**Republic of Tajikistan**

**TAJIKISTAN RESILIENT LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT**

**TERMS OF REFERENCES AND SCOPE OF SERVICES**

**for**

**Forestry Specialist**

1. **BACKGROUND AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

The Government of Tajikistan implements the Tajikistan Resilient Landscape Restoration Project (TRLRP) project, financed by the World Bank Group (WBG).

The RESILAND CA+ is an umbrella program that will include national projects in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to help these Central Asian countries restore landscapes through investments and technical knowledge and expertise. In addition to supporting national projects, it will also enhance regional dialogue and collaboration on landscape management region wide. Supporting communities, youth, and women along border areas to build a vibrant economy based on forest and natural resources, RESILAND CA+ also aims to contribute to increased climate resilience of people, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of the TRLRP is to increase area under sustainable landscape management in selected locations in Tajikistan and promote collaboration by Central Asia countries on transboundary landscape restoration.

This PDO is uniform across the RESILAND CA+ projects with sustainable landscape management practices differing based on the specific country contexts. In the case of Tajikistan, sustainable landscape management includes practices such as agroforestry (intercropping with trees and shelterbelts); improved grazing land management through temporal enclosure, rotational grazing, and enrichment planting; plantations and reforestation; protected area management; soil fertility and water harvesting and efficiency measures; climate-smart agriculture; and other relevant practices, Sustainable landscape management practices will be carried out by the Government, the private sector, and rural communities in the targeted locations*,* whose capacities will be increased to carry these out.

The project will be implemented by the Project Implementation Team (PIT) under the Center for Implementation of Investment Projects within the Committee of Environmental Protection (CIIP CEP).

1. **OBJECTIVES OF ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of the Forestry Specialist is to facilitate the implementation of activities on landscape restoration with a focus on forestry, agroforestry and related resource management, as well as technical and consultative expertise on sustainable natural resources management initiatives, especially those related to forestry activities.

1. **TASKS AND SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Project Coordinator, the Forestry Specialist will carry out the following tasks:

* Provide technical advice on project activities related to forestry in the context of landscape restoration, prevention and mitigation of landscape degradation, barriers to reverse degradation, and measures to increase productivity of the project target landscapes;
* Review resource management activities, specifically use of forestry potential for landscape restoration, making of use existing and new agroforestry practices, and measures to improve them;
* Review participatory forest management plans prepared by forest users’ groups (FUGs) and provide detailed guidance on how best to incorporate agroforestry and landscape restoration management;
* Provide technical advice and support to the project – partner FUGs and facilitating organizations on afforestation, assisted natural regeneration, forest protection, joint forest management (JFM), assess and support FUGs’ preference to agroforestry system, including ranking of desirable species (fruits, fodder, forest, nuts, and other species) and other activities planned;
* Carry out the capacity needs assessment of participating state forestry enterprise offices and of the project – partner FUGs and provide technical assistance in development of respective capacity building project activities related to forestry;
* Provide assistance in any forestry related activities in Pasture Management Plans which will be executed by Pasture Users Unions respectively with support of FOs in selected target villages.
* Review project documents, such as Operational and Sub-grant Manuals, to ensure they provide sufficient guidance and suggest modifications as needed;
* Work closely with the State Forestry Agency, and state forestry enterprises in the implementation of project forestry activities, including activities implemented by FUGs, as well as other activities implemented by state forest enterprises: e.g., forest nurseries establishment and operation, provision of equipment and materials, etc.
* Network with other relevant project and stakeholders involved in forestry and landscape restoration areas, keeping them informed of project activities and supporting complementary approaches;
* Provide inputs into Project technical and progress reports, capturing success stories and innovative approaches supported by the project.
* Review TORs and other procurement documentation related to forestry management plan, inventory and investments supported by the project.
* Any other tasks as agreed with the Project Coordinator.

1. **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS**

*Education*:

* University degree in forestry, agro-forestry, restoration ecology, natural resources management;

*Experience*:

* Should have a minimum 7 years of general experience in forestry or agroforestry or landscape restoration, and the significant portion of it should reflect development experience and exposure;
* Experience in projects/programs funded by donors is an advantage;
* Experience in delivering training (and developing related materials, e.g., manuals, presentations, etc.) to a variety of audiences (e.g., rural population, government staff and specialists, NGOs);
* Knowledge of rural development, participatory approaches, climate change adaptation, and environmental sustainability will be an advantage.

*Personal Qualities:*

* Ability and willingness to travel frequently to the project areas is mandatory;
* Excellent team-working skills;

*Communication and Computer Skills:*

* Computer skills (MS office, MS Word, MS Excel, Power point, Internet E-mail etc.) is required;
* Fluency in written and spoken in Tajik and Russian, fluency in written and spoken English is an advantage.

1. **INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Forestry Specialist will be contracted through the Committee for Environmental Protection and will work closely with the Project team and CEP specialists, the State Forestry Agency and state forestry enterprises the project partners, along with other stakeholders as needed.

1. **DURATION**

The Forestry Specialist shall be contracted for 12 months, with an initial 3-month probationary period. The contract will be re-confirmed or terminated depending on the performance assessment by the CEP at the end of the probation period.

1. **REPORTING AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES**

The Forestry Specialist will provide monthly reports to the Project Director through the Head of CIIP in hard copy in Tajik in a format acceptable to the CEP.

1. **CLIENT INPUTS**

The CEP will supply office space and necessary equipment for specialist during the working period in the CEP office, and arrange transport for field trips.

1. **LOCATION**

The Forestry Specialist will be based in Dushanbe with travel to the project sites.