

Terms of Reference (ToR)
for
Social/Environmental Coordinator for Mini Hydro Sub-project
(Full Time Individual Consultant)

1. Introduction:

Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) is the apex government body under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI), established to promote the use of alternative/renewable energy technology to meet the energy needs in Nepal. The Private Sector Led Mini Grid Energy Access Project (MGEAP) was initially launched in April 2019 to promote sustainable and decentralized energy solutions in Nepal. Following a series of restructurings, the project's closing date has now been extended to September 30, 2026. The objective of the project is to increase electricity access and delivery from renewable energy mini-grids (solar, hydro, wind, and hybrid) and large biogas plants by mobilizing private Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) and developers. The project is designed to support RE mini-grids market by introducing conditions to gradually shift from heavily subsidized to commercial model. The project will support mobilization of credit from participating Banks (PBs) to ESCOs for the development of mini-grid subprojects.

Nepal is one of six countries identified for assistance under the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP). As one of three programs under the Strategic Climate Fund, SREP aims to demonstrate the social, economic and environmental viability of low carbon development pathways in the energy sector. In particular, the objectives of SREP in Nepal are to: (i) leverage complementary credit and grant co-financing, (ii) bring about transformational impacts through scaling up energy access using renewable energy technologies (RETs), poverty reduction, gender and social inclusiveness and climate change mitigation, and (iii) ensure sustainable operations through technical assistance and capacity building. MoEWRI has designated the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) as the lead agency for SREP-related mini grids renewable energy initiatives and activities. SREP will support MGEAP to fulfill its objectives and target.

The primary objective of the project is to encourage and mobilize private sector investment in Nepal's renewable energy (RE) sector. Under this initiative, AEPC is supporting Energy Service Company (ESCO), Amadablam Mini Hydro Ltd. for the implementation of the Amadablam Mini Hydro Subproject in Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality–Ward No. 4, Solukhumbu District, Koshi Province, Nepal. The subproject intends to develop and operate the Amadablam Mini Hydro Subproject (911 kW) to supply electricity to 451 households. The subproject has received both technical and financial support from the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and the World Bank (WB).

The subproject is located in the Sagarmatha National Park of Pangboche, Ward No.4, Khumbhu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality thus carried out the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as per the Environmental Protection Rule, 2077 (2020) of the GoN and the Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in accordance Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared for MGEAP and Operational Policies on Environmental Assessment of the WB. In this background, AEPC/MGEAP is looking for site based Environmental and Social Safeguard Consultant who will ensure the compliance and implementation of Environment and Social Management Plans (ESMP) provisioned in EIA and ESIA in close coordination with Energy Service Company (ESCO), Contractors, and Project Management Team (PMT) of AEPC/MGEAP. The consultant will be responsible for ESMP implementation provisioned in EIA and ESIA, and monitoring & reporting of implementation of environmental measures in the subproject field level.

2. Objective:

The objective of obtaining consultancy services of Environmental and Social Safeguard is to assist project for implementing environmental and social safeguards measures prepared for the subproject. The Consultant's role is to ensure that ESS-related activities at the subproject site are effectively implemented by the ESCO and contractors in accordance with the EIA and ESIA prepared for the subproject.

3. Scope of Services (Activities):

The consultant shall work closely under the supervision of the Project Manager and PMT of the Project. The consultant will support the PMT and ESCO/Contractors in implementing ESS activities included in the signed contract between AEPC & ESCO/Contractors. Further to the above objectives, the consultant will focus on the following activities, but not limited to:

- Review Environmental Initial Assessments (EIA), Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), Biodiversity Assessments, and Geological Study reports of subprojects, including the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of AEPC/MGEAP;
- Implement the activities outlined in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and in other environmental and social studies conducted for the subprojects;
- Ensure the effective functioning of the Grievance Redress Mechanism at the subproject level;
- Implement occupational health and safety (OHS) measures—including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), provision of first aid, and placement of safety signage—as well as community health and safety measures, as outlined in the EIA and ESIA;
- Work closely with ESCOs and contractors for the implementation of ESS activities as per the approved ESS documents (EIA & ESIA) at the subproject site, in coordination with the PMT of AEPC/MGEAP;

- Maintain records of any incidents at the site and report them immediately to the ESCO and PMT of AEPC/MGEAP and other relevant agencies;
- Prepare and submit monthly ESS implementation reports to AEPC/MGEAP from the subproject site;
- Maintain the records and other documentations related to ESS activities conducted for subproject;
- Support ESCO for conducting periodic consultation with community people and other stakeholders;
- Support the ESCO and contractors in the management of waste generated during construction activities at the subproject site;
- Coordinate with stakeholders—ESCOs, rural municipalities/wards, Sagarmatha National Park (SNP), Buffer Zone, local institutions, etc.—to disseminate subproject-related information and maintain records of consultations;
- Conduct environmental and social compliance monitoring of subprojects and report findings to AEPC/MGEAP;
- Carry out any other ESS-related tasks as assigned by AEPC/MGEAP
- Any other tasks assigned by the Project Manager.

4. Performance and Reporting Requirement (Deliverable):

The consultant shall prepare and submit the required periodic reports for the activities undertaken as defined under Scope of Services.

5. Duration of Contract

The duration of the Consultant's service shall be for **one year** from the date of signing of contract, subject to annual renewal upon Consultant's satisfactory performance and need for the project. The consultant is expected to work on full time at the Amadablam Mini Hydro construction site with required travels to AEPC head Office, Kathmandu on related to the task. It is expected about 90% of time is required for field based.

6. Types of Contract and Terms of Payment

The contract with the Consultant will be Time Based. The payment to the consultant will be made on monthly basis upon submission of payment request including invoice, required report(s) and time-sheets. The consultant should submit a monthly report including the task activities of daily works, and get it approved from Project Manager. If no of days are not justified with the progress, Project Manager will verify the actual progress and payment shall be made accordingly. The fee, other than remuneration of consultant, will be reimbursed based on actual expenses incurred for the task, within the ceiling specified in the Contract.

7. Consultant's required Qualification and Experience:

Environmental and Social Safeguard Consultant shall have minimum bachelor degree in

environmental science/environment management/environmental/civil engineering or related discipline with an overall of 7 (seven) years of professional experience (or master degree with minimum 3 years of experience) in Environmental assessment & management; understanding of the national legislative and regulatory as well as WB Policy and new E&S Framework requirements; and proven report writing skills.

The candidate should also have:

- Proven experience in implementing the international environmental safeguard policies/standards and well conversant with Government of Nepal (GoN) environment related policies, new E&S framework, regulations and guidelines of the World Bank Group;
- Excellent command in Nepali and English language (both spoken and written) and communication skills;
- Knowledge of specific gender issues and sexual exploitation abuse and sexual harassment and sensitivity to local culture and traditions in Nepal;
- Knowledge and/or familiarity with the country's geography and willing to travel/trek & reside in the subproject sites located in remote part of the country;
- Ability to work well with government officials and community personnel;
- The candidate should be able to legally work in Nepal.

8. Facilities and logistics to the specialist by the Client:

The consultant will be paid a monthly remuneration (Consultancy Service Fee) for the services rendered, upon submission and approval of monthly time-sheet and invoice. Necessary stationery, printing and copying facilities will also be provided by the Client. Authorized travel expenses will be reimbursed. The Consultant will manage accommodation and other logistic facilities by themselves. Additional benefits such as festival allowances, leave, gratuities etc. will not be provided. If consultant is absent, the respective remuneration for particular period will be deducted from the payments.