**REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

**COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

**THE WORLD BANK: RESILAND CA+ PROGRAM: TAJIKISTAN RESILIENT LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT (TRLRP) (P171524)**

**SUB-COMPONENT 2.3 PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION.**

**Development and**

**updating of the management plans for Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNA)**

**TERM OF REFERENCE (ToR)**

**Package reference: TRLRP-CS-CQS-11**

1. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Republic of Tajikistan received funds from the World Bank (International Development Association) for the implementation of the RESILANDCA +: Project: Tajikistan resilient landscape restoration project (TRLRLP) through the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEP) with the support of the Center for implementation of investment projects established in the framework (CEP CIIP) in cooperation with the recipient the State Institution of the Specially Protected Natural Areas (SISPNA).

The Project will implement field activities in Khatlon Region (Kabadiyan, Shahritus and Nosiri Khusrav), Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) (Vanj, Rushan, Shugnan and Murghab) and Sogd Region (Ayni, Gorny Matcha and Penjikent city).

The project consists of the following components:

Component 1. Strengthen Institutions and Policies, and Regional Collaboration.

This component will finance consulting services, goods and equipment to support the strengthening of national institutional policies and legal frameworks, developing of knowledge and skills of government, communities and other stakeholders for landscape management, and improving the capacities of government partners to operate effectively. Under this component, financing will be provided for activities to support regional collaboration efforts, to contribute to landscape restoration that benefits both Tajikistan and the wider Central Asia region with which the country shares and contributes critical resources and infrastructure.

Component 2. Enhance Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods.

Overall, this component will finance works, consulting services, non-consulting services, goods, and grants. Both government institutions and communities will implement a range of landscape restoration investments. To support the selection of investments, assistance will be provided for landscape restoration planning. All planning will encourage women’s leadership, will follow citizen engagement mechanisms, and will be based on good practice principles for a landscape approach when reconciling different and often competing land uses.

Sub-component 2.1. Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management.

The FA will lead on the technical aspects of this subcomponent, while the financial and procurement management responsibilities will remain with CIIP CEP. This subcomponent includes the following key activities:

* Conducting National Forest Inventory;
* Preparation and implementation of forest management plans for eight State Forest Management Entities (SFMEs) and one fruit tree nursery;
* Carry out afforestation works, fuelwood plantations and natural forest regeneration.

Sub-component 2.2. Integrated Pasture Management and Restoration.

The Pasture Reclamation Trust under the Ministry of Agriculture will lead on technical aspects of this subcomponent, while the financial and procurement management responsibilities will remain with CIIP CEP. This subcomponent includes the following key activities:

* Geobotanical surveys and pasture inventories;
* Establishment of forage seed demonstration plots;
* Development and implementation of Pasture/Livestock Management Plans for Pasture User Unions.

Sub-component 2.3. Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation.

This subcomponent will be technically led by State Institution of the Specially Protected Natural Areas (SISPNA), as part of CEP. This sub-component includes the following activities:

* Preparation and implementation of priority specially protected natural areas management plans for Tajik National Park (TNP) (bordering the Kyrgyz Republic), Zorkul State Nature Reserve in GBAO (bordering Afghanistan), National Yagnob natural park in the Zarafshon river sub-basin (bordering Uzbekistan), and Tigrovaya Balka State Nature Reserve in Khatlon region (bordering Afghanistan).

Sub-component 2.4. Landscape Restoration and Livelihoods.

The project will provide sub-grants to villagers/farmers organized as CIGs to implement small- scale livelihood investments based on existing Village Development Plans and actions. Suitably qualified organizations will be contracted to facilitate formation of CIGs. The CIIP CEP will provide the technical lead for this subcomponent and oversee the management of sub-grants to beneficiaries. Under this subcomponent, the project will support crop land-based livelihoods—climate-smart crop production practices and technologies—through sub-grants for sub-projects to groups of village residents, farmers that form CIGs.

The project is aimed at preparing institutions and supporting future efforts to restore the landscape, such as creating a legal framework capable of supplying planting materials for restoration, monitoring natural resources, developing tax incentives for environmental services, etc. The project will contribute to policy development and planning opportunities, as well as investment in all sectors of the economy, with a focus on degradation at the appropriate scale, revenue generation from natural resource-related services and resilience of communities and infrastructure to successful implementation of this approach.

Management of the natural environment, like any management process, can be effective only if there is clear planning, which should be based on knowledge of the object, analysis of changes taking place with it and making management decisions on the implementation of measures and specific actions. All these issues can and should be reflected in the management plan of a SPNA. Today, in the world practice of conservation of the natural environment, the management plan is a popular working tool used for all territorial forms of nature protection.

Large changes in the socio-economic situation in the Republic of Tajikistan over the past 30 years have led to the fact that the experience gained over the previous decades in managing protected areas and planning their activities does not meet modern requirements. Adequate models of environmental management and planning, in which management plans have a significant role, must comply with the new conditions.

The project seeks the support of a suitably experienced and qualified organization to support the preparation of management plans for selected protected areas in Tajikistan.

**2. Objectives of the assignment:**

It is expected that within the framework of this ToR, the selected facilitating organization, together with experts of the SISPNA, will develop four management plans in line with accepted good practice for the target SPNAs.

The project covers the following SPNAs:

* Tajik National Park (TNP), in Vanj, Shugnan, Rushan and Murghab districts in GBAO;
* State Nature Reserve “Zorkul”in Murghab District of GBAO;
* National Natural Park “Yagnob” in Ainy District of Sugd region;
* State Nature Reserve “Tigrovaya Balka” within districts Dusti, Jayhun and Qabodien of the Khatlon region.

**3. Scope of work:** To achieve the above objective, the following tasks have been identified but are not limited to:

1. Development of a guidance manual for the preparation of management plans for SPNAs in accordance with the requirements for the management of SPNAs set forth in International documents: the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Water- fowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971) the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves (1995). A guidance manual should take into account the basic principles and approaches to the management of SPNAs identified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). And also, take into account the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan to the category of these SPNAs for the protection regime and use of natural resources. This Manual shall guide the development of management plans for the SPNAs under this assignment.
2. Collection and analysis of data required for development of management plans for four target SPNAs. The data collected should result in the following inputs for the Management Plans:

* Assessment of existing natural, cultural and social resources within the boundaries of the PA,
* Assessment of risks for and threats to biodiversity and landscape values,
* Assessment of existing user groups and potential conflicts,
* Mitigation measures for established risks, threats and conflicts,
* Assessment of necessary infrastructural upgrades,
* Calculation of costs for PA management.

Data should also be collected in order to address the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) requirements, in particular the following Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) that need to be incorporated in the preparation of management plans - ESS1[[1]](#footnote-1): ESS2[[2]](#footnote-2): ESS3[[3]](#footnote-3): ESS4[[4]](#footnote-4); ESS6[[5]](#footnote-5); ESS8[[6]](#footnote-6); ESS10[[7]](#footnote-7);

1. Organize round tables to engage stakeholders in discussions on the goal and objectives of management plans for each of the four target SPNAs.
2. Conduct working meetings, formal and informal negotiations with stakeholders with direct interest in targeted natural protected areas at local and regional levels. This includes meetings with the participation of the local population, legal entities, including public organizations to discuss key issues of management plans and the functioning regime of a natural protected area.
3. Develop management plans for the four target SPNAs. The Management Plan should present modalities and offer the mechanisms for establishing a long-term system of biodiversity and landscape conservation. In addition, it should produce a management system for the protected area that is in line with the principles of sustainable use of natural, cultural and other resources. This document should provide to future managers of the protected areas, clear guidance on how to implement conservation activities, use and manage existing resources within the protected areas, conserve and protect valuable natural and cultural heritage, and respect the needs of local communities, and in accordance with current good practice. In addition, it should:

* Contribute to achieving a broader set of management objectives for the protected areas, ranging from conservation to economic development;
* Guide sensible development of the protected areas with material, human resource and financial parameters;
* Include measures to address the Bank’s ESSs where indicated from the assessment above
* Facilitate day-to-day decision making and planning process to be undertaken by protected areas management staff;
* Ensure local community participation in protected areas management to meet local needs,
* Integrate private and public stewardship;
* Identify opportunities and indicate activities for trans-boundary conservation where appropriate.

1. Conduct roundtables at each of the protected areas to share the final draft of the management plans with key stakeholders.
2. English translation of prepared management plans for the four targeted SPNAs.
3. Finalize the prepared management plans for the four targeted SPNAs with the Head of the SISPNA and with the Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEP), and submit for necessary approvals.

**5. Duration of the assignment:**

The services provided for by the task of performance of this Agreement shall be performed within the period from 01.08.2023 until 30.06.2024 or any other timelines and progress shall be agreed in advance between the PROJECT and Firm. Only after prior agreement between the parties and receipt of consent will the changes take effect.

6. **Procedure for management and coordination**

The contracted Firm will report directly to the Director of the Center for Implementation of Investment Projects of the Committee for Environmental Protection.

The Center for Implementation of Investment Projects (CIIP), will provide the necessary consultations and monitor the tasks implementation, approve the adoption of appropriate approaches and methods for the implementation of the assignment.

The Firm will carry out his functions in accordance with a Contract for consulting services provision.

**7. Contribution of the Client**

CIIP CEP is implementing Agency of the project and will directly participate in the implementation.

The main organizational support to consultant will be through CIIP team members.

The following will be provided by CIIP to FO:

* Project Appraisal Document, World Bank Missions Aide Memories and other World Bank documents related to the preparation and implementation of the Project.
* Description of the existing organizational structure, financing system and regulations supporting CIIP CEP activities.
* Any other project data and information;
* Related Laws and regulations.
* Timely access to protected areas for the organization’s personnel

1. **Expected deliverables:**

Firm shall be responsible for providing inception, interim and final reports on the work performed, along with the four SPNA management plans as laid out below. The format of the reports, and the plans will be agreed with CEP CIIP and SISPNA. The financial statements shall comply with the requirements of the Contract signed by the Firm. In addition, the Firm shall provide the Project with all photographs and other visual materials, a list of participants attending meetings, etc., training materials, as well as the results of the participant satisfaction survey and other evidence of the successful completeness of the supplied documentation. Printed and electronic versions of the reports shall be submitted to the PROJECT. The electronic version of the report must be saved in MS Word format. All reports must be printed in Times New Roman font, size 12, on page size A4. The title page with the name of the project and the name of the author should contain the logo of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEP), the Project and Tajikistan.

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| **№** | **Results** | **Timelines** |
| 1. | Guideline manual have been developed for the preparation of management plans for SPNAs in accordance with the requirements for the management of natural protected areas set forth in international documents, as well as, taking into account the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan for SPNAs.  An inception report on the work performed is presented. | 60 working days after the contract signing date |
| 2. | The necessary data was collected and analyzed to develop management plans for the four targeted SPNAs.  An interim report on the work performed is presented. | 150 working days after the contract signing date |
| 3. | Four Management plans for targeted SPNAs prepared an according to the IUCN requirement and presented to CEP and SISPNA. | 270 working days |
| 4. | Prepared four management plans for targeted SPNAs have been translated into English. | 300 working days after the contract signing date |
| 5. | The prepared management plans for the four targeted SPNAs were agreed and approved with the Head of the SISPNA and with the CEP. | 315 working days after the contract signing date |
| 6. | The Final Report on the work performed is presented. | 330 working days after the contract signing date |

1. **Qualifications:**

The Consultant/Firm selected to carry out the task should be a legal entity, registered for providing consultancy services. The organization should also meet the following requirements:

* possess at least 3 years of consulting experience in delivering environmental projects, including experience in development of protected area management plans, protected area management, biodiversity conservation, forestry, training and capacity-building for protected areas
* have experience in organizing public consultations and workshops,
* have experience of working with international organizations, such as WB, and GEF-funded projects
* has sufficient current or is able to mobilize staff resources and expertise to be able to carry out the proposed assignment

A mix of personnel among the organization’s staff will be required to undertake the responsibilities and tasks, with expertise and successful track record in the following: project management, protected area, biodiversity conservation, social development (including participatory processes), tourism and eco-tourism, forestry and agriculture, environmental economics, environmental law (national and international related to protected areas management and biodiversity conservation), monitoring and evaluation.

**Team Leader**

* At least 3 years of experience in capacity-building of SPNA’s, development of management plans for SPNAs, biodiversity conservation, forestry, climate change and climate resilience.
* Has a bachelor's degree in social and environmental sciences, nature management, biodiversity conservation, economics, management or relevant fields. A Master of Science or PhD degree is an advantage.
* Knowledge of SPNA, biodiversity conservation, forestry, climate change and climate resilience.
* Knowledge of Tajik, Russian and English.
* Experience with similar programs/projects.

**Senior Project Personnel**

* At least 2 years of experience in social development and environmental management, development of management plans for NPAs, biodiversity conservation, ecotourism and nature based tourism, and related areas.
* At least a bachelor's degree in social and environmental sciences, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation or related fields.
* Experience in training and capacity-building in NPA management, biodiversity conservation and evaluation.
* Experience with similar programs/projects

**Project Administrative/Junior Staff**

* At least 2 years of experience in the development of project reports and monitoring. Experience in relevant areas, e.g., environmental management, social development, conservation, is an advantage.
* Has a bachelor's degree.

1. ESS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impact. ESS1 sets out the Borrower’s responsibilities for assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with each stage of a project supported by the Bank through Investment Project Financing, in order to achieve environmental and social outcomes consistent with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ESS2: Labor and working conditions. ESS2 recognizes the importance of employment creation and income generation in the pursuit of poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth. Borrowers can promote sound worker-management relationships and enhance the development benefits of a project by treating workers in the project fairly and providing safe and healthy working conditions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ESS3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management. ESS3 recognizes that economic activity and urbanization often generate pollution to air, water, and land, and consume finite resources that may threaten people, ecosystem services and the environment at the local, regional, and global levels. The current and projected atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) threatens the welfare of current and future generations. At the same time, more efficient and effective resource use, pollution prevention and GHG emission avoidance, and mitigation technologies and practices have become more accessible and achievable. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. ESS4: Community health and safety. ESS4 recognizes that project activities, equipment, and infrastructure can increase community exposure to risks and impacts. In addition, communities that are already subjected to impacts from climate change may also experience an acceleration or intensification of impacts due to project activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ESS6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources. ESS6 recognizes that protecting and conserving biodiversity and sustainably managing living natural resources are fundamental to sustainable development. Biodiversity is defined as the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. Biodiversity often underpins ecosystem services valued by humans. Impacts on biodiversity can therefore often adversely affect the delivery of ecosystem services. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. ESS8: Cultural Heritage. ESS8 recognizes that cultural heritage provides continuity in tangible and intangible forms between the past, present and future. People identify with cultural heritage as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. Cultural heritage, in its many manifestations, is important as a source of valuable scientific and historical information, as an economic and social asset for development, and as an integral part of people’s cultural identity and practice. ESS8 sets out measures designed to protect cultural heritage throughout the project life cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. ESS10: Stakeholder engagement and information disclosure. This ESS recognizes the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice. Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)