



དབལ་ཕྱན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། གཞི་རྟེན་མཐོ་ཚས་དང་ སྐྱེལ་འདྲེན་ལྗན་ལག།

**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
THIMPHU: BHUTAN
ACCESS BHUTAN PROJECT**



Terms of Reference (ToR)

for

Hiring of National Individual Environmental Specialist Consultant

for

Accelerating Trade and Transport in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) Bhutan Project

1. Background

The Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB), with financial support from the World Bank, has conceived a multi-phase project: Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS). The US\$ 155m project is funded by the World Bank through the Accelerating Trade and Transport in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) Phase-2 Project. The ACCESS Multi-phase Programmatic Approach (MPA) consists of a series of linked transport and trade facilitation projects in eastern South Asia designed to increase the efficiency and resilience of trade and transport along selected regional corridors. The ACCESS Program was approved on June 28, 2022, with Phase 1 covering Bangladesh (US\$753m) and Nepal (US\$275m). ACCESS Phase 2 consists of a US\$155m allocation for Bhutan. The objective of the project is to increase the efficiency and resilience of trade and transport along selected regional corridors.

The ACCESS Program framework, in general, consists of 3 main pillars and Bhutan adopted the same framework as follows:

Component 1: Digital Systems for Trade

Component 2: Green and Resilient Transport and Trade Infrastructure

Component 3: Institutional and Policy Strengthening for Transport and Trade.

Component 1 of the Project is implemented by the GovTech Agency to improve digital connectivity designed to eliminate manual and paper-based processes, resulting in faster border crossing times.

Component 2 of the Project seeks to enhance regional corridors and trade gateways that serve as the backbone of the physical and economic integration of the region. In particular, i) Construction of Gelephu-Tareythang Road, ii) Preparation of feasibility study and ESIA for the Tareythang-Pangbang road link, iii) upgrade of the Road Asset Management System, and iv) improving multimodal connectivity (Railway and Inland Water Transport) will be undertaken under the Component. The Component is being implemented by the Department of Surface Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. In addition, Department of Forest and Park Services will implement biodiversity management plans for habitat enhancement and carryout environment and wildlife mitigation measures.



དབལ་ལྗན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། ལེན་རྟེན་མཐོ་ཚས་དང་ སྐྱེལ་འདྲེན་ལྷན་ཁག།



ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
THIMPHU: BHUTAN
ACCESS BHUTAN PROJECT

Component 3 of the Project supports Policy and Regulatory reforms, Capacity Building and Project Implementation Support for the implementing Agencies. The ACCESS Bhutan Project will span over six years (2025-2031) period.

The project environmental risk is rated High primarily because the construction of the new Gelephu-Tareythang Road may affect the critical habitats for Asian Elephant and Golden Langur. The project has undertaken extensive environmental and social studies, including the preparation of an Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP). These studies and plans are developed to ensure adherence to the stringent safeguard standards of the RGoB and the Environmental and Social Standards of the World Bank. During project implementation, a full-scale cumulative impact assessment (CIA) and an ESIA for Tareythang-Pangbang will be carried out as part of the project activities.

The Department of Surface Transport (DoST), Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT), as an Implementing Agency (IA), will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) and designate two in-house DoST staff members as an environmental specialist and a social specialist in the PMU with dedicated responsibilities on environmental and social Management. In addition, the PMU will appoint a biodiversity specialist deputed from DoFPS to enhance its management of the project impact on biodiversity and implementation of BMP.

Appoint a social consultant, and a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) consultant to support the PMU in environmental and social (E&S) management. The services will be procured following the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, September 2023.

2. Objectives

The objective of the consulting services is to support DoST as an employer and its Project Management Unit (PMU) to properly manage environmental risks associated with project activities implemented by the PMU, including implementation of ESMP, BMP and capacity building of the PMU staff, and development of a full-scale cumulative impact assessment (CIA) and an ESIA for Tareythang-Pangbang.

3. Scope of Services

The detailed duties and responsibilities of the Individual Environmental Consultant will include the following, in addition to any other duties and tasks assigned by the Project Director as per project requirements.

3.1. Capacity Building of the PMU



དབལ་ལྗན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། གཞི་རྒྱུ་མཐོ་ཚས་དང་ རྒྱལ་འདྲན་ལྷན་ཁག།

**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
THIMPHU: BHUTAN
ACCESS BHUTAN PROJECT**



- 3.1.1. Review the current capacity-building plan, identify areas for improvement, and develop a robust and comprehensive plan reflecting time-bound actions in consultation with the PMU staff.
- 3.1.2. Deliver capacity-building training on E&S risk management to PMU staff. This training will include, but is not limited to, World Bank ESF requirements, construction monitoring and auditing, stakeholder engagement and management of Grievance Mechanism on environmental issues, occupational and Community Health and Safety, incident reporting procedures, and emergency preparedness and response procedures
- 3.2. Reviewing and Updating the E&S Instruments**
 - 3.2.1. Support the PMU team in timely reviewing E&S instruments prepared by the Detailed Engineering Design Consultants and Contractors.
 - 3.2.2. Support the PMU team in updating any earlier prepared E&S instruments during the project implementation;
- 3.3. Incorporating environmental requirements in the bidding documents**
 - 3.3.1. Support the PMU team in integrating the E&S requirements of ESMP and BMP into the procurement and bidding documents of all contract packages.
- 3.4. Review of Contractors Documents (C-ESMP)**
 - 3.4.1. Review the Contractors' ESMPs, including OHS implementation plans, to ensure their compliance with the requirements of ESIA, ESMP and bidding documents.
 - 3.4.2. Coordinating with the PMU E&S Staff and Supervision Engineer to review and approve the contractors' method statements and monthly reports.
- 3.5. Site Inspections**
 - 3.5.1. Conduct periodic field visits to the construction sites and contractors' facilities to identify and report environmental non-compliances.
 - 3.5.2. Ensure that the systems are in place from the contractors, supervision engineer and PMU and that environmental compliance requirements are properly managed.
 - 3.5.3. Provide orientation to contractors, consultants, and workers on the application of environmental health guidelines and other construction protocols, and supervise compliance with those guidelines.
 - 3.5.4. Assist with updating of indicators by collecting data/information on environmental elements related to civil works activities.
 - 3.5.5. Keep the Client updated on the progress of activities and flag any related issues.



དབལ་ལྗན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། གཞི་རྒྱུན་མཐོ་ཚས་དང་ སྐྱེལ་འདྲེན་ལྷན་ཁག།

**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
THIMPHU: BHUTAN
ACCESS BHUTAN PROJECT**



3.6. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), including Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for Tareythang-Pangbang Road.

- 3.6.1. The consultant is required to review and update the ESIA, ESMP as appropriate to meet WB ESF requirements in coordination with the Consultant recruited by DoST.
- 3.6.2. Carryout full scale Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) for the ACCESS Project as per WB requirements in coordination with the Consultant recruited by DoST.

3.7. Reporting

- 3.7.1. Prepare monthly reports to the PMU on the summaries of the activities carried out by the consultant
- 3.7.2. Prepare quarterly environmental monitoring and progress reports (for submission to the World Bank on E&S performance of the Component 2 activities, the performance of contractors and subcontractors, including the status of non-compliances and incidents, and capacity building activities

4. Qualifications and Experience

- 4.1. At least Master's degree in environmental sciences or another relevant degree.
- 4.2. 7 years of relevant experience after acquiring the required qualification in managing or assisting in the management of environmental safeguards.
- 4.3. Strong knowledge of the World Bank Environmental and Social Management Framework.
- 4.4. Experience in the preparation of Environmental and Impact Assessment of at least one project.
- 4.5. Experiences in monitoring environmental management plans
- 4.6. Working on public sector projects is an advantage. Track record in working across industry sectors to identify environmental health and develop mitigation measures to ensure compliance with good international industry practice.
- 4.7. Ability to work independently on multiple tasks and willingness to travel extensively to project sites.
- 4.8. Strong written and oral communication skills.

5. Duration and Estimate of Services

The Consultants will be intermittently engaged initially for one year with possible extension for whole project period of six (6) years based on consultant's performance and project need. The average input



དབལ་ཕྱན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། གཞི་རྟེན་མཐོ་ཚས་དང་ སྐྱེལ་འདྲེན་ལྷན་ཁག།

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
THIMPHU: BHUTAN
ACCESS BHUTAN PROJECT



in a year will be ninety (90) man days with increased input during the construction of Gelephu – Tareythang Road.

The consultant shall report to the Project Director, DoST. He/she shall prepare reports, maintain timesheets and slide presentations on the assigned tasks.

6. Facilities and Support Services

The majority of the consultants' services are expected to be at project sites with some tasks to be performed in Thimphu.

The consultant is expected to budget for the following:

- 6.1. Cost for the remuneration for the services to be rendered to the client at project sites including day-to-day travel for monitoring of the activities.
- 6.2. Cost of in-country travel and transportation
- 6.3. Applicable international or local communications such as the use of telephone, teleconferencing and internet required for the purpose of the assignment;
- 6.4. Laptops, PCs, etc. as appropriate.
- 6.5. Tax responsibilities
- 6.6. Any other inputs necessary to complete the assignment.

The Client will provide the following inputs and facilities:

- 6.7. Relevant Reports, studies and information pertaining to the project.
- 6.8. Office space.
- 6.9. Printing and dispatching of the reports to be produced.

7. Remuneration and Compensation

The consultant shall be provided with the remuneration and reimbursable benefits as per the contract. The contract will mention a daily rate, which shall include all overhead, social charges, other associated costs and insurance premiums. The payment will be made in Bhutanese Ngultrums.

8. Reporting

The Consultant will report to the Component Manager, DoST and submit reports as and when required. The Consultant will have to attend any relevant meetings as may be required by the Component Manager.

9. Selection Procedures



དབལ་ཕྱན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་། གཞི་རྒྱུན་མཐོ་ཚས་དང་ རྒྱལ་འདྲན་སྐྱོན་ལག།

**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
THIMPHU: BHUTAN
ACCESS BHUTAN PROJECT**



A consultant will be selected following Selection of Individual Consultant method as set forth in the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, September 2023.