

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Terms of Reference (ToR):</b> <b>Senior Social Safeguard Expert (Intermittent) for Nepal: Private Sector Led</b> <b>Mini Grid Energy Access Project (MGEAP)</b></p>
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## **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 Mini Grid Energy Access Project (MGEAP), supported by the World Bank, will be implemented by AEPC from February 2019 (tentative). The objective of the project is to increase electricity access and delivery from renewable energy mini-grids (solar, hydro, wind, and hybrid) by mobilizing private Energy Service Companies (ESCOs). 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.

## **2. Background:**

The project will involve construction activities that bear potential risk on physical, biological, social and cultural environment of any area. Because of weak geology, rich biodiversity, high dependency of people on natural resources and widespread poverty, the social and environmental impacts are visibly significant, particularly when construction works are undertaken in sub-project areas.

Generally, the environmental and social risks triggered by construction include erosion, loss of forest, biodiversity and agricultural land; effect to water sources due to sedimentation and water logging, displacement/damage of permanent assets and loss of land. These problems are apparent not only during construction but also during operation phase. Hence, proper consideration of all environmental and social factors during the MGEAP's design and implementation is of utmost concern. It is required to undertake environmental and social due diligence to assess the environmental and social implications of developing energy projects. The due diligence shall be conducted based on the National Regulations and the World Bank's safeguard requirement. To achieve these objectives, it is required to prepare relevant environmental and social documents to assess potential impacts.

Hence, AEPC/MGEAP is looking for a Senior Social Safeguard Expert to aid the AEPC/MGEAP in overall social safeguard related activities.

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### **3. Objectives:**

Senior Social Safeguard Expert shall lead the PIU team to coordinate and ensure the formulation and implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for Private Sector Mini Grid Energy Access Project. Senior Social Safeguard Expert shall be responsible for overall management, oversight and monitoring of implementation of social measures in the Private Sector Led Mini Grid Energy Access Project during the project preparation and implementation phase.

### **4. Scope of Service (Activities):**

The scope of work shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to the following:

- Implement Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) considering various types of subprojects (Micro/Mini-hydro, Solar and Solar/Wind hybrid, grid interconnection);
- Prepare and implement plan for social safeguard training/ orientations, and train/ orient the project PIU staff, ESCOs and Partner Banks on the application of ESMF including RPF, VCDF, GDF etc;
- Conduct social screening and categorization for the subproject prepared by AEPC or proposed by the ESCOs;
- Oversee the process of social impact assessment and preparation of risk management plan, for submission by AEPC to the World Bank for review, and to the Ministry for approval;
- Support and guide the social safeguard expert in preparation and implementation of Resettlement Action Plan and other social management plans and ensure all requirements outlined in the ESMF/RPF are met.
- Coordinate with and inform/ update the World Bank in matters related to ESMF application including screening and categorization, TOR, ESMP, RAP, VCDP, IEE and ESIA;
- Review the DFS/ DPR as well as bid documents of each subproject and certify that social mitigations, recommended in screening, ESMP/ IEE/ EIA/ RAP/ VCDP/SA, are incorporated in the respective DFS/ DPR;
- Provide guidance to subproject developers in preparing the SIA or ESIA (as per WB requirement) for each particular subproject;
- Guide, advise and ensure that the ESCOs/Partner Banks consult affected people/ stakeholders in accordance with ESMF during preparation of specific safeguard document and implementation of mitigations;
- Ensure that ESMP, RAP, VCDP, IEE, GRM system etc (safeguard instruments) are translated, disclosed, and disseminated to relevant stakeholders as required in the ESMF.
- Conduct consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders to discuss site specific social issues of sub-project and get feedbacks from the participants to address it in a systematic manner;
- Prepare the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and its handling procedures, channels based up on ESMF and prepare GRM database in order to ensure that all registered complains are addressed properly;

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- Ensure the social safeguard compliance monitoring has been done and reported as per National regulations and the World Bank requirement;
- Any other tasks assigned by Project Manager to support the project with respect to environmental and social issues.

**5. Performance and Reporting Requirement (Deliverables):**

The Senior Social Safeguard Expert shall prepare monthly, quarterly, semiannual and annual report that should incorporate the Specific Social Assessment monitoring and capacity building activities.

**6. Duration of Service:**

The Expert will be assigned for full project period with a provision of renew of contract each year and possibilities of further extension, in case of satisfactory performance. The expert is expected to work in intermittent basis with required travels outside Kathmandu valley within Nepal on project related matters. The contract will be effective only after the effective date of the project.

**7. Expert's required Qualification and Experience:**

Senior Social Safeguard Expert shall have a Masters' degree in Sociology/Social Science with minimum of 10 (Ten) years of experience in Social Impact Assessment study and report preparation; understanding of the national legislative and regulatory as well as WB Social Safeguard Policy requirements; and proven report writing skills.

The candidate should also have:

- Proven experience in implementing the international social safeguard policies/standards and well conversant with Government of Nepal (GoN) social related policies, regulations and guidelines of the World Bank;
- Excellent command in Nepali and English language (both spoken and written) and communication skills;
- Knowledge of specific GESI and sensitivity to local culture and traditions in Nepal;
- Knowledge and/or familiarity with the country's geography and willing to travel/trek to the project sites located in remote part of the country;
- Ability to work well with Government officials and community personnel;
- Strong and demonstrated capacity for organization, management with excellent reporting and coordination skills;
- Strong leadership, technical competence and professional skills for timely implementation, coordination and management of activities;
- Ability to work in a team, develop synergies and establish effective working relations with various stakeholders;
- Strong interpersonal and communications skills, resourcefulness, initiative, tact and ability to cope with challenging situations;
- The candidate should be able to legally work in Nepal.

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**8. Facilities and logistics to the expert by the Client:**

The Expert shall be provided with the office space, internet facilities, and office furniture. Necessary stationery, printing and copying facilities shall also be provided by the Client.