Sustainable Land Management Programme to Combat Desertification in Pakistan (SLMP) - Phase II

Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP II)

Terms of Reference for “Resources Specific Business Plans”

I. Background

Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) is implementing Sustainable Land Management Programme to combat Desertification (SLMP Phase II) project through Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh in the collaboration with United Nation Development Programme UNDP and Global Environment facility GEF. The project of Sustainable Land Management Programme to combat Desertification is focus on sustainable land management in Sindh. TRDP has initiated SLMP phase-II in district Tharparkar.

Pakistan's diverse geography contributes to the wide varieties in climatic conditions in different agro-ecological zones of the country. Pakistan has been classified into 11 geographical, ten agro-ecological, and 9 major ecological zones. Around 80% of the Pakistan's land is arid and semi-arid, 12% dry sub-humid, and 8% humid. Forests cover only 42,000 km², or 5.2% of the total land area. The country has a fast-growing population of about 180 million people, over 60% of who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. About 50% of the country by area is under some type of agricultural land use. Nearly 300,000 km² is used as rangelands and 200,000 km² as cropland of which 160,000 km² is irrigated. Most of the rural population survives on fragile rain-fed lands prone to desertification, land degradation, drought, flood and severe climate change impacts.

Unsustainable land management practices in Pakistan are causing significant environmental problems, including soil erosion, loss of soil fertility and associated crop productivity, flash floods, sedimentation of water courses, and deforestation and the associated loss of carbon sequestration capacity and biodiversity. The northern mountain regions are subject to heavy soil erosion caused by large-scale deforestation in the catchments leading to siltation of major water reservoirs, thus reducing the capacity of power generation and availability of water. Irrigated areas are plagued with water-logging, salinity and sodality, reducing the drainage capacity of soils and consequently leading to loss of soil fertility, crop yields, and biodiversity. Eleven million ha are affected by water-logging and three million ha by salinity/sodality. There is also tremendous pressure on rangelands as a result of serious overgrazing by livestock.

The dry land areas of Pakistan are sufficiently large prevention of vegetative loss and restoring vegetative cover could make a major contribution to combat climate change. The causes of land degradation in Pakistan include poor irrigation and drainage practices, overgrazing, deforestation, increasing competition for water, drought, and migration/permanent settlement, intensification of agriculture, flooding, population pressures and persistent poverty (of course some of these threats, especially poverty, are both a consequence of land degradation as well as a barrier to SLM). Land degradation problems are often severe in areas where there are multiple causes of land degradation.

The program aims to promote the sustainable management of land and natural resources in the arid and semi-arid regions of Pakistan in order to restore degraded ecosystems and their essential services, reduce poverty and increase resilience to climate change.
II. Rationale of the Proposed Assignment

The Tharparkar District is spread over 20,000 sq.km., that is, 7.61% of the total geographical area of Sindh, but its share in total Population accounted for 1,420,022 souls or 4.73% of the provincial population. It increased by 53.89% during 1981-98 intercensal period a span of 17 years at an average annual growth rate of 2.57%. In accordance with the land area of Tharparkar district i.e. 20,000 sq. kms. there is density of 71 persons per sq. km. Out of its total population 321626 persons or 23% are settled in urban areas and remaining 1098396 persons or 77% are located in rural areas. The sex ratio (male per 100 females) is worked out at 110, this ratio is also constituted 110 males in rural and 108 in urban areas. According to 1998 population census, there are total 256400 households in Tharparkar district comprising of 1420022 persons thus giving an average size of six persons per household.

Objectives:

The overall purpose of assignment is to identify the need for changes in existing resources for business opportunities for local communities using natural/available sources preventing unwanted changes.

The specific objectives of the assignment:

The Resources Specific Business Plan will be used in devising or fine-tuning strategies for addressing SLM and taking steps to reduce poverty of local communities by utilization resources they already have. The knowledge gained and capacity built from this exercise will be used as model for new areas. The Resources Specific Business will document all potential resources of the district and ensure allocation of land for various human needs.

The Resources Specific Business will envisage the plans for rural development, by protecting and developing prime agriculture land, dairy production, identification for the need of social infrastructure in rural areas, business for model villages, agro based industry that will provide be direct benefits to farmers and local communities.

The Resources Specific Business will be used by all organizations/departments involved in,

- Natural Resource Planning& Management
- Economic Planning
- District Planning and Development Authorities.
- District/Local Governments.
- Urban Planning
- Training& Research Institutes involved in Planning and Development.

III. Scope of work and Specific Tasks

The specific tasks of the assignment are as under:

1. Consultant is required to attend a briefing session with PPC Sindh, Thematic Experts which will help to understand process and setting the contexts on SLM LUP.
2. Compilation and review of literature of best practices in Resources Specific Business relevant to sustainable land management.
3. Plan should include the recommendations, suggestions, technical inputs of the experts on the consultant panel based on analysis of data and other evidences & SLM best practices.
4. Consultant should give presentation to PPC Sindh SLMP/NCU Experts before submitting the plan is prepared and their valuable inputs should be taken in the plan.
5. Hard and soft copies of the data should be provided to the TRDP & SLMP.
6. The consultant may keep copies of the data/reports only with the written permission of the TRDP & SLMP.
IV. Target area
The Plan will be prepared for district Tharparkar of Sindh Province.

V. Time frame and duration
The total duration of the assignment will be over a period of 20 days, while the timeframe for
the assignment is to be mutually agreed between the consultants and TRDP.

VI. Reporting Responsibilities
Under overall direction and guidance of the Provincial Program Director (PPD), SLMP the
consultant will directly report to the TRDP for SLMP-II Programme.

VII. Payment Schedule
TRDP will release 30% payment on signing of the contract and 70% upon receipt of services
mentioned and agreed above duly approved and accepted by TRDP. Consultant will submit 1st
draft for feedback and technical input, final plan will be with two hardcopies and one soft copy.
TRDP will deduct taxes as per income tax procedures of Islamic republic of Pakistan. Payments
will be made through crossed cheque only. All expenses related to assignment such travel,
accommodation, meal etc. will be borne by the consultant.

VIII. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS
   a) Post-graduate degree in Business Management, NRM or related fields with professional
      experience of 12 years.
   b) At least 7 to 10 years of experience in undertaking Resources Specific Business Plans,
      Land Use Planning studies/work including sound knowledge of planning system.
   c) Excellent analytical, computer, writing and verbal communication skills.
   d) Fluency in English and Urdu as well familiarity with regional languages will be an added
      advantage.

Submission of the application:
Interested consultants are suggested to submit the proposal which shall cover the following
points:

   a) Detailed CV and profile of the consultant.
   b) Financial Proposal for above assignment.

The applications shall be submitted on the below address before March 9, 2020.

Thardeep Rural Development Program (TRDP)
Located near GoS Public Health Engineering Office Court Road, Mithi Tharparkar
Phone no: 0232261462, 0232261661