

Date: 14 September 2022

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Project: Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) -00127610-

Reference Number: DCRL/006/2022

Dear Proposers,

You are requested to submit a proposal for undertaking:

Prepare Standard Operating Procedure and Establishment of Community Maintenance Groups of Watershed Management Structures

1. To enable you to submit a proposal, attached are:
 - i. Instructions to Proposers (Annex I)
 - ii. Terms of References (TORs) (Annex II)
 - iii. Proposal Submission Form (Annex III)
 - iv. Technical Proposal Format (Annex IV)
 - v. Price Schedule (Annex V)
 - vi. General Condition (Annex VI)
 - vii. Statement of Compliance with terms and conditions(Annex VII)

2. Your offer comprising of technical and financial proposals for task, in two **separate sealed envelopes**, should reach the following address no later than **03:00 PM NST on September 28, 2022**) to the Project Management Unit.

National Project Director

Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)

Forestry Complex, Babarmahal, Kathmandu

Tel: 977-1-5320828, 5320857

Proposals that are received by Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, shall not be considered for evaluation.

Should you require further clarifications, kindly communicate with the contact person identified in the RFP document as the focal point for queries on this RFP.

Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watersheds in Nepal (DCRL) looks forward to receiving your proposal and thanks you in advance for your interest in *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watersheds in Nepal (DCRL)* procurement opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Prem Prasad Paudel', written in a cursive style.

Prem Prasad Paudel
National Project Manager

Annex I

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

A. Introduction

Definitions

- a. "Contract" refers to the agreement that will be signed by and between the Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) and the successful proposer, all the attached documents thereto, including the General Terms and conditions and the appendices.
- b. "Day" refers to a calendar day.
- c. "Government" refers to the Government of Nepal that will be receiving the services provided/rendered specified under the contract.
- d. "Instructions to Proposers" (Annex I of the RFP) refers to the complete set of documents that provides Proposers with all information needed and procedures to be followed in the course of preparing their Proposals.
- e. "Proposal" refers to the Proposer's response to the Request for Proposal, including the Proposal Submission Form, Technical and Financial Proposal, and all other documentation attached thereto as required by the RFP.
- f. "Proposer" refers to any legal entity that may submit, or has submitted, a Proposal for the provision of services requested by Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) through this RFP.
- g. "RFP" refers to the Request for Proposals consisting of instructions and references prepared by Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) for purposes of selecting the best service provider to perform the services described in the Terms of Reference.
- h. "Services" refers to the entire scope of tasks and deliverables requested by Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) under the RFP.
- i. "Supplemental Information to the RFP" refers to a written communication issued by Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) to prospective Proposers containing clarifications, responses to queries received from prospective Proposers, or changes to be made in the RFP, at any time after the release of the RFP but before the deadline for the submission of Proposals.
- j. "Terms of Reference" (ToR) refers to the document included in this RFP as Annex II which describes the objectives, scope of services, activities, tasks to be performed, respective responsibilities of the proposer, expected results and deliverables and

other data pertinent to the performance of the range of duties and service expected of the successful proposer.

1. General

Among all physiographic regions of Nepal, the mountain regions are the most vulnerable, because warming trends are growing, and impacts are magnified by the extreme changes due to variation in altitude. The high mountain catchments of Nepal are particularly prone to drought, landslides and floods, due to coincidence of seasonal snow melt with the summer monsoon season. Climate change is intensifying the monsoon rainfall and increasing snow and glacial melt rates, which is contributing to increased frequency and severity of flood and landslide disasters which result in extensive economic, life and livelihood losses annually. At the other extreme, water scarcity and droughts also pose a threat to the agriculture-reliant livelihoods of these regions. 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, increasing economic damages to agriculture, property, and the environment, disrupting lives and livelihoods and threatening food security.

A long-term solution to this climate change problem is to rehabilitate and maintain the functional integrity of watersheds that have critical functions of water storage and release, infiltration, drainage control and soil moisture retention. Using watersheds as organizing units for planning and implementation of natural resource management and resilient livelihood development is an approach to effectively tackle an immediate and long-term climate risk reduction issues, in relation to floods and droughts. Taking watershed management concerns into consideration GON/UNDP is implementing "Developing climate resilient livelihoods in the vulnerable watershed in Nepal" in Dudhkoshi watershed (area 844 Sq. Km, beneficiaries 121,606 people) covering total 8 local government units (Palikas) of Khotang and Okhaldhunga. The project mainly aims to address climate change induced hazards, introducing and scaling up integrated adaptive watershed management practices. The project has two outcomes:

1. Integrated Watershed Management Framework has been established to address climate change induced floods and draughts, and
2. Integrated Watershed Management Practices introduced and scaled up in Lower Dudhkoshi watershed area.

Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) is soliciting a proposal from interested firms/companies to provide the service for the **Prepare Standard Operating Procedure and Establishment of Community Maintenance Groups of Watershed Management Structures.**

2. Cost of proposal

The Proposer shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the proposal and, Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the solicitation.

B. Solicitation Documents

3. Contents of solicitation documents

Proposal must offer services for each requirement. Proposal offering only part of the requirement will be accepted. The Proposer is expected to examine all corresponding instructions, forms, terms and specifications contained in the Solicitation Documents. Failure to comply with these documents will be at the Proposer's risk and may affect the evaluation of the Proposal.

4. Clarification of solicitation documents

A prospective Proposer requiring any clarification of the Solicitation Documents may notify the procuring Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) entity in writing at the organisation's mailing address indicated in the RFP.

Contact details for inquiries (written inquiries only):

Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)
Procurement Unit,
info.dcl@dofsc.gov.np

Subject line of Email: ' Prepare Standard Operating Procedure and Establishment of Community Maintenance Groups of Watershed Management Structures '

Written inquiries must be submitted on or before 5:00 PM Nepal Standard Time on *September 21, 2022*. Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) shall respond inquiries on its website at www.dcl.dofsc.gov.np by *September 23, 2022*.

Inquiries received after the above date and time shall not be entertained.

Any delay in *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* response shall be not used as a reason for extending the deadline for submission, unless *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* determines that such an extension is necessary and communicates a new deadline to the Proposers.

Note: This email address is officially designated by *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*. The subject line of the email for query should be same as mentioned above.

Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) shall have no obligation to respond, nor can *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* confirm that the query was officially received.

- When inquiries are sent with the different subject line even to the designated email address.
- When inquiries are sent to other person/s or address/es, even if they are *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* staff.
- For queries for which information is already available in the bidding document.

5. Amendments of solicitation documents

At any time prior to the deadline for submission of Proposals, the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity may, for any reason, whether at its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a prospective Proposer, modify the Solicitation Documents by amendment.

In order to afford prospective Proposers reasonable time in which to take the amendments into account in preparing their offers, the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of Proposals.

All amendments to the Solicitation Documents, if any will be uploaded to the website mentioned above.

C. Preparation of Proposals

6. Language of the proposal

The Proposal prepared by the Proposer and all correspondence and documents relating to the Proposal exchanged by the Proposer and the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity shall be written in English language, in case and otherwise prescribed in the ToR. Any printed literature furnished by the Proposer may be written in another language so long as accompanied by an English translation of its pertinent passages in which case, for purposes of interpretation of the Proposal, the English translation shall govern.

7. Documents comprising the proposal

The Proposal shall comprise of the following components:

- a) Proposal submission form
- b) Technical and Financial Proposal (in separate sealed envelope)
- c) Profile of the organization, including organizational structure and policies, list of past experiences in relevant area at least of 5 years (name of the organization, contract value and duration of the contract) and evidence of relevant past experiences of at least two assignments
- d) Valid registration certificate
- e) VAT certificate
- f) Latest Tax Clearance Certificate
- g) Audit report for last 2 Fiscal Years
- h) Signed CVs of the proposed team
- i) Operational and technical part of the Proposal, including documentation to demonstrate that the Proposer meets all requirements
- j) Price schedule, completed in accordance with clauses 8 and 9,

8. Proposal form

The Proposer shall structure the operational and technical part of its Proposal as follows:

(a) Management plan

This section should provide corporate orientation to include the year and state/country of incorporation and a brief description of the Proposer's present activities. It should focus on services related to the Proposal.

This section should also describe the organisational unit(s) that will become responsible for the contract, and the general management approach towards a project of this kind.

The Proposer should comment on its experience in similar projects and identify the person(s) representing the Proposer in any future dealing with the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity.

(b) Resource plan

This should fully explain the Proposer's resources in terms of personnel (Technical Experts) and facilities necessary for the performance of this requirement. It should describe the Proposer's current capabilities/facilities and any plans for their expansion.

(c) Proposed methodology

This section should demonstrate the Proposer's responsiveness to the specification by identifying the specific components proposed, addressing the requirements, as specified, point by point; providing a detailed description of the essential performance characteristics proposed warranty; and demonstrating how the proposed methodology meets or exceeds the specifications.

The operational and technical part of the Proposal should not contain any financial pricing information whatsoever on the services offered. Financial information shall be separated and only contained in the appropriate Price Schedules.

It is mandatory that the Proposer's Proposal numbering system corresponds with the numbering system used in the body of this RFP. All references to descriptive material and brochures should be included in the appropriate response paragraph, though material/documents themselves may be provided as annexes to the Proposal/response.

Information which the Proposer considers proprietary, if any, should be clearly marked "proprietary" next to the relevant part of the text and it will then be treated as such accordingly.

9. Proposal prices

The Proposer shall indicate on an appropriate Price Schedule, an example of which is contained in these Solicitation Documents, the prices of services it proposes to supply under the contract.

10. Proposal currencies

All prices shall be quoted in **NPR** (Nepalese Rupee).

11. Period of validity of proposal

Proposals shall remain valid for **ninety (90) days** after the date of Proposal submission prescribed by the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity, pursuant to the deadline clause. A Proposal valid for a shorter period may be rejected by the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity on the grounds that it is non-responsive.

In exceptional circumstances, the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity may solicit the Proposer's consent to an extension of the period of validity. The request and the responses thereto shall be made in writing. A Proposer granting the request will not be required nor permitted to modify its Proposal.

12. Format and signing of proposal

Proposal shall be typed or written in indelible ink and shall be signed by the Proposer or a person or persons duly authorised to bind the Proposer to the contract.

A Proposal shall contain no interlineations, erasures, or overwriting except, as necessary to correct errors made by the Proposer, in which case such corrections shall be initialled by the person or persons signing the Proposal.

13. Payment

Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL) shall make payments to the Contractor after acceptance by *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* of the invoices submitted by the contractor, upon achievement of the corresponding milestones.

D. Submission of Proposal

14. Sealing and marking of proposal

(a) The outer envelope shall be:

Addressed to:

National Project Director

Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL),

Forestry Complex, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal

Marked with Task: – Prepare Standard Operating Procedure and Establishment of Community Maintenance Groups of Watershed Management Structures

(b) The proposal shall contain the information specified in Clause 8 (*Proposal form*) above. The inner envelope shall include the price schedule duly identified as such.

15. Joint Venture, Consortium or Association

If the Proposer is a group of legal entities that will form or have formed a joint venture, consortium or association at the time of the submission of the Proposal, they shall confirm in their Proposal that:

- (i) they have designated one party to act as a lead entity, duly vested with authority to legally bind the members of the joint venture jointly and severally, and this shall be duly evidenced by a duly notarized Agreement among the legal entities, which shall be submitted along with the Proposal; and
- (ii) if they are awarded the contract, the contract shall be entered into, by and between *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* and the designated lead entity, who shall be acting for and on behalf of all the member entities comprising the joint venture.

After the Proposal has been submitted to *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*, the lead entity identified to represent the joint venture shall not be altered without the prior written consent of *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*.

Furthermore, neither the lead entity nor the member entities of the joint venture can:

- a) Submit another proposal, either in its own capacity; nor
- b) As a lead entity or a member entity for another joint venture submitting another Proposal.

The description of the organization of the joint venture/consortium/association must clearly define the expected role of each of the entity in the joint venture in delivering the requirements of the RFP, both in the Proposal and the Joint Venture Agreement. All entities that comprise the joint venture shall be subject to the eligibility and qualification assessment by *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*.

Where a joint venture is presenting its track record and experience in a similar undertaking as those required in the RFP, it should present such information in the following manner:

- a) Those that were undertaken together by the joint venture; and
- b) Those that were undertaken by the individual entities of the joint venture expected to be involved in the performance of the services defined in the RFP.

In the joint venture, consortium or association, the organization strengths and or eligibility criteria shall be counted from the lead organization only. Failure to present eligibility criteria by the lead organization will subject to disqualification of the proposal.

Previous contracts completed by individual experts working privately but who are permanently or were temporarily associated with any of the member firms cannot be claimed as the experience of the joint venture or those of its members, but should only be claimed by the individual experts themselves in their presentation of their individual credentials.

If a joint venture's Proposal is determined by *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* as the most responsive Proposal that offers the best value for money, *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* shall award the contract to the joint venture, in the name of its designated lead entity. The lead entity shall sign the contract for and on behalf of all other member entities.

16. Deadline for submission of proposal

Proposals must be received by the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity at the address specified under clause *Sealing and marking of Proposals* no later than *September 28, 2022, 3:00 PM Nepal Standard Time (NST)*. If the deadline for proposal submission fall under public holiday, then the next working day will be added up.

The procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity may, at its own discretion extend this deadline for the submission of Proposals by amending the solicitation documents in accordance with clause *Amendments of Solicitation Documents*, in which case all rights and obligations of the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity and Proposers previously subject to the deadline will thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.

17. Late Proposal

Any Proposal received by the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity after the deadline for submission of proposals, pursuant to clause *Deadline for the submission of proposals*, will be rejected.

18. Modification and withdrawal of Proposal

The Proposer may withdraw its Proposal after the Proposal's submission, provided that written notice of the withdrawal is received by the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity prior to the deadline prescribed for submission of Proposal.

No Proposal may be modified subsequent to the deadline for submission of proposals.

No Proposal may be withdrawn in the Interval between the deadline for submission of proposal and the expiration of the period of proposal validity specified by the Proposer on the Proposal Submission Form.

E. Opening and Evaluation of Proposal

19. Opening of proposal

The procuring entity will open the Proposal in the presence of a committee formed by the Head of the procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity.

20. Clarification of proposal

To assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of Proposal, the Purchaser may at its discretion, ask the Proposer for clarification of its Proposal. The request for clarification and the response shall be in writing and no change in price or substance of the Proposal shall be sought, offered or permitted.

21. Preliminary examination

The Purchaser will examine the Proposal to determine whether they are complete, whether any computational errors have been made, whether the documents have been properly signed, and whether the Proposals are generally in order.

Arithmetical errors will be rectified on the following basis: If there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the total price that is obtained by multiplying the unit price

and quantity, the unit price shall prevail and the total price shall be corrected. If the Proposer does not accept the correction of errors, its Proposal will be rejected. If there is a discrepancy between words and figures the amount in words will prevail.

Prior to the detailed evaluation, the Purchaser will determine the substantial responsiveness of each Proposal to the Request for Proposals (RFP). For purposes of these Clauses, a substantially responsive Proposal is one which conforms to all the terms and conditions of the RFP without material deviations. The Purchaser's determination of a Proposal's responsiveness is based on the contents of the Proposal itself without recourse to extrinsic evidence.

A Proposal determined as not substantially responsive will be rejected by the Purchaser and may not subsequently be made responsive by the Proposer by correction of the non-conformity.

22. Evaluation and comparison of proposal

A two-stage procedure is utilised in evaluating the proposals, with evaluation of the technical proposal being completed prior to any financial proposal being opened and compared. The financial proposal of the Proposal will be opened only for submissions that passed the minimum technical score of 70% (490 points) of the obtainable score of 700 points in the evaluation of the technical proposals.

The technical proposal is evaluated on the basis of its responsiveness to the Term of Reference (TOR) and RFP.

In the Second Stage, the price proposal of all Proposers that have attained minimum 70% score in the technical evaluation will be compared. The total obtainable score of Financial Proposal is 300 points. The points for the Financial Proposal will be allocated as per the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Lowest Bid Offered}^*}{\text{Bid of the Firm/Proposer}} \times 300$$

* "Lowest Bid Offered" refers to the lowest price offered by Proposers scoring at least 70% points in technical evaluation.

The contract will awarded on the basis of "Combined Scoring method" of technical and financial scores.

Technical Evaluation Criteria

Summary of Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms		Score Weight	Points Obtainable
1.	Expertise of Firm/Organization	28.50%	200
2.	Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation	35.75%	250
3.	Qualifications, experiences, and competencies of proposed human resources	35.75%	250
Total			700

Evaluation forms for technical proposals follow on the next two pages. The obtainable number of points specified for each evaluation criterion indicates the relative significance or weight of the item in the overall evaluation process. The Technical Proposal Evaluation Forms are:

Form 1: Expertise of Firm / Organisation Submitting Proposal

The minimum experience of the firm/expert should be as described in the detail ToR.

Form 2: Proposed methodology, approach and implementation

Please provide a detailed description of the methodology for how the organisation/firm/expert will achieve the Terms of Reference of the project, keeping in mind the appropriateness to local conditions and project environment.

The methodology shall also include details of the Proposer's data gap analysis, data collection tools, techniques, thematic areas, assumptions, limitations, internal technical and quality assurance review mechanisms etc.

The Proposer shall submit Project Schedule indicating the detailed sequence of activities that will be undertaken and their corresponding timings.

Form 3: Management structure and key personnel

Describe the overall management approach and structure toward planning and implementing this activity.

Provide a spreadsheet to show the activities of each staff member and the time allocated for his/her involvement.

Provide the signed CVs for key personnel (Team Leader and professional staff) that will be provided to support the implementation of this work. CVs should demonstrate qualifications in areas relevant to the Scope of Services.

Key position of technical personnel for package and the expected qualifications are described in the detail ToR.

Form 4: Scoring System of Technical Proposal:

4.1 Expertise of Firm/Organization: (Maximum of 200 points)

S.No	Description	Maximum Obtainable Marks
1	Reputation of organization (Competence)	40
2	General Organisational Capability which is likely to affect implementation (i.e. loose consortium, holding company or one firm, size of the firm / organisation, strength of project management support e.g. project financing capacity and project management controls)	60
3	Relevance	40
4	Specialised Knowledge of the Organization	50
5	Work for UNDP/major multilateral/or bilateral programmes	10
	Total	200

4.2 Proposed Methodology, Approach and Implementation: (Maximum of 250 points)

S.No	Description	Maximum Obtainable Marks
1	Understanding of job/assignment	40
2	Elaboration/explanation of the key contents of the assignment	30
3	Balanced and adequate description of ToR/Scope of work	40
4	Evidence on Organizational Experience on similar assignments and reflection on proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-5 years of experience (maximum of 20 points) • 5-8 years of experience (maximum of 30 Points) • Above 8 years of experience (maximum of 40 points) 	40
5	Appropriate methodologies adopted for the task/assignment (Sufficiency and appropriate)	60
6	Proposal structured with sequential activities, logical, coherent and realistic planning, facts and evidence are well cooperated	40
	Total	250

4.3 Key personnel: (Maximum of 250 points)

S.No	Description	Maximum Obtainable Marks
1	Education Qualification as per ToR (Masters-40, PhD-60)	60
2	Track record of leading multi-disciplinary team, experience on physical environmental degradation, multi hazards vulnerability and risk, environmental vulnerability assessment and related assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 3 track records (maximum of 30 points) • Up to 5 track records (maximum of 50 points) • 6 and above (maximum of 70 points) 	70
3	Professional Experience in physical environmental degradation, multi hazards vulnerability/environmental vulnerability watershed management, forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-7 years of experience (maximum of 30 points) • 7-10 years of experience (maximum of 50 points) • 11 and above years of experience (maximum of 70 points) 	70
4	Professional Quality on similar assessment, Language reflected on the proposal	40
5	proposing women technical expert in key personnel	10
	Total	250

23. Award criteria, award of contract

The procuring *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* entity reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposal, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all Proposals at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Proposer or any obligation to inform the affected Proposer or Proposers of the grounds for the Purchaser's action.

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of the 'Combined Scoring method' that will give due consideration where the technical proposal i.e. work experience in a relevant field will be weighted a maximum of 70% and combined with the financial proposal offer which will be weighted a maximum of 30%.

24. Signing of the contract

Within 7 days of receipt of the contract the successful Proposer shall sign and date the contract and return it to the Purchaser.

Terms of Reference

Prepare Standard Operating Procedure and establishment of Community Maintenance Groups of watershed management structures

Type: Consulting Firm

Location: Kathmandu with Travel to Field

Additional Category: Resilience and Climate Change

Starting Date: 1st October 2022

Duration: 20 days over 1.5 month

1. BACKGROUND

Among all physiographic regions of Nepal, the mountain regions are the most vulnerable, because warming trends are growing and impacts are magnified by the extreme changes due to variation in altitude. The High Mountain catchments of Nepal are particularly prone to drought, landslides and floods, due to coincidence of seasonal snow melt with the summer monsoon season. Climate change is intensifying the monsoon rainfall and increasing snow and glacial melt rates, which is contributing to increased frequency and severity of flood and landslide disasters which result in extensive economic, life and livelihood losses annually. At the other extreme, water scarcity and droughts also pose a threat to the agriculture-reliant livelihoods of these regions. 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, increasing economic damages to agriculture, property, and the environment, disrupting lives and livelihoods and threatening food security.

A long-term solution to this climate change problem is to rehabilitate and maintain functional integrity of watersheds that have critical functions of water storage and release, infiltration, drainage control, and soil moisture retention. Using watersheds as organizing units for planning and implementation of natural resource management and resilient livelihood development is an approach to effectively tackle an immediate and long-term climate risk reduction issues, in relation to floods and droughts. Taking watershed management concerns into consideration GON/UNDP is implementing “Developing climate resilient livelihoods in the vulnerable watershed in Nepal” in Dudhkoshi watershed (area 844 sq.km, beneficiaries 121,606 people) covering total 8 local government units (Palikas) of Khotang and Okhaldhunga. The project mainly aims to address climate change induced hazards, introducing and scaling up integrated adaptive watershed management practices. The project has two outcomes;

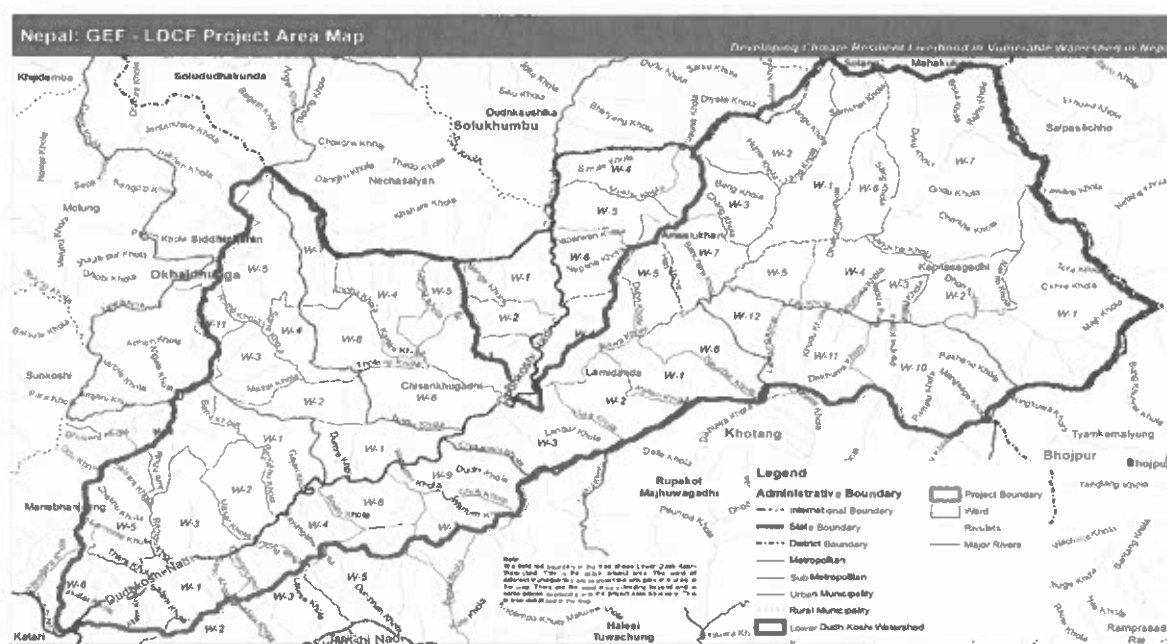
1. Integrated Watershed Management Framework has been established to address climate

change induced floods and draughts, and

2. Integrated Watershed Management Practices introduced and scaled up in Lower Dudhkoshi watershed area.

2. PROJECT AREA

The project area is Lower Dudhkoshi watershed located in between Khotang and Okhaldhunga districts which comprises total 8 municipalities in both districts. The detail of the project area is



shown below.

Figure : The project area (Lower Dudhkoshi watershed)

S.N.	District	Municipality	Wards	# of wards
1	Khotang	Ainselukharka Rural Municipality	1 to 7	7
2	Khotang	Halesi Tuwaching Municipality	1 to 7 & 9	8
3	Khotang	Kepilasangadhi Rural Municipality	1 to 7	7
4	Khotang	Rawabesi Rural Municipality	1 to 6	6
5	Khotang	Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadhi Municipality	10 to 12	3
6	Okhaldhunga	Chishankhugadhi Rural Municipality	1 to 8	8
7	Okhaldhunga	Manebhanjyang Rural Municipality	1 to 6	6
8	Okhaldhunga	Siddhicharan Municipality	1 to 5 & 11	6

Table 1: The Project area (District, Municipality and wards)

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3. RATIONALE OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

The project baseline clearly indicates about increasing drought impacts in the project area with the gradual drying up of springs, reduced infiltration and percolation due to steep and less vegetative geographic condition. In order to maintain functional integrity of Lower Dudhkoshi watershed for sustainable ecological benefits, protection of existing water sources, and increased water holding and water harvesting are pivotal. Under project outcome #2, Output 2.2 & 2.3, Activity 2.2.1 & 2.3.2, water source protection, and construction of contour trench, catchment/conservation ponds, water holes, multi-purpose ponds and water use/reuse technology (mainly rain water harvesting and solar powered water lifting) are explicitly mentioned to provide the infrastructure needed to maintain healthy watersheds and increase availability and accessibility of water to communities. DCRL targets for 700 nos of water sources protection, construction of 80 catchments ponds, 50 kms of contour trenches and 30 nos. of water holes during the project period. The main objective these interventions is to maintain functional integrity of watershed so as to bring water-food-environment nexus into equilibrium and in so doing, to improve environmental quality and food security for the benefit of all its user. Hence, the functioning of all interventions as per their intended purpose is very important for operation, maintenance and sustainability prospective. Sustainability of the water management infrastructures is envisioned through the establishment of community-based water management system which will include the engagement of communities in the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of the systems. For the purpose, formation and development of community maintenance groups, and their standard operating procedures (SOP) are pivotal. In the above-mentioned circumstances, DCRL has decided to hire a consulting firm for establishment of community-based Maintenance Groups, their SOP and necessary mechanism being implemented by project that best fits the objectives of the project. The DCRL team will then facilitate/support endorsement of the SOP by concerned institution and facilitate establishment and capacitate community maintenance groups as prescribed the assessment.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The overall objective of the assignment is developing mechanism for establishment of community-based maintenance groups, their SOP and necessary mechanism being implemented by the project. The specific objectives includes:

- Suggest context specific guidance on establishment of community maintenance groups
- Develop Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on community-based maintenance groups that best fits with the project context including necessary coordination mechanism and operation and maintenance plan
- Based on the SOP, develop a functional mechanism including roles and responsibilities of the committee members and local government.

5. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work for the assignment is as follows:

- Undertake desk review of the project document and progress reports of project interventions from DCRL including relevant materials from other organizations working in the field of watershed management.
- Collect information related to the process, methodology, integrated approaches adopted by the project while undertaking structural and non-structural measures to maintain functional integrity of watershed.
- Undertake field visits of representative sites to collect and document project interventions at targeted geographical area for total water management (maintain water sources,

catchment/conservation pond, water holes, contour trenches, multipurpose ponds, water use/reuse technologies, conservation farming etc.) and institutional mechanism formed at the local level.

- Consult project beneficiaries including women, and disadvantaged groups, local governments and other stakeholders on the present practices and key considerations for regular operation and maintenance of the project interventions.
- Based on the consultation, field visit and desk study, identify viable and functional mechanism of community maintenance group establishment, develop a SOP of the maintenance groups and suggest necessary mechanism.

6. METHODOLOGY

The proposed methods for the assignment are mentioned below. However, consultant/consulting firm can propose any relevant methodology that fits to the scope of work.

1. **Desk Study:** Review project documents and progress reports of project.
2. **Field visit and consultation:** Conduct field visit of various project sites covering all intervention types. Consult with DCRL project team, technical working group members, DoFSC officials, watershed experts, implementing partners (SWMO, BMC-Koshi, DFO Okhaldhunga and Khotang), local beneficiary communities and local governments to explore operation and maintenance related mechanisms.
3. **Preparation of Detail Report:** Prepare draft guideline and procedures for necessary mechanism of O&M at the community and local government level

7. ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

The consultancy firm/consultant will 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	• Submission of Inception Report including detailed methodology and work plan	Within 7 days
2.	Field Report with Key findings	• Submission of Field visit report with key findings on the objectives of the assignment	Within 30 days
3.	Draft Report	• Presentation on and submission of draft report on SoP for establishing community maintenance group.	Within 40 days
4.	Final Report	• Preparation and submission of final report incorporating feedback on the draft report, acceptance of final report	Within 45 days

8. REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The proposing consultancy firm must have the following qualification and experiences:

- At least operation for 5 years in undertaking assessments, studies, inventory, assignments related to climate change, disaster risk management, watershed management integrated policy research, and other relevant assignments.

- Demonstrate the analytic capacity and ability to process, analyses and synthesize complex, technical information to produce high quality reports.
- Proven expertise and experience in research initiative issue related to climate change, and sustainable development issue with sector focus on the government system.
- Experience working with and in partnership with government line agencies, INGOs in the field of climate change, watershed, forestry and natural resources.
- Demonstrate published knowledge products or publications relevant to scope of the assignment.

9. REQUIRED QUALIFICATION OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS

EXPERTS	QUALIFICATIONS & Work Experience	ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES
Technical Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters in Civil Engineering, Water Resources Management, Natural Resource Management and related discipline (P.h.D. in the above discipline will be preferred) • S/he must have minimum of 10 years proven experience in the related area. • Familiarity with landscape, socio-cultural and development context in the project area. • Prior experience of leading similar assignments in GON,UNDP projects and I/NGOs • Proven experience in similar assignments and undertaking KII, focused group interaction, and multi-stakeholder consultations at different level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and execute the assignment from beginning to the end of the assignment • Coordinate and liaison with project team, relevant stakeholders etc. • Field visits and conduct detail field assessments for proposed assignment. • Ensure the quality of the assignment, track the progress. and accomplish on time • Reporting as per deliverables

10. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND REMUNERATION

The contract duration will be maximum of 20 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 as per deliverable metioned above. The remuneration of the consultant will be paid as per the schedule of payment based on prevailing norms of the project.

11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT

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

Installment	Milestone	Payments
1 st	Submission of inception report	20%
2 nd	Completion of field work and submission and presentation of detailed draft report	60 %
3 rd	Submission and acceptance of final report on SOP and guidance on establishment of community maintenance groups	20%

12. WORKING ARRANGEMENT

The consultancy firm will work under the overall direction of National Project Director and National Project Manager, and day to day supervision of the Field Coordinator. The technical expert of the firm will work closely with and under the guidance of the Sen. Technical Advisor. The consultant is required to work closely with the Social and Environmental Safeguard Expert during the assignment. The expert 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 technical expert should also be available for virtual meetings organized by the project with project partners if needed.

13. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

A consultancy firm/NGO needs to submit following documents while applying for the assignment:

- i. Technical and Financial Proposal (in separate sealed envelop)
- ii. Firm/NGO Registration Certificate
- iii. VAT Certificate
- iv. Firm/NGO Audit report for last two years
- v. Brief profile of the firm/NGO including evidence of past experiences
- vi. Resume of the proposed expert for the assignment

14. EVALUATION METHOD

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of 'Combined Scoring method' that will give due consideration where the technical proposal i.e. work experience in relevant field, proven capacity on assessment on related work at national level will be weighted a maximum of 70% and combined with the financial proposal offer which will be weighted a maximum of 30%.

Annex III

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Dear Sir / Madam,

Having examined the Solicitation Documents, the receipt of which is hereby duly acknowledged, we, the undersigned, offer to provide Professional Consulting services (profession/activity for Project/programme/office) for the sum as may be ascertained in accordance with the Price Schedule attached herewith and made part of this Proposal.

We undertake, if our Proposal is accepted, to commence and complete delivery of all services specified in the contract within the time frame stipulated.

We agree to abide by this Proposal for a period of 90 days from the date fixed for opening of Proposals in the Invitation for Proposal, and it shall remain binding upon us and may be accepted at any time before the expiration of that period.

We understand that you are not bound to accept any Proposal you may receive.

Dated this day /month of year

Signature

(In the capacity of)

Duly authorised to sign Proposal for and on behalf of

Annex IV

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FORMAT

i) RFP Information

RFP Title:

(insert assignment name),

Basic Organization Information

Name of the organization:

Contact person's name:

Contact details :

Telephone:

E-mail:

Address:

ii) Organizational Profile:

Provide brief information on the structure of your organization and the field(s) and location(s) in which your organization operates. (Maximum of one pages)

iii) Organization's Experience

Provide a detailed information on organizational expertise and previous work your organization has undertaken in the field of similar baseline survey. (Maximum of two pages)

iv) Technical Proposal

Provide a detailed description of how your organization proposes to implement the above ToR. (Maximum of five pages) Please include the following:

- A) A detailed implementation schedule (work plan), manpower schedule, and narrative on how you would approach/ intend to meet the deliverables mentioned in the TOR.*
- B) A detailed outline of the approach taken to supervise and monitor the project to ensure all components can be delivered on time and to a high quality.*

C) Identification of any risks and/or obstacles your organization may encounter while undertaking this project, how they may impact your ability to meet the deliverables, and how you might address these to ensure successful delivery.

v) Human Resources

Provide details of the human resources of your organization that will be employed to undertake this task. Submission of CVs of all members of proposed team is highly recommended. (including signed CVs of expert)

Annex V

PRICE SCHEDULE

The Proposer is asked to prepare the Price Schedule as a separate envelope from the rest of the RFP response as indicated in Section D paragraph 14(b) of the Instruction to Proposers. The Price Schedule must provide a detailed cost breakdown. Provide separate figures for each functional grouping or category.

The specification has been developed for different packages. The name and number of package shall be clearly mentioned in the proposal cover page, cover letter and inside proposal.

(Prepare Standard Operating Procedure and establishment of Community Maintenance Groups of watershed management structures),

The format shown on the following pages should be used in preparing the price schedule. The format includes specific expenditures, which may or may not be required or applicable but are indicated to serve as examples.

A. Cost Breakdown per Deliverables

Refer to the scope of works and deliverables in detail ToRs.

Price Schedule for: _____					
Request for Proposals for Services					
	Description of Activity/Item (Based on Scope of Works or deliverables described in different ToR)	Number of persons needed to deliver (A)	Number of days needed to deliver (B)	Unit Price/ Daily rate (C)	Total Amount (AXBXC)
1	Professional Service charges				
	a) Team Leader	1	20		
	Sub-total (A)				
2	Field Visit				
	Daily Subsistence Allowance for expert	1	7		
	Sub-total (B)				

3	Consultation/Interaction (2 events; 25 people) (C)	2 events			
	Taxable Amount (A + B + C)				
	VAT 13%				
	GRAND TOTAL				

Note: DCRL will provide vehicle for the field work.

(Amount in Word:

.....)

N.B. Administrative and all other associated costs need to be built into the respective line items proportionately.

Acceptance of the proposed schedule of work and the timelines is a must and no deviation in the timeline is allowed.

Annex VI

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN EXECUTION OF THE TASK

1. Force Majeure

Without prejudice to their rights the *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* and the party shall not be held responsible nor suffer any financial loss should the performance of the party be delayed or prevented by an event of Force Majeure, which shall include, but not limited to strikes, riots, civil commotion, fire accident or any other incident beyond the control of either party hereto which neither party was aware of or could have foreseen at the time of the signing of this contract. In event of an occurrence of the Force Majeure, either party shall notify the other of the event and during such event the rights and obligations of either party shall automatically be suspended.

2. Arbitration

Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this task not settled by mutual understanding shall be submitted to arbitration to three arbitrators. Each party shall appoint one arbitrator and the two arbitrators thus appointed shall agree on the third one. The arbitrators shall rule on the costs which may be divided between the parties. The decision rendered in the arbitration shall constitute final adjudication of the dispute.

3. Termination

Either party may terminate this contract at any time by giving the other party fourteen (14) days notice in writing of the intention to do so. In the event of such termination, the party shall be compensated for the actual amount of work performed, upon valid justification for termination, by *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* on a pro rata basis.

4. Law Applicable

This contract shall be governed by the law of Government of Nepal and project guidelines.

5. Independent Relationship

Nothing contained in the contract shall be construed as establishing or creating between *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* and the party relationship of master and servant or principal and agent, it being understood that the party is an independent person vis-a-vis *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*.

6. Party's General Responsibilities

- a. The party shall carry out work under the contract with due diligence and efficiency and in conformity with the highest standards of professional and ethical competence and integrity.
- b. The party shall be responsible for the professional and technical work carried out by him/her in the implementation of this task.

7. Workmen's compensation and other insurance

The party shall make his/her own arrangements regarding insurance for medical expenses and for accident, death and permanent disability for the period of the task. All costs involved will be borne by the party.

8. Source of Instruction

The party shall neither seek nor accept instructions from any authority other than *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* and UNDP's authorized agent in connection with the work under the contract.

9. Prohibition on conflicting activities

The party shall ensure that he/she will not directly/indirectly engage in any activity that would conflict with those of *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* in respect of this project.

10. Officials not to benefit

The party warrants that no UNDP or *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* official has been or will be admitted by him/her to any direct/indirect benefit arising from this task or award thereof.

11. Assignment

The party shall not assign, transfer, pledge or make other disposition of the task or any other parts thereof or rights, claims or obligations under this task, without prior written approval of *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*.

12. Records, Accounts, Information and Audit

- a. The party shall maintain accurate and systematic records and accounts in respect of the work to be performed under this task.
- b. The party shall furnish, compile or make available at all times to *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* and UNDP any records or information, oral or written, which *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* may reasonably request for in respect of the work to be performed under this task.

- c. The party shall allow *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* and UNDP or its authorized agents to inspect and audit such records or information upon reasonable notice.

13. Language

Unless otherwise specified in the task, English language shall be used by the party in all written communications to *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* with respect to the services rendered and with respect to all documents procured or prepared pertaining to such services.

14. Confidential Nature of Documents

All maps, drawings, photographs, mosaics, plans, reports, recommendations, estimates, documents and all other data compiled by or received by the party under this task be the property of *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*, shall be treated by him/her as confidential and shall be delivered only to the duly authorized officials on completion of work under this grant. Under no circumstances shall the contents of such documents or data be made known to any unauthorized person without written approval of *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* and UNDP. Subject to the provision of this article, the party may retain a copy of the document (s) produced by him/her for his and universities record.

15. Amendments

The terms and conditions of this task may amended only in writing signed by both parties to this task or their duly authorized representatives.

16. Obligation to inform *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* of changes in conditions

The party shall promptly and fully notify *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* in writing of any conditions which interferes, or threatens to interfere, with successful carrying out of the services under this task. Such notice shall not however relieve the party of his/her obligations to continue to provide services under this task. On receipt of such notice, *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* shall take such action as in its sole discretion it considers to be appropriate or necessary under the circumstances.

17. Taxation

The party shall be liable for any tax levied on the fee paid as per this task. Income tax on the remuneration and allowances paid to the party will be deducted at source.

18. Right of *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*

In case of failure by the party to fulfil its obligations under the terms and conditions of execution of task, including but not limited to failure to obtain necessary or to make delivery of all or part of the services by the agreed delivery date or dates, *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* may, after giving the party reasonable notice to perform and without prejudice to any other rights or remedies, exercise one or more of the following rights:

- a. Procure all or part of the services from other sources, in which event *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* may hold the party responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby.
- b. Refuse to accept delivery of all or part of the services.
- c. Cancel the contract without any liability for termination charges or any other liability of any kind of *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*.

19. Late Delivery

Without limiting any other rights or obligations of the party hereunder, if the party will be unable to deliver the services by the delivery date(s) stipulated in the ToR, the party shall (i) immediately consult with *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)* to determine the most expeditious means for delivering the services and (ii) use an expedited means of delivery, at the party's cost (unless the delay is due to Force Majeure), if reasonably so requested by *Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal (DCRL)*.

20. Settlement of Disputes

Amicable Settlement

The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, the task or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof.

Annex VII

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS

MUST BE DULY COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH PROPOSAL

Please confirm acceptance of the following:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACCEPTED (Y/N)
CONDITIONS:	Instruction to Proposers – Annex I	
	Terms of Reference (ToR) – Annex II	
	Proposal Submission Form – Annex III	
	Technical Proposal Format – Annex IV	
	Price Schedule – Annex V	
	General Terms and Conditions in Execution of the Task – Annex VI	
	Statement of Compliance with Terms and Condition – Annex VII	
TIMELINE:	Refer to detail ToR	
PAYMENT TERMS:	Refer to detail ToR	
VALIDITY OF PROPOSAL:	Minimum 90 days	
CURRENCY OF PRICES	Must be in Nepalese Rupees.	

Submitted by:

Name:

Organization:

Designation:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Web Portal:

Date:

Organization Seal: