**Republic of Tajikistan**

**TAJIKISTAN RESILIENT LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT**

**TERMS OF REFERENCES AND SCOPE OF SERVICES**

**for**

**Biodiversity and Protected Area 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. **OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of the Biodiversity and Protected Area Specialist is to facilitate the implementation of activities on landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation and protected area management, as well as technical and consultative expertise on sustainable natural resources management initiatives.

1. **TASKS AND SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Project Coordinator, the selected Biodiversity and Protected Area Specialist will work closely with Project Coordinator, SISPNA, project partners and relevant institutions/stakeholders to complete the assignments. Tasks and responsibilities of consultant include but are not limited to:

* Provide technical advice on project activities related to landscape restoration, prevention and mitigation of landscape degradation, barriers to reverse degradation, and measures to increase productivity of the project target landscapes;
* Conduct assessments and analyses on the status of the species, including the potential risks oto biodiversity status in line with and protected area conservation and management objectives;
* Work collaboratively with SISPNA, and other project partners and stakeholders to identify pressures on biodiversity conservation and compile lists and inventories of existing of fauna and flora species in the Project’s target areas;
* Participate in the design and implementation of field-based approaches to biodiversity conservation and protected area management, including participatory approaches that include local communities and residents, e.g., measures to reduced people-wildlife conflicts;
* Design and provide training to stakeholders in measures to conserve biodiversity;
* Review sub-project proposals and provide detailed guidance on how best to incorporate biodiversity conservation and protected area management, including community-based and participatory approaches;
* Provide assistance in the area of biodiversity conservation in implementing crop-based livelihoods and Pasture Management Plans which will be executed by CIGs and Pasture Users Unions respectively with support of Facilitation Organizations in selected target villages and jamoats.
* Provide technical advice and support to the project – partner FUGs and the State Forestry Agency on biodiversity conservation, assisted natural regeneration, forest protection, as part of joint forest management (JFM), and other landscape restoration activities;
* Review project documents, such as Operational Manual, to ensure they provide sufficient guidance and suggest modifications as needed on promoting biodiversity conservation and protected area management, including participatory approaches;
* Network with other relevant project and stakeholders involved in forestry and landscape restoration areas, keeping them informed of project activities and supporting complementary approaches;
* Prepare and provide input into relevant terms of reference, and review technical aspects of deliverables of contracts concerning biodiversity conservation and protected area management;
* Provide inputs into Project manuals, technical and progress reports;
* Assist in monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity conservation, capturing success stories and innovative approaches supported by the project; and
* Any other tasks as agreed with the Project Coordinator.
1. **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS**

*Education*:

* Master’s degree or equivalent in natural resource management or environmental science, ecology, genetic resources, ecosystem services, and/or related field.

*Experience*:

* At least 5 years’ experience in natural resource management with a focus on biodiversity conservation and/or protected area management;
* At least 5 years’ experience in collecting, reviewing and analyzing data information related to biodiversity, biodiversity conservation and protected areas;
* Demonstrated experience in developing reports on natural resource management based on desk review including gap analyses, assessments, etc.;
* Demonstrated experience in conducting stakeholders’ engagement with the government ministries, NGOs, PUUs, FUGs, CIGs, and community-based Organization (CBOs) and groups.

*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 is desirable, fluency in written and spoke English is advantage.
1. **INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Biodiversity and Protected area Specialist will be contracted through the Committee for Environmental Protection and will work closely with the Project team and CEP and SISPNA specialists, the project partners, along with other stakeholders as needed.

1. **DURATION**

The Biodiversity and Protected Area 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 Biodiversity and Protected Area 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 provide office space, necessary equipment and documents for Specialist during the working period in the CEP office, and arrange transportation for field trips if required.

1. **LOCATION**

The Biodiversity and Protected Area Specialist will be based in Dushanbe with travel to the project sites.