



## Expression of Interest (EOI) of Consultancy Services For

### Preparation of Watershed Management Plan (WMP) of Mutanikhola Sub-watershed, Lahan Municipality, Siraha district, Nepal

#### Background:

Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), a formal network of Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs) from all over Nepal, was established in June 1995 with the goal of promoting and protecting the forest users' rights through capacity strengthening, economic empowerment, sustainable natural resource management, technical support, policy advocacy, good governance, learning and sharing of best practices. FECOFUN emerged from the idea that forest users from all parts of the country should be linked to strengthen the role of users in policy-making processes. Since its beginning, FECOFUN has grown into a social movement organization with about 14 million forest users. As of now, 22,415 community forestry user groups (CFUGs) covering 2.9 million households have been federated into FECOFUN, and are protecting more than 2.3 million hectares of forests. The network of FECOFUN has been extended across the country in 7 provinces, 77 districts, and 555 local levels.

In support of CARE Nepal, Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN) and National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF) are jointly implementing **Conservation-friendly livelihoods for women and vulnerable people** (SAMRAKSHYAN) Project at Mutanikhola Sub-watershed, Lahan Municipality, Siraha district, Nepal. The SAMRAKSHYAN Project will build the capacity of local and marginalized people for effective biodiversity conservation and watershed management through promoting net positive livelihoods and equipping them with skills and knowledge to claim their rights to natural and financial resources. Community-level initiatives will be added by working with relevant government bodies to institutionalize project learnings into policy and practice. The project has accepted participatory approaches to promote natural resource management and collective action for conservation.

The Mutanikhola Sub-watershed (MKWS) is in the Churia region of the Lahan Municipality, Siraha district, Nepal, and is an ecologically diverse and environmentally fragile region with huge potential for economic and environmental growth. It comprises 9 community forests and is home to different wildlife such as Blue Bull, Bear, Leopard, Python, and Wild Chicken etc. Currently, there are no guidelines, plans, or other legislative provisions for natural resource management of the watershed where the collection and use of natural resources are unsustainable, thereby threatening biodiversity in the region. If there is no proper attention given to the conservation of the watershed resources, the watershed ecosystems could collapse, which will result in huge losses of biodiversity and push people into poverty. Moreover, there is no watershed-level governance mechanism for coordination among CFUGs and conservation activities are limited, sporadic, and

ineffective. Hence, it is crucial to develop a watershed management plan, conservation plan, and guidelines for sustainable management of natural resources of the watershed for the benefit of local people to sustain existing natural resources. In this context, the SAMRAKSHYAN Project is seeking support from well experienced individual /consulting firm to develop a watershed management plan for the Mutanikhola Sub-watershed under the leadership of Mutani Khola Watershed Level Coordination Committee (MKWLCC).

**Objective:**

The overall objective of the task is to develop a watershed management plan by identifying major threats, and location-based actions with the tentative budget to overcome those identified threats and vulnerabilities.

The specific objectives of the task are:

- To assess the current threats and identify the vulnerable locations within the sub-watershed,
- To map out degraded land, deforested land, natural resources at risk of hazards (water bodies, cropland, forest, etc.) within the Sub-watershed,
- To prepare a watershed management plan to address/reduce those threats and vulnerabilities by proposing appropriate location-based interventions with the budget,

**Methodology:**

The methodology should clarify types of data collection; and methods to assure quality of the work. The methodology should include an analysis plan for both qualitative and quantitative data. Consultation with community people (FGDs) and key informants (KII) and stakeholders will be conducted to make the process to be more inclusive, participatory, and effective. The main results of the task will be presented to the SAMRAKSHYAN Project team during the debriefing that will take place after sharing the first draft of the watershed management plan by the consultant. The suggestions, inputs, and feedback received during the sharing of major findings should be incorporated into the final plan to validate the main results. In addition, the below-mentioned steps should be carried out and followed up.

**A. Direct field visit:**

- The consultant team will make a direct field visit to the Mutanikhola Sub-watershed to organize community consultation with CFUGs, farmer groups, and local leaders. The team should conduct a comprehensive baseline study to collect data on hydrology, soil quality, vegetation cover, land use patterns, biodiversity, and socio-economic indicators specific to the Mutanikhola Sub-watershed.
- Analyze the collected data to understand the current state of the sub-watershed, identify environmental threats, assess the socio-economic conditions of the communities, and identify areas of interventions with tentative cost.
- Consultant should use various participatory tools (community social hazards and resource mapping, transact walk, force field analysis, etc.) to map out hazard prone areas, degraded land, etc., and identify probable protection/restoration measures with tentative cost.

## **B. Consultation with stakeholders (FGDs and KII):**

Consultation with various local level agencies including Government, Non-Government and partners who are working in natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, watershed management for gathering their experiences and views to develop a watershed management plan as well as its effective execution in the future.

### **Time Frame (Duration):**

The consultancy service will be for 30 days and will start from the contract of the task. Within these 30 days, the consultant team should complete the desk study, field visit to the SAMRAKSHYAN Project site, and consultation with the communities, stakeholders, and partners before finalization, and sharing of the watershed management plan with FECOFUN. The tentative timeline of the task will be as follows:

| <b>S.N.</b> | <b>Activities</b>                                                                            | <b>Days</b> | <b>Remarks</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1           | Prepare an inception report with a comprehensive field plan                                  | 3           |                |
| 2           | Review of project documents and relevant literature                                          | 3           |                |
| 3           | Field visits and consultation with stakeholders                                              | 14          |                |
| 4           | Prepare draft report and its presentation/sharing to project team for inputs and suggestions | 5           |                |
| 5           | Finalize the report incorporating inputs and suggestions and submit it to FECOFUN            | 5           |                |
|             | Total                                                                                        | 30          |                |

The consultant should prepare a comprehensive work plan in the format given below for the period.

### **Work plan format**

| <b>Activity</b> | <b>I Week</b> | <b>II Week</b> | <b>III Week</b> | <b>IV Week</b> | <b>V Week</b> | <b>VI Week</b> |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
|                 |               |                |                 |                |               |                |
|                 |               |                |                 |                |               |                |
|                 |               |                |                 |                |               |                |
|                 |               |                |                 |                |               |                |

### **Role and responsibilities**

#### **I. Roles and responsibilities of FECOFUN:**

- FECOFUN and SAMRAKSHYAN Project team will support the consultant team, by providing relevant documents and guidance as required,
- FECOFUN's staff will support for connecting with stakeholders and local communities for consultation.

## **II. Role and responsibility of the consultant:**

- Submission of the appropriate study framework with questionnaires if any,
- Submit the inception report with work plan,
- Hire, train, and manage enumerators as appropriate,
- Safe gathering and storing of all data and compliance with ethical principles of data collection and management (informed consent, confidentiality etc.),
- Ensure the entire team complies with FECOFUN's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct,
- Share draft of watershed management plan for comments and review by the project team,
- Submit the final watershed management plan with the incorporation of the feedback from the project team,

### **Deliverables of the task:**

The team is expected to deliver the following with the final report.

- Inception report with tentative action plan
- All raw transcripts (interview and FGDs),
- Photos (with consent form wherever relevant) and Maps, GPS coordinates, if any,
- A final watershed management plan including location-based intervention with budget,

### **Qualification and Competency:**

The individual or consultant company for this task should have a post-graduate degree in a relevant field such as forestry, natural resource management (NRM), watershed management, wildlife, and protected area management, etc., and having sound experience of more than 10 years of plan preparation in areas of forest, and biodiversity conservation, watershed management, livelihoods, and climate resilience. He/she should have prior work experience or similar studies.

### **Required Documents** from individual or consultant company

1. Letter of Application: Letterhead, paper of the Applicant or partner responsible for a joint venture, including full postal address, telephone no., fax, and email address.
2. Proposal: Background, Objective, Approach and Methodology, Time Frame, Activities, Work plan, and Output of the assignment, along with cost proposal.
3. Applicant's information: Provide a Company Profile with a description of the background and organization of the Consultant and, if applicable, of each joint venture partner for this assignment.
4. Experience: Name of assignment, Location, Value of Contract, Year, Completed Client, Description of work carried out (A. General: Details of assignments undertaken, and B. Specific: Details of similar assignments undertaken in the previous seven years)
5. Certificate of VAT/PAN Registration, Firm Registration, and Tax Clearance.

6. Qualification of Key Experts: CV of every member of the project should be provided with the proposal.

Submit the required documents in one PDF file at [fecofun.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:fecofun.secretariat@gmail.com) mentioning the EOI for Mukti Khola WMP in the subject line by 29 December 2023, 17:00.

**Logistic Support:**

All relevant documents will be provided to the individual and consultant company. The staff of SAMRAKSHYAN Project will help to arrange field visits and coordinate with community people, and stakeholders for meetings in the field, but FECOFUN will not provide any secretarial support. All the associated costs (Airfare, Per-diem, accommodation, and local transportation) of individuals or consultants will be included in the total consultancy fee. The consultant is requested to inbuilt these costs while submitting the cost proposal.



**Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)**

Changunarayan Municipality-2, Duwakot, Bhaktapur

977-1- 6616408, 6616421

[info@fecofun.org.np](mailto:info@fecofun.org.np); [fecofun.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:fecofun.secretariat@gmail.com)

[www.fecofun.org.np](http://www.fecofun.org.np)