GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

BALOCHISTAN WATER SECURITY AND PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (BWSPIP)

Terms of Reference and Scope of Services

Qualifications and Terms of Reference

Consulting Services – Environmental Specialist (Individual Consultant) for Component A: Flood Management of Kachhi Plains

1. Background

Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan by area, faces persistent challenges related to water scarcity, climate variability, recurrent flooding, land degradation, and limited institutional capacity for effective water resources management. Seasonal floods, particularly in the Kachhi Plains, frequently cause extensive damage to agricultural land, infrastructure, and livelihoods, while inadequate floodwater retention and utilization mechanisms result in the loss of valuable water resources that could otherwise support agriculture and rural development.

To address these challenges, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, through the Government of Balochistan (GoB), with financing from the World Bank (IDA), is implementing the **Balochistan Water Security and Productivity Improvement Project (BWSPIP)**. The project aims to enhance water security, strengthen flood resilience, improve agricultural productivity, and reinforce institutional systems for sustainable and climate-resilient water resources management across selected river basins and flood-prone areas of the province.

The **Flood Management of Kachhi Plains Project (FMKP)** is a major sub-project under BWSPIP, focusing on both structural and non-structural flood management interventions, including flood protection and conveyance infrastructure, floodwater harvesting and retention, watershed and catchment restoration, and community-based flood risk management measures. The Balochistan Irrigation Department (BID) Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is responsible for overall implementation and coordination of FMKP activities. In line with the World Bank's results-based management approach and the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF 2018), the project requires a comprehensive E&S system. The Environmental Specialist (ES) of BWSPI project will play a critical role in ensuring compliances with national environmental regulations and international standards (e.g. World Bank Environmental and Social Standards).

The Environmental Specialist will directly report to the Project Director but will keep close liaison with the PMU, PIU. The responsibilities will include, but not be limited to:

2. Specific Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Conduct initial screening of the project to determine its environmental and social risk category.
- Identify potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with flood management activities (e.g. dispersal structures, embankment construction, channelization etc.).
- Prepare and oversee the implementation of an ESMP that outlines mitigation measures, monitoring protocols, roles, responsibilities, and timelines.
- Ensure the ESMP addresses key issues such as biodiversity conservation, water quality, soil erosion, waste management, noise, air emissions, and community health and safety.
- Stakeholder consultations (including local communities, local authorities etc.) during project design and implementation.
- Prepare an environmental checklist for work packages/sites where full-fledged ESMP is not required.
- Ensure timely disclosure of environmental documents in accessible formats.
- Address grievances related to environmental and social impacts through established mechanisms.
- Ensure the project adheres to relevant provincial and national environmental laws, regulations.
- Align project activities with World Bank ESS policies.
- Support PIU in integrating ESCP requirements (LMP, ESHS specifications, Codes of Conduct, dam safety measures) into bidding and contract documents.
- Monitor progress against ESCP implementation indicators and ensure ESCP reporting requirements are met.
- Evaluate relevant community health & safety risks (water ponds, vector breeding) per LMP requirements.
- Assess potential impacts on sensitive ecosystems (e.g., agriculture lands, riparian zones, local habitats).
- Recommend avoidance, minimization, or compensation measures for biodiversity loss, including adherence to the “mitigation hierarchy” (avoid, minimize, restore offset).
- Prepare and manage an environmental monitoring program to track compliance with mitigation measures and regulatory conditions by all parties involved in the implementation (project, supervision consultant, contractor).
- Prepare regular monthly and quarterly environmental monitoring reports for project management and funding agency.
- Oversee contractor’s compliance with environmental requirements during construction and operation phases.
- Provide training to project staff, contractors, and local stakeholders on environmental requirements and best practices.
- Support the integration of environmental considerations into operational decisions.

- Incorporate climate resilience and disaster risk reduction principles into environmental planning (e.g., ensuring flood infrastructure does not increase downstream risks or degrade natural buffers like floodplains).
- Maintain comprehensive records of all environmental assessments, monitoring data, and stakeholder engagement activities.
- Support internal and external audits or reviews by regulatory bodies.
- Recommend adjustments to project operations based on monitoring results or unforeseen environmental impacts.
- Ensure feedback loops between monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management actions.
- Conduct regular visits of project sites during construction and prepare compliance and progress reports as and when required.
- Ensure implementation, monitoring, and reporting of OHS obligations as identified in the LMP and other pertinent documents.Organize meetings, as and when required, with all the environmental team of project partners for “environmental progress review” of the project to review any non-compliance and progress of environmental management in the project.
- Prepare monthly and quarterly progress report of the project in coordination with PMU and PIU of FMKP and ensure timely submission to the Project Director and World Bank.
- Maintain a record of environmental documentation and disclosure, including EIAs, ESMPs, and monitoring reports, ensuring that all records are up-to-date and accessible for review by the World Bank and other stakeholders and disclosed.
- Use and update GEMS/PMIS platforms for environmental monitoring data and integrate geo-tagged evidence.
- .
- Close coordination with PMU, PIU, and contractors for all environmental-related activities.
- Undertake any other duties related to the project as directed by the Project Director.

3. Qualification and Experience

- Master’s degree in environmental sciences or MS in Environmental Management/ Natural Resource Management/ Environmental Engineering.
- Minimum seven (07) years of professional post-qualification working experience in public/private organizations, preferably in the development sector.
- Knowledge of national and international environmental and social regulations, including environmental and social impact assessments, as required by national/international institutions.
- Experience working in Balochistan or similar regions, with an understanding of the unique geographic and socio-economic challenges in infrastructure development.
- Proficiency in local languages and the ability to effectively engage with local

communities will be a significant advantage.

- Familiarity with environmental policies in international donor-funded projects will be an advantage

4. Salary and Benefits

A market-based, competitive salary (lump sum with no additional benefits) will be offered based on qualifications and experience.

5. Time frame of Consultancy

The services of the Consultant will be acquired for the duration of the Project, but may be reduced subject to conditions that will be included in the consultancy agreement/contract.

6. Selection Process:

Consultants will be selected following the procedures set out in “The World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” for the selection of Individual Consultants.