

## BANGLADESH REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT -1 (P154580)

### Terms of Reference for Consulting Services

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST (BLPA-S6)

#### 1. Introduction and Background

The Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an USD 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group – for financing the cost of the *Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1* (BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. Now the BLPA intends to apply part of the IDA Credit for procuring the services of an Environmental Specialist for its Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

The Project Development Objective is to improve conditions for trade through improving connectivity, reducing logistics bottlenecks and supporting the adoption of modern approaches to border management and trade facilitation.

The Project consists of three (3) major components of which the below component will be implemented by BLPA:

*Component 1: Invest in infrastructure, systems and procedures to modernize key selected land ports essential for trade with India, Bhutan and Nepal.* The key activities under this component are:

- (i) Development and improvement works at four land ports along the Southwest to Northeast Corridor that are key to facilitating regional and transit trade. These include: Bhomra on the southwest border of Bangladesh, Sheola which would be a greenfield land port (it is currently a Land Customs Station with almost no infrastructure), and third land port at Ramgarh on the border with Tripura State, Northeast India,
- (ii) The Project will also finance measures to improve physical security and manage access risks at the Benapole land port, Bangladesh's largest and busiest land port, which experiences significant security and leakage problems. Activities to be financed include a high-capacity perimeter fence, a CCTV system, and a gate pass system.

BLPA, an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Shipping, is responsible for the component's overall implementation, management and monitoring. BLPA was set up for development, maintenance and operation of land-ports with the neighboring countries of Bangladesh.

BLPA will set up a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to oversee the development and execution of the project. The PIU will be led by a Project Director and will be located in Dhaka. The PIU will be assisted by a group of individual experts of diverse disciplines. The **Environmental Specialist** will be a member of the team of experts.

Among the World Bank Safeguards, from an environmental perspective, the Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01) is triggered. This Project falls into Category B since most of these impacts are site specific and can be mitigated with standard mitigation measures. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports and related social safeguard instruments will be prepared for each land port in compliance with this policy. Further, public consultation and disclosure requirements of the World Bank will be complied.

An Environmental and Social Cell (E&S Cell) will be setup in PIU to (i) prepare terms of references for carrying out the detailed environmental studies for land ports; (ii) oversee the preparation of Environmental Assessments, IEE or EIA under the project; and (iii) overseeing the execution of EMP in compliance with the World Bank requirements. The **Environmental Specialist** will be stationed in the E&S Cell.

#### 2. Objective

The main objective of appointing the **Environmental Specialist** is to make available technical expertise within PIU on social safeguards compliance under the national and the World Bank guidelines. The Consultant will assist PIU in design reviews, preparation of TOR for any environmental studies, check if the studies are of acceptable quality, participation in environment

related discussions at other government offices, preparation of EMP and its compliance during construction activities.

### 3. Scope of Services

The overall responsibility of the **Environmental Specialist** is to assist the PIU in planning and executing the project in compliance to the Environmental Conservation Act 1995 and Environment Conservation Rules 1997 as well as the World Bank's Environmental Safeguards. The specific responsibilities of the specialist will be, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Assist the Project Director (PD) in completion of EIAs, verification of bid documents and BOQs, and overseeing of implementation of agreed Environmental Management Plan of all land ports in close co-ordination with the design consultants and the World Bank;
- b) Assist the Project Director in drafting and finalizing the terms of references, REOIs and request for proposals (RFPs) for commissioning of EIA/IEE studies, supervision consultancies, capacity development consultancies, support consultancies to assist local authorities with land use planning to manage cumulative effects, and any and all other consultancies with environmental, health and safety (EHS) aspects or focus under the project;
- c) Assist with contracting as required by the Project Director, and oversee implementation of contracts by consultants hired to complete all necessary EA work for project activities as well as EHS aspects of other consultancies;
- d) Oversee the pre-construction baseline monitoring of air, noise, water, soil and sediment quality to be carried out by the construction supervision consultant;
- e) Ensure integration of the EA and resulting EMP into the project redesign and implementation plans (contract documents);
- f) Orient contractors to project EMP requirements and expectations, and assist the PD in review and approval the Construction Environmental Action Plans to be prepared by the contractors before starting of the construction works;
- g) Ensure incorporation of appropriate environmental specifications into the respective bidding and contract documents;
- h) Ensure compliance of the mitigation and management measures by the Contractors;
- i) Documenting and reporting on the experience in the implementation of the environmental mitigation and management measures;
- j) Liaison with the Contractors, CSC for the Implementation of the EMP;
- k) Liaison with the DOE on environmental and other regulatory matters; including obtaining and renewal of environmental clearance documents as and when required;
- l) Develop training program on environmental aspects for the key stakeholders (BLPA, contractors, public representatives and local government institutions/NGOs);
- m) Dialogue with the project affected persons (PAPs) and ensure that the environmental concerns and suggestions are incorporated and implemented in the project;
- n) Plan and design live fencing around land port premises for erosion and flood control as well as to serve as noise barriers, where feasible;
- o) Undertaking direct environmental monitoring (field visits) **at least once a month** to each land port under construction, and reporting on environmental performance and follow-up activities to the Project Director;
- p) Promote and document ways that the project is incorporating and integrating environmental issues into engineering design and on implementing measures reconstruction / rehabilitation and maintenance programs;
- q) Assist the PD to arrange for the Environmental Auditing and follow up action on the Audit recommendations;
- r) Report to the PD on the environmental aspects pertaining to the project;

- s) Lead on resolution of any grievances related to environmental management issues, in coordination with the Grievance Redress Officer;
- t) Guide and assist the PD and the BLPA to strengthen the environmental management practices in embankment rehabilitation, revetment and road construction;
- u) Ensure development and regular update of database for project specific environmental information;
- v) Prepare quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the EMF/EMP for transmission to the World Bank throughout the project implementation period;
- w) Maintaining project-specific Database for Environmental Management;
- x) Ensuring all environmental clearances and any other regulatory approvals are appropriately maintained throughout the life of the project, including meeting all reporting requirements as applicable;
- y) Ensure and facilitate effective and smooth ongoing communication and flow of information between the environmental consultants, design consultants and social consultants. Review draft deliverables and provide comments to consultants;
- z) Compile monthly, quarterly and annual reports to update ongoing environmental processes and address current issues. Provide recommendations for implementation of corrective actions and suggest program improvements;
- aa) Conduct a Training Needs Assessment of BLPA on EHS aspects, and contribute to the training calendar with the appropriate training opportunities and its timing, as well as to commissioning and oversight of EHS aspects of capacity building support for BLPA officials, contractors and other project personnel (as applicable);
- bb) Any other tasks specified by the PD in support of effective EHS management of the project.

#### **4. Duration**

Duration of the consultancy services would be for an initial 33 (thirty three) months on a full-time basis, to be subsequently renewed annually based on the Consultant's performance.

#### **5. Institutional Arrangement:**

The Consultant will work under direct control of the Project Director. The Consultant will report directly to the Project Director with close collaboration with other officials of the Project. The Consultant shall be accountable to the Project Director for his/her day to day activities. BLPA will provide working space and office consumables for the expert at PIU premises in Dhaka.

#### **6. Reporting Requirement**

The Consultant will prepare and submit monthly and quarterly progress reports to BLPA covering the activities and achievements in the reporting period as well as the plan for the next reporting period.

#### **7. Education and Experience**

- Master's in Environment Engineering or Environmental Science or related subject. Further trainings on relevant topics will be preferred.
- 10 years working background in planning, implementation and monitoring of environmental management for large infrastructure projects is required.
- Experience in institutional capacity analysis, preparation and implementation of EMPs for works of similar nature and complexity, and knowledge of World Bank environmental safeguard policies is highly desired.
- Excellent communication and writing skills with higher-level computer skills in Windows operating system (Word, Excel, Access, etc.) are highly desired.

#### **8. Selection Method**

Selection of the Environmental Specialist will follow the procedures for selecting Individual Consultants described in the World Bank's Procurement Regulation for IPF Borrowers, July 2016.