

**Assessment to understand and promotion of Traditional Watershed  
Friendly Practices for Majhi Community**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT**

**Post Title** Indigenous Livelihood Expert

**Type** Individual Contract (National)

**Location:** Kathmandu with travel to field

**Additional Category** Resilience and Climate Change

**Starting Date:** 12 July 2021

**Duration:** 30 days over 1.5 months

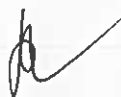
**1. BACKGROUND**

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The Mid hill mountain catchments are prone to multihazards (drought, landslides and floods) and impacts are magnified by the extreme changes in climatic conditions. The increased frequency of flood and landslide disasters causing extensive damages on economy, life, properties, and consequently on livelihood. At the other extreme, water scarcity and droughts also pose a threat to the agriculture-reliant livelihoods. Climate change is increasing the temporal and spatial variability of rainfall and runoff, thus intensifying the problem of excess water during the monsoon and water scarcity during the dry season which is threatening on food security. In the project area, due to these multifacets problems, the livelihood of Majhi communities who are mostly living adjacent to Riverside are heavily impacted. A long-term solution to this climate change problem is to rehabilitate and maintain functional integrity of watersheds giving due considerations on local communities's traditional knowledge, skills and customary practices. Using an Integrated Watershed Management approach for planning, implementation, and resilient livelihood development GON/UNDP/GEF is implementing a pilot model project "Developing climate resilient livelihoods in the vulnerable watershed in Nepal" in Dudhkoshi watershed covering 8 local government units (Palikas) of Khotang and Okhaldhunga districts.

In Nepal, the caste/ethnicity (125 ethnic groups) and their culture, skills, religion are strongly linked with conservation values of watershed resources. According to the 2011 census, indigenous peoples (known as indigenous nationalities – Adivasi Janajati), comprise 37% of the total population of Nepal. The Majhi are one of the indigenous peoples and are categorized under "highly marginalized group". According to CBS report 2068, the national total population of Majhi community is about 83,727 (0.32 % of total population). The livelihoods of the Majhi communities are derived from subsistence agriculture, livestock, forestry, traditional practices (ferrying, fishing), and other local employment.

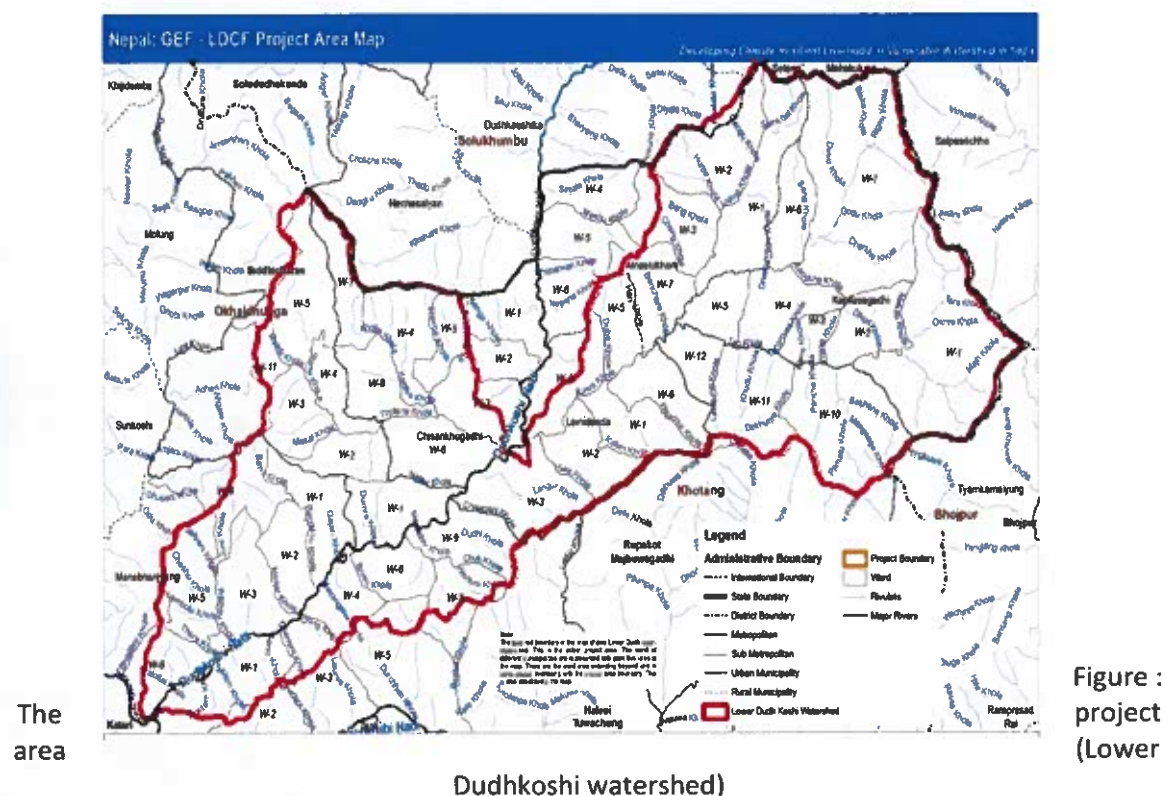
In the project area, the Majhi communities reside along the rivers and settlements are spatially distributed along the bank of Sunkoshi, Dudhkoshi River corridors. The baseline survey of the project conducted in 2018 shows that in Dudhkoshi watershed, Janajati and marginalized



groups represent 65.5% of total population. Majhi groups indicate one of the dominant populations in the region and their livelihood options that expose them to the vulnerability to changing climate and growing environmental problems. The subsistence farming, fishing, boat making and helping people to cross rivers in their ferries are their major subsistence traditional occupations. As urbanization is expanding, the traditional way of resource dependency is disturbing, job ferrying people is almost outdated as there are many bridges built over the river, and fishing is also adversely impacted due to growing environmental deterioration.

## 2. PROJECT AREA

The project area is Lower Dudhkoshi watershed located in between Khotang and Okhaldhunga Districts. It comprises 8 local palikas in both districts. The detail of the project area is shown below.



Project District	Khotang (5 municipalities)	Okhaldhunga (3 municipalities)
<b>Municipalities (51 wards)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ainselukharka Rural Municipality</li> <li>2. Haleshi Tuwachung Municipality,</li> <li>3. Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadhi Municipality,</li> <li>4. Kapilasangadhi Rural Municipality</li> <li>5. Rawa Beshi Rural Municipality</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Siddhicharan Municipality</li> <li>2. Manebhanjyang Rural Municipality,</li> <li>3. Chisankhugadhi Rural Municipality</li> </ol>

### 3. RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

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In the project area, Majhi communities are feeling heavy pressure which threatens their natural resources, territories, culture and customary ways of life and are struggling to continue their own culture, identity and reclaiming their sovereignty. However, there is lack of comprehensive knowledge of their livelihood, underlying causes of pressure, state of vulnerability and potential options to contribute on their livelihood without compromising their traditional customs and practices.

The national Climate Change Policy (2020) and Forest Policy (2019) of Nepal have given due emphasis to address the problems of the vulnerable, marginalized, and indigenous communities. To contribute to the provisions of government policies, GON/UNDP/GEF project "Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) is targeting to safeguard vulnerable communities and their assets. The project under Outcome 2 aims to promote the traditional watershed friendly practices specifically for indigenous Majhi communities. The Majhi communities draws special attention because they have their own typical custom, skills, knowledge, and customary laws which are being practiced for a long time, and recently is under threatened state, which is becoming essential to protect and promote them. The study undertaken from this assignment is expected to contribute on designing livelihood strategies and plans of actions including occupations, production activities that an individual, a household, community can develop their coping strategies against prevailing stress and shocks. Besides, the study will also contribute to support the livelihood of Majhi community with the promotion of their own customary practices in a adaptive and sustainable way.

### 4. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

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The main objective of this assignment is to suggest opportunities for the local Majhi community residing in the project area to benefit from project interventions in terms of livelihood diversification and security of livelihood benefits from future risks in such a way that it contributes to watershed management in the long run.

The specific objectives include:

- a) Examine existing livelihood pattern, traditional skills and knowledge and socio-cultural practices of the Majhi community living in project area in the context of natural resource and watershed management, and
- b) Develop a plan for promotion of traditional watershed friendly practices of Majhi community; options for diversification of livelihood and strengthening and coping capacities that are based on customary knowledge, skills and practices (refer to Pro doc. Outcome 2, output 2.3, and Project Result Framework) built.



## 5. SCOPE OF WORK

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The scope of work includes;

- a. Review and stock take policies, legal provisions, guidelines, programs and budgets of the government (Federal, Province 1, Local Palikas) related to Majhi community's overall development including protection of their traditional skills, knowledge and practices;
- b. Validate and re-confirm the baseline and analyse the context of livelihood opportunities, socio economic conditions, vulnerability context and underlying causes (because of climate change and other major stress/shocks) and coping capacities;
- c. Mapping of Majhi community settlements across the watersheds with respect to locations, number, population size and distribution; and identify at least 5 priority settlements (see the target in Prodoc.) to be selected for programmatic support;
- d. Mapping of socio-economic conditions and cultural and customary practices of the Majhi community with respect to landholding, food sufficiency, no of days of employment, and skills and knowledge about art and craftmaking, fish farming, conservation of wetlands/ponds and other livelihood activities;
- e. Analyse the context of livelihood vulnerability of the Majhi community distributed across the watershed because of climate change and other shocks;
- f. Identify viable livelihood options linked to their traditional skills, knowledge and practices (Analysis based on where, how many household can be involved, how much does it cost, can it be sustained and feasible) applicable within the watershed area;
- g. Advise on future sustainability of the project activities undertaken by the Majhi community beyond the project period;
- h. Make a detail plan for implementation of watershed friendly livelihood activities as identified above based on traditional knowledge and skills of the Majhi community at least for 5 different settlements (See the target on project indicative activities output 2.3);

## 6. METHODOLOGY

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- I. **Stock taking and analytical Review:** Review the existing government policy, plan, strategies, guidelines, budget, programs targeted for Majhi Communities available among 3 tiers of government. Also analyse the execution of government policy statements based on the realization/experienced by Majhi communities (Policy implementation at field level).
- II. **Spatial mapping:** Locate the distribution of Majhi community settlements across the watershed area, with full description on their socio-economic, cultural, natural resources dependency, available opportunities, and associated other socio-economic, cultural, demographic features.

- III. **Livelihood Vulnerability Analysis:** Based on the extent of impacts on their traditional customs and practices, livelihood scenarios, external pressure, climate change impacts, coping strategies, and others associated parameters analyse the extent of vulnerability of their livelihood, and traditional systems.
- IV. **Propose the plan of actions:** Based on the findings, develop the plan of actions taking considerations on their traditional knowledge, skills, practices, community willingness, and feasibility. Specifically, propose the detail plan of actions for at least 5 majhi settlements on how the Pond – Fish- Marketing system can be developed within the watershed area, and also suggest the program sustainability plan.
- V. **Consultations:** Carry out the consultation (preferably direct and virtual if pandemic situation continues) with the federal level government institutions, Province 1 MOITFE/others officials, UNDP country officials, local level mayors, ward chairs/other authorities, at least 5 Majhi communities/settlements, their associations. The consultation should be carry out separately for each specific Majhi communities as their situation may vary spatially. The consultations should lead by the consultant and will be supported by the DCRL project.
- VI. **Coherence with Project Document:** In the project document, the intended task related with Majhi community is clearly mentioned. The plan of actions should be coherent to achieve those targets.
- VII. **Livelihood Implementation Plan:** Develop the overall situation of Majhi settlement, with potential livelihood support programs giving due consideration as mentioned on Pro doc.

## 7. ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

The Consultant shall submit a full activity work plan with delivery timelines as a part of inception report in accordance to the proposed timeline below.

SN	Activities	Main Deliverables	Delivery Timeframe
1.	Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inception report with a detailed work plan and timeline</li> <li>Provide mitigation measures for challenges of implementation</li> </ul>	Within 3 days
2.	Stock Taking Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary data/information summary, concrete study methodology, tentative table of content.</li> <li>Stock taking with analytical findings, Majhi community focus existing plan, policies, guidelines, programs, budget, and other dedicated opportunities available among three tiers, spatial distribution, baseline information (primary and secondary findings).</li> </ul>	Within 20 Days

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livelihood Vulnerability analysis: Socio-economic situation, threatened factors underlying causes, potential options ,</li> <li>• Propose plan of actions focusing within scope of work (livelihood implementation plan)</li> <li>• Proposed program's sustainability plan.</li> <li>• Report delivery, sharing with PMU (draft report), and presentation.</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>Final Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback collection from concerned officials,</li> <li>• Incorporation of suggestions to finalize the report at desired standards and quality.</li> </ul>	Within 7 Days

## 8. REQUIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

The education and requirements includes;

### EDUCATION

The consultant should have Ph.D or Master level degree relevant subject including watershed management, forestry, environment, natural resource management, climate change, rural development or relevant field.

### EXPERIENCE

The consultant will have competency and demonstrated experience and expertise in undertaking the assignments. The consultant shall possess following qualifications:

- More than 5 years (for PhD) and 7 years (for Masters) work experience in watershed management, livelihood strategies, climate change or relevant areas;
- Experience in working with Indigenous People's Livelihood needs and their dependence on natural resources management;
- Proven experience in similar assignments (at least 3) and designing livelihood strategies for vulnerable communities;
- Proven experience in undertaking livelihood assessment, vulnerability assessment, designing livelihood strategies and multi-stakeholder consultations;
- Good working relationship with Government agencies including local governments and other stakeholders;
- Demonstrate skills for design and delivery of results related to Gender, social inclusion, and indigenous people's aspirations;

### COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrates integrity by modeling the UN's values and ethical standards;
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability;
- Fulfills all obligations to gender sensitivity and zero tolerance for sexual harassment.



- Demonstrated excellence in clear, concise, convincing writing and communication skills;
- Ability to work with diverse partners and ensure coherence in activities;
- Ability to work under pressure and time constraints;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Nepali languages;
- Fluency in English is required

#### 9. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND REMUNERATION

The contract duration will be of a maximum of 30 days spread over 1.5 months after the signing of contract. The consultant will submit a complete work-plan with description of activities, final deliverables and time frame in close consultation with the project team and will be shared in the inception report. The remuneration of the consultant will be paid as per the schedule of payment given below based on prevailing norms of the project. In case of field missions and consultations/meetings, the cost of travel and allowances for the consultant and event cost will be covered by the DCRL Project as per prevailing UN norms.


#### 10. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT

The payments will be delivery-based on progress submitted by consultant as follows:

Installment	Milestone	Payments
1 <sup>st</sup>	Submission of Inception Report (deliverable 1)	20%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Submission of Stock taking report and presentation (deliverable 2)	60%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Submission of technical report after incorporating all feedbacks (deliverable 3)	20 %

#### 11. WORKING ARRANGEMENT

The consultant will work under the overall direction of National Project Director and daily supervision of the National Project Manager. Additionally, further receive guidance from UNDP's portfolio manager and policy adviser to complete the assignment. The consultant will be given access to relevant information necessary of execution of the tasks under this assignment. The consultant will be responsible for providing his/her own working station (i.e. laptop, internet, phone, printer/scanner etc. and must have access to a reliable internet connection. The consultant should contact himself with the concerned officials for consultation to acquire the relevant information related to this assignment. The consultant should also be available for virtual meetings organized by the project with project partners.



## 12. ESTIMATED COST

It is proposed that the consultant provide his/her technical cost for the assignment in accordance with the TOR. The cost of consultation meetings/workshops/trainings will be covered by the DCRL Project including venue, stationary and necessary training/workshop supplies and field missions including travel cost and allowances as per UN norms. The vehicle support during field mission will be provided by the DCRL project.

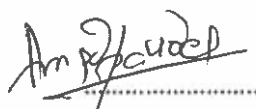
The consultant is required to submit their VAT registration document.

## 13. EVALUATION METHOD

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of 'Combined Scoring method' that will give due consideration where the technical proposal i.e. education in required field, work experience in relevant field, proven capacity on assessment on related work at international and national level will be weighted a maximum of 70% and combined with the financial proposal offer which will be weighted a maximum of 30%. The applicants from the Majhi community will deserves an additional advantage.

**Prepared By:**

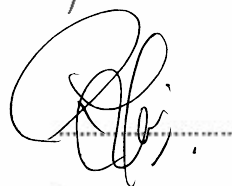
**Dr Prem Prasad Paudel**  
National Project Manager, DCRL



Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Endorsed By:**

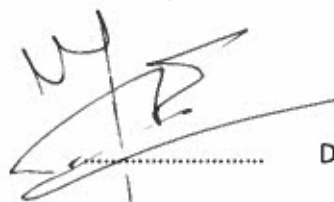
**Pragyajan Yalamber Rai**  
Resilience and Environment Portfolio, UNDP



Date: 14 June 2021

**Approved By:**

**Man Bahadur Khadka**  
Director General, DFSC  
National Project Director, DCRL



Date: 14 June, 2021