report writing and presentations • Ability to manage projects and work in mission mode and willingness to travel is required
2	Technical Consultant(minimum three and to be deployed as and when required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctorate in the field of invasive species or related field (biology/ecology/environmental management) • Minimum 15years' experience of which at least 10 years should be in the field of invasive alien species • International experience of working on invasive species is necessary with proven track record of managing different invasive species in different ecosystem types • Experience of documentation of invasive species management and development of training modules is required • Demonstrative ability to organize and lead consultation with a range of stakeholders • Ability to organize and lead technical workshops internationally on invasive species
3	Safeguards Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Graduate in Social Sciences/Natural Resources Management, or in equivalent environment-related discipline • Knowledge and experience in preparing of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), Environmental and Social Management Frameworks/Plans, including social aspects of development projects (e.g. gender components), operations monitoring and compliance assessment • Experience of doing similar work in an externally aided project by World Bank, Asian Development Bank or other donors is desirable • Fluent in English and Hindi and willingness to travel, often to remote and inhospitable areas
4	Procurement Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Masters degree with a major in a relevant discipline (e.g. Engineering, Management, Law, Procurement, Finance, Business

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Sl. No.	Key Experts	Qualifications
		<p>or Commerce) and relevant training in procurement work. Or a Bachelors degree with post graduate level education in procurement like Professional Diploma in Public Procurement (PDPP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least five (5) years of direct relevant work experience as Procurement Specialist or alternatively, having had responsibilities with a substantial content of his/her position in the procurement area • Knowledge and understanding of technical, commercial and legal aspects of procurement at all phases • Exceptional degree of integrity, judgment and tact in handling the most sensitive, diverse and confidential issues related to procurement
5	Financial Management Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified Cost Accountant/M.Com/MBA (Finance) with a minimum of 7-8 years of post-qualification experience • Expertise in preparation of terms of references for consulting services, RFP documents and bidding documents for procurement of goods and services as per the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines will be an essential requirement • The incumbent should also have proficiency in computer operations and applications specially, Excel, MS Office, Power Point presentation and Accounting software
6	Site Administrator (two)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduates in any discipline • At least 4 years' experience of working at the field level, including experience of site management, logistics management, communications management and record keeping • Ability to deal with local issues and conflicts and good interpersonal skills • Demonstrative experience of record keeping, including various vouchers, petty vouchers, official correspondence, progress diary, muster roll etc.
7	Field Staff (as required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons with experience and ability to stay at the field for long hours and longer periods running into months • Ability to withstand difficult working conditions and take simple instructions

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Potential Implementing Agencies are free to propose additional experts as they deem necessary for the fulfillment of the assignment.

Essential Requirements for the Implementing Agency

- Experience of working in the field of invasive species, including proven international experience of managing invasive species.
- Proven experience of developing invasive species control approaches and models, including the ability to develop and test bio-control agents with full familiarity of national and international rules and provisions in the use of bio-control agents
- Documented evidence of academic and/or scientific publications on the science and management of invasive species

Time Schedule

The engagement of the Implementing Agency shall be for the entire project period.

Payment Schedule

This is a fixed cost contract and payments would be made on the basis of approved Annual Work Plan

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