

## Terms of Reference

### Consultant to Conduct Environmental Assessments (EAs) - Sinharaja

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**Title** - Environmental Consultant to conduct Environmental Assessments (EAs) on NBT programs in Sinharaja forest reserve.

#### **01. Purpose**

These Terms of Reference have been developed to obtain services from a reputed Environmentalist and his / her team or a Firm to conduct Environmental assessments in selected areas in the Sinharaja forest reserve. The proposed assessment should cover all activities proposed under the Sinharaja Nature Based Tourism (NBT) Plan, 2018.

#### **02. Background**

The World Bank has extended a credit to the Government of Sri Lanka for the Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP) with the aim of improving the management of sensitive ecosystems in selected locations for conservation and community benefits. The Ministry of Environment and Wildlife resources executes the project through a Project Management Unit (PMU). The Forest Department (FD) and the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) implement project activities to achieve the project goals.

#### **03. Objectives of the Consultancy**

To identify and analyse key environmental and social impacts in selected areas in the Sinharaja forest reserve. Proposed activities under the Sinharaja Nature Based Tourism (NBT) Plan should be assessed to measure potential environmental and social impacts. Appropriate recommendations should guide the Implementing Agency to promote ecosystem and mitigate possible issues through effective and well-focused Environmental and Social Management Plans. It is also necessary to highlight best practices to manage quality of ecosystems while improving nature-based tourism in given locations. This consultancy should guide Forest Department and the PMU to formulate and launch Nature-Based Tourism Development (NBT-D) activities with effective environmental management systems in the designated area/s.

#### **04. Scope of Service**

The Scope of the Work shall include but not limited to the following:

- Develop an assessment methodology including criteria rated to ecosystems, environment, social and eco-based tourism. Obtain PMU concurrence on the proposed assessment method and implementing process.
- Obtain the required information from the PMU on the study area/s to be reviewed under the assessment. This may include, but not be limited to, relevant development plans, assessment reports, screening reports, safeguards, social analysis, ESMPs, monitoring and progress reports.

- Asses potential environmental impacts of following NBT activities proposed:
  - Construction of new ticketing centres including one in Dorana Ela;
  - Improvements of lodging and basic amenities (bathrooms, water facilities etc.);
  - Improvements in network of hiking trails;
  - Improvements to road access;
  - Construction of observations tower, canopy walks and bird hides;
  - Improvements to the research centre;
  - Construction of Kurulugala eco-lodge;
  - Improvements to the Morning-side research centre;
  - Construction of Pitadeniya cafeteria and dining facilities: and
  - Training of forest officers and tour guides. (Refer to the Sinharaja NBT Plan attached).
- Assess the level of community participation / involvement in ecosystem management. Assess the social inclusion of vulnerable communities and women in consultations and in distribution of project benefits.
- Assess existing / anticipated social impacts on environmental related works in selected NBT programs and areas.
- Develop Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) to guide prospective investors and program implementing agencies.

Key aspects to cover in the EAs and the ESMPs are:

- Environmental / ecological issues including Fauna and Flora (Refer to sample ESMP)
- Land and topography
- Geology, Soil types and Borrow areas (pits)
- Climate and rainfall patterns
- Water resources / hydrology / retaining walls
- Waste Management (solid and sewerage etc.).
- Air quality and Noise pollution
- Existing NBT activities and impacts
- Opportunities and threats to community livelihood
- Safety and risks (for fauna and flora)
- Vehicle movements (Internal travelling and transportation)
- Invasive plants and removals
- Forest fire and fire breaks
- Social impacts / issues
- Cultural and archeological values
- Field training and field days

## 05. Expected Key deliverables:

- A. Methodology, field survey plans for selected area/s;
- B. Structured and semi-structured interviews / discussions with communities living in the vicinity to identify social, cultural and economic issues related with NBTD;
- C. Inception Report within two weeks;
- D. Draft EAs including Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) for consultation with PMU and other stakeholders;
- E. Final EA report incorporating comments by all stakeholders; and
- F. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Monitoring Plans.

## 06. The consultant is responsible for:

- Initial planning and review of relevant documentation;
- Finalisation of travel arrangements and field visits / works;
- Liaison with ESCAMP, FD, DWC, provincial and local officials and communities;
- Coordination of assessment works between GOSL officials and relevant stakeholders; and
- Submission of final EA Report with ESMPs on time with the specified quality requirements.

## 07. Reporting Requirements

- (a) **Inception Report:** The Consultant should submit an inception report confirming the methodology to be adopted to develop an EA reports including Environmental and Social Management Plan.
- (b) **Interim (Draft) EA report:** The Consultant to ensure that all requirements are covered in the draft Environmental Assessment report.
- (c) **Final EA with ESMP:** The consultant to submit the final Environmental Assessment report together with the Environmental and Social Management Plan and incorporating comments from all stakeholders.

Title of Report	Due within date from beginning of assignment	No. of copies
Inception Report (Max 5 pages)	2 <sup>nd</sup> week	3 + Soft Copy
Draft Environmental Assessment Report including ESMP	7 <sup>th</sup> week	3 + Soft Copy
Final Environmental Assessment Report (with ESMP) incorporating comments by all stakeholders	10 <sup>th</sup> week	3 + Soft Copy

The final Environmental Assessment Report should be a brief, clear and cogent summary of review outcomes, focusing on a balanced analysis of issues / impacts in the project area and it should be recommended ways to address issues identified.

## 08. Specifications of the Consultant:

The Assessment team composition will be by following key personal.

- A. The Team Leader (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Expert)
- B. The Environmental Assessment Expert
- C. The Socio-economic Expert
- D. Nature Based Tourism Development Expert

The Team Leader is responsible for the overall management of the assignment and should have experience in environmental and social assessments of ecosystem conservation and infrastructure development projects. He / She should possess a Post Graduate Degree (Masters Level) in Environmental Science/Social science/Engineering/Planning or equivalent with at least 5 years of experience in the field.

The Environmental Expert should have Masters Level qualifications in the field with at least 10 years of experience (1) in developing environmental management plans including infrastructure projects (2) experience of carrying out environmental impact assessments and initial environmental assessments (with experience of working in Fauna and Flora) for the bilateral/multilateral funding agencies for environmental safeguards. The person should have subject knowledge in the fields of project management and the World Bank environmental safeguards.

The socio-economic expert will be responsible for social assessments in selected areas. He/she should support the other members to complete ESMPs including social aspects and (Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) requirements. He/she should be a graduate with social science and 3 years' experience in developing environmental and social assessment / management plans.

The Nature Based Tourism Development Expert should have 5 years relevant experience with graduate or equivalent level of education qualifications.

The Expression of Interest of the Consultant has to be submitted to the Project Director – ESCAMP including CVs together with the price proposal.

## 09. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The total payment for the entire consultancy is estimated as Rs. 2.0 million.

No	Stage	Amount
1	Submission of Inception Report and acceptable to PMU/ FD and the Bank.	20% of the total payment
2	Submission of Draft Environmental Assessment Report and acceptable to PMU/ FD and the Bank	20% of the total contract cost
3	Submission of final Environmental Assessment Report and acceptable to PMU / FD and the Bank	60% of the total contract cost

**Note - No advance payment shall be made, and payments will be time-based and also linked to outputs.**

### 10. Termination of Services

If the work of the consultant or a firm is not found satisfactory at any stage then the services will be terminated by the PMU of the ESCAMP.

### 11. **Attachment 1:** World Bank's environmental guidelines (EAMP) and Social Management Framework (SMF)

**Attachment 2:** Sample ESMP

**Attachment 3:** Sinharaja NBT Plan