

Terms of Reference (ToR)

For

Environment and Social Safeguard Expert (ESSE)

1. Background:

The Government of Nepal, through the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC), is implementing the South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Power System Expansion Project with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), comprising Loan 3139-NEP and Grant 0398-NEP, following an agreement signed on 11 July 2014. The project aims to support Nepal's energy goals by expanding both on-grid and off-grid renewable energy (RE) supply, promoting cross-border power exchange, improving rural energy access, and enhancing sector capacity. The off-grid component focuses on improving rural livelihoods through RE use in enterprise, education, health, and agriculture, in alignment with ADB's Country Partnership Strategy.

RERL providing technical assistance to AEPCC to implement SASEC Project Off grid Component, which includes development of 7 Mini Hydro Subprojects (MHP) and 9 Solar and Solar Wind Hybrid Mini Grids (SMG).

RERL is carrying out necessary field and central level activities for successful implementation. RERL proposed necessary dedicated professional to be focus on technical backstopping, smooth operation of MHPs, grid interconnection of SWMG, local mini grid extension for household electrification on possible MHPs, project financing, community mobilization, institution strengthening, promotion of PEU, post installation support ensuring Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) mainstreaming.

The Environment and Social Safeguard Expert (ESSE) will ensure the implementation of environment/social safeguard activities in line with available applicable frameworks and ADB SPS 2009 and updates. The ESSE shall be responsible for oversight and monitoring of implementation of ESS compliance.

2. Scope of the Task:

The expert will work directly under the supervision of NPM and in close coordination with other technical experts. The Consultant should be responsible and take full ownership for the following scope of work:

- Review environmental monitoring & GESI action plan of each subproject and ensure timely and effective implementation of the action plan and report to NPM.
- Review implementation of Environmental Assessment and Review Framework, Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework and Resettlement Framework of the project and recommend actions for full compliance per ADB and GoN requirements.
- Support in implementing safeguard plans and their monitoring, if necessary.
- Assess project work from climate change perspective and recommend measures for

improvement, if any.

- Train/orient project staff and other relevant stakeholders on ESS and ESMP.
- Guide, advise and ensure that the contractors/developers consult affected people/stakeholders in accordance with EARF, RF and IPPF.
- Ensure that the environmental safeguard compliance monitoring is conducted and reported as per national regulations and requirements.
- Review AEPC's manuals for community development plans, livelihood restoration programs, and gender mainstreaming and update as necessary.
- Ensure Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and its handling procedures, channels based on EARF are compiled to and prepare GRM database in order to ensure that all registered complains are addressed properly.
- Any other tasks assigned by NPM to support the project with respect to environmental and social issues and preparation of documents as required by ADB.

3. Consultant's required Qualification and Experience

The ESSE shall have minimum master's degree in environmental science, environment management, environmental/civil engineering or related fields preferably with minimum 5 years' working experience in environment and social safeguard preferably in RE sector. S/he shall be able to work in a team, develop synergies and establish effective working relations with various stakeholders. Strong interpersonal and communications skills both in written and spoken English and Nepali is required.

4. Type of Contract and Term of Payment:

The contract for the Consultants will be Time Based. The payment to the consultant will be made on monthly basis upon submission of payment request including required report(s) and time-sheets.

5. Duration of Service:

The duration of the Consultant's service shall be until end of December 2026 with possibility of renewal upon Consultant's satisfactory performance and need for the program. The consultant is expected to work on **full time** at the office of AEPC/RERL with required frequent travels outside Kathmandu valley within Nepal at the sub-project sites on project/program related matters.

6. Facilities and logistics to the Consultant by the Client:

The consultant will be provided office space, internet facilities, and office furniture. Necessary stationery, printing and copying facilities will also be provided by the Client. 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.