



ARIAS SOCIETY

Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Society

(An Autonomous Body under Govt. of Assam)

Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Asian Development Bank financed Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) Project

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Draft Indicative Terms of Reference (ToR) Financial Management Executive (FME)

A) BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT:

1. The Sustainable Wetlands and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) project seeks to promote the sustainable management of Assam's wetland (beel) ecosystems and fisheries development by actively engaging local communities in the management process and enhancing their economic and livelihood conditions. SWIFT's integrated approach combines institutional strengthening for ecosystem conservation with the development of the beel fisheries value chain. This dual focus benefits both the environment and the local community, ensuring long-term sustainability and economic growth.
2. Specifically, the project is aligned with the following impact: income of small-scale food producers of Assam enhanced (Assam Vision 2030, Fisheries Sector); and the project will have the following outcome: beel fishery productivity and community-based sustainable wetland management enhanced in the state of Assam. Three outputs are envisaged.
3. **Output 1: Institutional capacity and regulatory framework for sustainable beel ecosystem and fisheries management strengthened.** The output aims to reform the current government system on beel management, particularly the leasing system. It will support the following activities: (i) updating relevant beel management and fishery acts, regulations, and rules for community-based management, and preparing public awareness-raising materials; (ii) preparing rules or guidelines for community-based beel management system, considering various hydrology of wetlands, channels, agro ecological situations, and providing necessary training on the subject; (iii) preparing a sustainable operational model as a project exit plan; (iv) capacity building and training of the Department of Fisheries (DoF) staff and other allied public institutions, including the state's wetland authority, in latest fisheries stocking and conservation techniques, community-based beel management best practices, and use of digital technologies; (v) supporting research and development in beel management and fisheries, including carbon sequestration benefits from beel management, climate change impacts and adaptation measures, seed production and breeding, and ex-situ conservation of endangered species; (vi) strengthening beel community-based institutions – specifically Beel Development Committees (BDCs); and (vii) operating beel management monitoring system through the development of project information system and beel fisheries knowledge platform, complementing the state wetland authority's wetland notification process.
4. **Output 2: Community-based fisheries business developed and beel community income diversified.** The project will ensure the sustainability of beel community-based institutions by enhancing their financial viability and strengthening women's and marginalized groups' participation in economic activities. The project will: (i) support the development or strengthening of the Beel Development Committees (BDCs), some of whom are or will operate as fisheries cooperatives; (ii) conduct capacity building for these BDCs through training in organizational and financial management, as well as branding, marketing and processing along the value chain; (ii) provide public sector support for the development of community-based fisheries value chain infrastructure, including fish landing sites and local aggregation

points/centers; (iii) promote private sector led fisheries commercialization by creating matching grant facilities for hatchery, feed mill, primary processing and other value addition initiatives; and (iv) support other income generation activities for self-help groups through strengthening or revitalizing self-help groups based on their needs assessment.

5. **Output 3:** Beel conservation and restoration planned and managed. The project addresses habitat loss caused by the loss of connectivity with the adjacent river and decreasing water depth, and macrophyte growth that hinders fisheries productivity in beel's. The beel restoration approaches will focus on: (i) beel demarcation; (ii) beel rejuvenation, such as de-weeding and desilting; and (iii) beel's water inflow and outflow control improvement, including desilting, constructing embankments, installing silt traps, building water retaining structures and peripheral bunds, and installing bio-filters.

B) Objective of the Assignment:

6. The services to be provided by the team of national consultants serving in the capacity of contractual staff, will assist the PMU and PIU in implementing project activities to achieve the expected objectives. This multidisciplinary team composed of national experts, will collaborate with DoF and partner agencies on project management, implementation, and capacity building. They will also ensure that safeguard measures are upheld, contributing to the successful delivery of the project's outputs and overall outcomes.
7. A dedicated SWIFT PMU has been established within ARIAS Society, headed by the SPD, ARIAS Society, and is responsible for overall project execution and ensuring the achievement of project objectives.
8. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU), under the leadership of the Director of Fisheries is placed at Directorate of Fisheries, Guwahati and is also spread across the five Zonal Offices (i.e. Cluster Project Implementation Unit) of the Department of Fisheries, each headed by the Deputy Director of the Zonal Office.
9. ARIAS Society now intends to engage a **Financial Management Executive (FME)** on contractual basis to be positioned at Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the SWIFT Project.

C) TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Financial Management Executive (FME) will report to the Financial Management Specialist and in his absence, report to the Deputy Project Director (Technical) and provide assistance on finance and accounting functions, including for the following:

10. Technical support in all areas of day to day finance and accounting functions and financial management of PIU, to ensure regular & proper keeping of accounts related records of the PIU, observing the standard accounting principles of double entry systems.
11. Work closely with the accounts team of ARIAS Society and will assist in works related to budget; work plan, grants disbursement and audits.
12. Regularly monitor the financial performance of PIU including monitoring of expenditures, including analysis and preparations of reports required for financial management of the project.
13. Assist in maintenance of the PIU Accounts as per the Financial Management Manual of SWIFT/ARIAS Society and other rules & regulations and guidelines issued by ARIAS Society from time to time.
14. Ensure that the Financial management systems and internal control procedures as applicable to the PIU are being adhered to by the various units.
15. Keep strong liaison with the Finance & Accounts personnel of the PMU, ARIAS Society with regards to consolidation of information, claim submission and other accounting issues.
16. Ensure that goods & services are procured in accordance with the relevant Financing & Project

Agreements and as per the ADB guidelines for procurement of goods, works & services.

17. Ensure that all expenditure incurred under SWIFT has been authorized by the SPD, ARIAS Society and entered into the MIS system of ARIAS Society and in Accounting Software (such as Tally).
18. Processing of bills/invoices etc for payment both in Manual and MIS/computerized financial accounting systems; including proper deduction of all applicable taxes and levies including service tax, TDS etc. and timely deposit all the returns to the concerned authorities.
19. Ensure that the asset sanctioned and created under the SWIFT have been recorded in the Asset Register showing their identification, location and custody.
20. Ensure that funds disbursed are properly accounted and that necessary supporting documents such as records, vouchers, relevant contract agreements, etc. and books of accounts are properly retained in respect of all project procurements & expenditures, so that these are made available to Audit (Chartered Accountant/Accountant General) on demand as and when required.
21. Assist in maintaining cash book on daily basis and will prepare monthly expenditure statements, compilation of monthly accounts & annual financial reports, and preparation of the monthly reimbursement applications and related statements of the PIU for sending to the Govt. of India/World Bank/ADB.
22. Prepare Power Point Presentation/detailed note in respect of Financial Status of the PIU as and when required.
23. Carry out monitoring visits with the program team and other members of finance team in order to ensure effective financial management of PIU.
24. Liaise with appointed internal auditors and review internal audit reports and will ensure compliance with corrective measures; review the external audit reports of Accountant General and will ensure compliance with corrective measures.
25. Any other official responsibilities as assigned by the Director of Fisheries/APD/DPD/Financial Management Specialist/or respective head of PIU.

D) ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE & DESIRED SKILL:

26. Graduate/Post Graduate in Commerce from any Govt. recognized University with in-depth knowledge of financial management procedures applicable for ADB/World Bank /externally funded projects and having hands on experience of operating Tally accounting software.
27. At least 5 years of experience in financial management related activities in any World Bank/Externally aided project or similar Govt. of India funded projects/National level reputed projects, with minimum 1 (one) year in Govt. projects.
28. Experience of operating Tally accounting software and using Internet based applications, and proficiency in MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point, etc.
29. Proven practical skills in the aspects of finance and accounts.
30. Demonstrated knowledge of ADB financial management policies, best practice, systems and tools.
31. Demonstrated strong conceptual, analytical skills with clarity of thought process and problem-solving skills.
32. Excellent organizational skills and accuracy with keen attention to detail.

E) DURATION OF CONTRACT, NOTICE PERIOD ETC

33. The initial contract period of Financial Management Executive (FME) will be for eleven (11) months and the continuity of the Financial Management Executive (FME) beyond eleven (11)

months from the date of signing the agreement will depend upon his/her performance and the requirement of the position etc as mentioned below. The decision of the SPD ARIAS Society shall be final and binding in this regard.

34. The contract with Financial Management Executive (FME) may be terminated by either side at any point of time during the contractual period by serving a 30 days' notice without assigning any reason and without thereby incurring any liability to the Govt. of Assam/ ARIAS Society. The assignment is purely contractual in nature and shall not, under any circumstance, be extended beyond the SWIFT's closing date. The Govt. of Assam/ ARIAS Society shall not undertake any responsibility for subsequent deployment of the incumbent.
35. The Financial Management Executive (FME) shall not assign or sub-contract, in whole or in part, his/her obligations to perform under this ToR, except with the reporting officer's prior written consent. The Financial Management Executive (FME) will have to serve the assigned office on full time basis under overall command of Director of Fisheries cum APD.
36. The assignment is purely contractual in nature and the SPD ARIAS Society reserves the right to terminate or cancel the assignment and/or shorten its duration or extend the duration, irrespective of whether the assigned tasks of Financial Management Executive (FME) as per the ToR has been completed or not, based on the requirements or availability of the project funds or performance and/or conduct of the Financial Management Executive (FME) or for convenience as determined by the SPD ARIAS Society, without thereby causing any liability to the GoA or the Government of India or the ADB. Whatever be the reason for termination, the Financial Management Executive (FME) shall comply with the termination order forthwith without any reservation.

F) REMUNERATION AND PAYMENT TERMS:

37. Depending on the qualifications, experience, competency, and also the remuneration/ CTC of the last assignment, the consolidated fixed annual Cost to project (CTP) of the FME will be determined and mutually agreed with the successful candidate, which would be in the range between **Rs.6.60 lakh to Rs.10.80 lakh per year**. The agreed annual CTP shall be inclusive of remuneration, performance-linked- incentive, communication allowance, health/service related allowance, all taxes, cost of accommodation and food at Guwahati, conveyance to attend the PIU, etc.
38. The remuneration will be given in equal monthly installments and the performance-linked-incentive will be given on quarterly basis based on the performance and achievement against the mutually agreed deliverables by the FME. Taxes as applicable shall be dealt with as per applicable laws. The remuneration may be enhanced on an Annual Basis, based on the HR Policy of the ARIAS Society.
39. Travelling, Boarding, Lodging and Food expenses for approved official tours outside Guwahati will be reimbursed as per the HR Policy of ARIAS Society and as provided in the contract agreement. For travel outside the State, the Travelling and Boarding & Lodging expenses will be reimbursed as per the HR Policy of the ARIAS Society and as provided in the contract agreement.

G) TRAVEL REQUIREMENT:

40. The FME will be required to undertake field-visits and tours to the project sites with the approval of Deputy Project Director (DPD). Occasional out of state visits may also be required as directed by the DPD.

H) REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

41. The FME will report to the Financial Management Specialist. The quality of service and performance of the FME will be reviewed by the Director on a quarterly basis and the annual performance review will be done as per the HR Policy of the ARIAS Society.

I) FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES

42. Will be given access to all documents, reports, correspondence, contacts available and any other information as deemed necessary for smooth accomplishments of tasks assigned.
43. Will be provided with one office cubicle in the PIU along with computer, printer, computer/office consumables, and internet access.
44. Will pay the fixed monthly remuneration as per the contract agreement. No house rent allowance or any other allowance shall be paid by the PIU. No other payment whatsoever (except reimbursement of travelling expenses and project allowance) shall be paid, except as agreed between the FME and the Director of Fisheries.
45. Will not be provided with any clerical assistance.

Note: This is a draft ToR and SPD, ARIAS Society reserves the right to change, update or modify this ToR at any stage till recruitment process is completed.