



Government of Lumbini Province
Ministry of Forests and Environment
Forest Directorate
Forests for Prosperity Project, Provincial Project Management Unit
Butwal, Rupandehi

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F. Province Forest Director

Request for Expressions of Interest

(Date of Second Time Publication: 13 February 2025)

Country: Nepal
Project: Forest for Prosperity Project
Grant No. TF-B2796

Assignment Title: Consulting Service for Providing Skill Development Trainings to Forest-Based Entrepreneurs and Employees in in Project Districts in Lumbini Province

Reference No.: NP-MOTIFE-BUTWAL-469302-CS-CQS

The Government of Nepal has received a financing from The World Bank for Forest for Prosperity Project, and it intends to apply the fund for hiring of qualified consulting firm for deliver quality skill development trainings to young wood furniture entrepreneurs and employees in project districts in Lumbini province.

Forest Directorate now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

- core business and years in business,
- relevant experience,
- technical and managerial capability of the firm.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” Fifth Edition September 2023 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

When applying as a joint venture (JV), each firm must individually meet the requirement of having a minimum of seven years of working experience in related field.



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A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultants Qualification-based Selection Method (CQS) set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information and ToR can be obtained at the address below during office hours or may visit our official website <https://pfdir.lumbini.gov.np/>

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form (in person or by e-mail) to the address below no later than 14.00 hrs on 20 February 2025.

In case last date of submission of EoI happens to be holiday, the next working day will be deemed as the due date at the same time.

Contact address:

Forest Directorate

Forests for Prosperity Project, Provincial Project Management Unit
Butwal, Rupandehi

Email: forestdirectorate5@gmail.com

Website: pfdir.lumbini.gov.np

Telephone: +977-71- 572968



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General Guidelines for EoI

Cover letter: Letter expressing interest in providing the required consulting services and Self declaring that the firm is not blacklisted or debarred by Government of Nepal and the World Bank.

Firm's Profile with Core business: Name, Address, primary areas of specialization or focus of the firm years of Establishment and business, Legal documents and contact details etc.

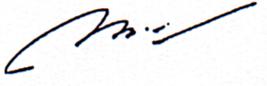
Experience of the Firm: Information about experience with highlighting relevant assignments.

Technical Capability of the Firm: Information about the availability of the Key personnel and their expertise, Description of resources etc.

Managerial Capability of the Firm: Include firm's ability to effectively manage the assignment, resources and achieve the desired outcomes, Organizational structure, annual turnover etc.



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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR

CONSULTING SERVICE FOR PROVIDING SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS TO FOREST-BASED ENTREPRENEURS AND EMPLOYEES IN PROJECT DISTRICTS IN LUMBINI PROVINCE

(Contract ID: NP-MOTIFE-BUTWAL-467582-CS-CQS)

1. Introduction

Government data show that a large amount of wood products are imported every year from abroad. Besides, the government report states forest and other woodland together cover 6.61 million ha, representing a forest cover of 44.74% of the total area of the country. It is reported that although Nepal is richly endowed with forest resources, the forest sector productivity is low and the country imports wood products. Study reports indicate that the forestry sector has the potential to generate significant employment opportunities, but it is still untapped as anticipated. Moreover, the furniture industry is an important sub-sector of the forestry sector in the country, generating income and employment. Among others, the major constraint for the furniture industry is the unavailability of skilled human resources to manufacture and assemble furniture, both in rural and urban areas and, for various reasons, remarkably foreign employment.

Officially reported harvests of round wood average about 60,000 m³/year. Moreover, a study has estimated that 900,000 m³ of timber could be sustainably harvested annually, generating employment opportunities for 4.8 million people in the country. After decades of effective protection, a significant area of forest under a community-based forest management regime now has the potential for the sustainable production of timber and non-timber forest products to meet rural livelihood needs, sustain local forest-based enterprises and jobs and substitute imports. The government's forest sector strategy and policy have the goal of increasing forests' contribution to national prosperity and climate change mitigation.

Nepal Forests for Prosperity Project

Forests for Prosperity Project (FPP) is a four-year project effective from July 16, 2021, being implemented jointly by three-tier governing structures, the Federal Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), the Provincial Ministry of Forests and Environment of Lumbini Province Government, the Provincial Ministry of Forests and Environment of Madhesh Province Government and Office of Municipal Executive of fifty Local Governments consistent with their mandates under the federal Constitution in eighteen districts of Lumbini and Madhesh Province of Nepal with financial support from the World Bank.


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The objective of the project is to improve sustainable forest management, increase benefits from forests and contribute to net greenhouse gas emission reduction in selected municipalities in Lumbini and Madhesh Provinces of Nepal. The Project has four components: 1) policy and capacity building support for new government structures and processes for sustainable forest management, 2) community-based sustainable forest management and smallholder forest plantations, 3) forest enterprise improvement and development and 4) project management, monitoring and learning. The Federal MoFE leads project implementation and is responsible for the overall management and coordination of the project.

Furthermore, the FPP Project Appraisal Document states that the enabling and regulatory environment and access to finance for forest-based enterprises has yet to be favorable. Moreover, lack of financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills, skilled human resources, business planning and marketing are other major concerns regarding forest-based enterprise development. FPP intends to impart support to increase the forest area under sustainable community-based productive management and under private plantations, resulting in greater supplies of wood and non-wood forest products. Moreover, investments in forest-based enterprises to stimulate to utilize these products and generate paid employment, by removing regulatory constraints and by providing technical assistance and access to credit and capacity building of the different institutions operating in the forest sector.

The forest-based enterprise improvement and development component intends to support the forest product-based private sector by improving the enabling conditions and providing access to finance. It has two sub-components: a) enabling the environment for the forest-based private sector and b) design and piloting a viable credit line for forest-based enterprises (micro, small and medium) improvement and development. Agricultural Development Bank Limited (ADBL) supports the implementation of the private sector component, and manages the credit line for forest-based enterprises improvement and development in the targeted provinces.

The project intends to support forest-based private sector to enable the business environment in the targeted districts in Lumbini province. Nevertheless, the skills and knowledge needed for making furniture are in short supply. In addition, there is a shortage of appropriately skilled individuals able to do quality furniture production and modern furniture fittings. With this background, FPP Provincial Project Management Unit (PPMU), Butwal intends to procure consulting service for providing skill development trainings to the forest-based entrepreneurs and employees in project districts in Lumbini province.

2. Objective of Assignment

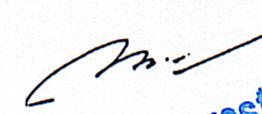
The objective of this assignment is to deliver quality skill development trainings to young wood furniture entrepreneurs and employees in project districts in Lumbini province.

3. Training Information

The training program includes two types of training: a) basic skill training and b) skill-upgrading training, for young wood furniture entrepreneurs and employees in targeted project districts in Lumbini province. Information regarding training types, number of trainees, training duration and targeted districts are illustrated in Table 1: Training types include: a) training course in 'Assistant Furniture Maker' refers to the Assistant Furniture Maker course designed by the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) in 2077, Modular Furniture Fitter course refers course designed by Furniture and Fittings Sector Skill Council in 2015 and the training course in 'Furniture Finishing and Polishing' refers to Professional Carpenter Course 2073- Module 6.5 course designed by the CTEVT.

Table 1: Training Information

S.N.	Training Title	Number of Trainees	Training Duration (hours/days)	Targeted Districts
1	Assistant Furniture Maker (Basic)	20	390 hours (65days)	Bardia, Banke, Dang, Rolpa, Pyuthan and Eastern Rukum
2	Modular Furniture Fitter (skill-upgrading)	20	180 hours (30days)	Arghakhanchi, Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West), Palpa and Rupandehi, Bardia, Banke, Dang, Rolpa, Pyuthan, Eastern Rukum and Gulmi
3	Furniture Finishing and Polishing (skill-upgrading)	20	40 hours (7days)	Arghakhanchi, Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West), Palpa, Rupandehi and Gulmi

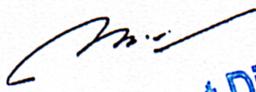

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4. Scope of Assignment

The scope of this assignment are as follows;

- Identify and assess potential young trainees (wood furniture entrepreneurs and employees) in an inclusive manner in Arghakhanchi, Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West), Palpa, Rupandehi, Bardia, Banke, Dang, Rolpa, Gulmi, Eastern Rukum and Pyuthan districts in Lumbini province in consultation with PPMU team;
- Coordinate with the Project and other related stakeholders for training implementation planning including training participants and venues selection;
- Review curriculum of 'Assistant Furniture Maker' course (390 hours short-term competency-based training course designed by CTEVT in 2077), Professional Carpenter Course 2073 and Module 6.5 designed by CTEVT and Fitter- Modular Furniture course designed by Furniture and Fittings Sector Skill Council in 2015;
- Prepare training implementation plans;
- Design training modules and sub-modules delivery materials following above mentioned curriculum including Occupational Health and Safety (OHS);
- Prepare training monitoring plans;
- Manage tools, equipment, materials, physical infrastructure, logistics required for training as prescribed in the course curriculum;
- Conduct three skill development training course (following training information illustrated in Table 1);
- Supervise trainee's performance and provide necessary feedback for their improvement and maintain the records;
- Manage/maintain, trainers' log book, trainee's attendance and other training related documents;
- Conduct training monitoring following a monitoring plan;
- Prepare training evaluation reports;
- Conduct trainees satisfaction survey

- Provide training course completion certificate;
- Prepare training completion reports.


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5. Expected Output

The expected output of this assignment is 60 young wood furniture entrepreneurs and employees trained in furniture maker courses (Assistant Furniture Maker, Modular Furniture Fitter and Furniture Finishing and Polishing) in targeted districts in Lumbini province.

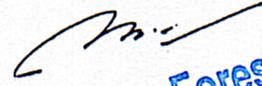
6. Methodology

The service provider will propose a detailed methodology, but not limited to, based on the following outline:

- Public notification: Dissemination of notice regarding invitation of applications from the interested individuals (young wood furniture entrepreneurs and employees) seeking a professional training course in 'Furniture Maker' through different communication means, including notice dissemination to Division Forest Offices, District Cottage and Small Industry Offices, ADBL Branch Offices, Municipalities and other in targeted districts for displaying notice on the notice boards; and other communication means (print and electronic) in consultation with PPMU;
- Application prioritization: Collection and compilation of submitted applications from interested individuals. Prioritizing applications from interested individuals adopting a first come, first served approach, based on criteria prescribed in the CTVET curriculum document in an inclusive manner;
- Conduct meetings: Conduct formal and informal meetings with the Project team and other related stakeholders;
- Review Curriculum: Review curriculum of Assistant Furniture Maker course 2077 and Professional Carpenter Course 2073 designed by CTEVT and Fitter- Modular Furniture course designed by Furniture and Fittings Sector Skill Council in 2015;
- Discussion/ Consultation: Consult with team members on training implementation plan, designing training modules and sub-modules and training monitoring plan;
- Goods and services procurement: Procure goods and services and manage tools, equipment, materials, physical infrastructure, logistics required for training as prescribed in the course curriculum;
- Conduct trainings: Conduct training following an agreed training curriculum. The methods of teaching for this training program include a combination of theory and practical methods. Such as illustrated lecture, group discussion, demonstration, simulation, guided practice, self-practice, practical experiences, and other independent learning;
- Conduct monitoring: Conduct daily/weekly monitoring of training program;
- Conduct training evaluation: Maintain the records of daily/weekly performance evaluation of the trainees and prepare a training evaluation report including trainees satisfaction survey report;
- Report preparation: Synthesis the daily training session/module delivery report and daily/weekly performance evaluation of the trainees and prepare final progress report.

7. Deliverables

The assignment is expected to produce the following deliverables.


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- a) First Milestone Report with training commencement report including detailed information of enrolled trainees, attendance sheet of trainees, attendance sheet of trainers and relevant training photographs.
- b) Second Milestone Report with training completion report including detailed information on delivered modules, information on training participants, attendance sheet of trainees, attendance sheet of trainers, performance evaluation of the trainees, learning and recommendation, training session photographs other relevant information.
- c) Final Report (digital & hardcopy) incorporating comments and feedbacks;

8. Deliverables and Duration of Assignment

The deliverables of this assignment and schedule for submission of each deliverable have illustrated below table.

No	Deliverable	Schedule for submission
1	First Milestone Report	30 calendar days after signing contract
2	Second Milestone Report	65 calendar days after submission of First Milestone Report
3	Final Report	7 calendar days after submission of Second Milestone Report

9. Institutional Arrangement/ Reporting Mechanism

The service provider/firm will work under the general guidance and supervision of Province Forest Director/ Provincial Project Coordinator. However, the service provider/firm will work in close coordination and collaboration with Provincial Project Management Unit team. At the District level, service provider/firm will undertake the assignment in close coordination and consultation with the Division Forest Offices, Municipalities/ Rural Municipalities, Agricultural Development Bank Limited Branch Offices, Sub-Division Forest Offices, potential forest based entrepreneurs and others.

10. Payment and Authority

The service provider/firm will indicate the cost of services for each deliverable under this assignment. The organization will be paid only after the authorized person confirms the successful completion of deliverables as outlined below. The service provider/firm shall receive payment upon certification of the completed tasks satisfactorily with associated documents, as per the following payment schedule:

Payment Period	Deliverable	Percentage of Payment
First Instalment	First Milestone Report	30%
Second Instalment	Second Milestone Report	40%
Third Instalment	Final Report	30%

11. Qualification of the Firm and Required Competency of the Training Service Provider

The firm(s) registered with company or firm registration and renewal, and registered in VAT system are eligible to apply. The firms/company should have tax clearance of the last fiscal year. In case of JV, all the partners/firms should have firm registration and renewal, VAT registration and tax clearance. The firm/firms should have minimum seven years of work experience in related field. In case of JV, all the partners/firms should have minimum experience required for all the members.

The training provider is required to have following minimum physical facilities and human resources to carry out the services.

Physical Infrastructure and Facilities Requirements:

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The training provider must have the adequate physical infrastructures and facilities for the training program as stated in the curriculum, which includes well-equipped classrooms, practical room and adequate tools, equipment and training materials, safety equipment/provisions as stated in the curriculum of CTEVT. The facilities and materials will be as per the curriculum/module, which is subjected to verification during the selection process if deemed necessary.

Team Composition and their Qualifications:

The team composition for this assignment includes a) training coordinator and b) trainer/ training instructors. The ratio of instructor and trainees must be 1:10. Instructors conduct classroom-based training in the training venue as well as supervise/monitor the performance of the trainees, including one training coordinator for overall management. The core competencies of the team required for this assignment are illustrated in the below table.

Team core competencies

A Assistant Furniture Maker Training		
S.N.	Key Expert	Minimum Qualification and Experience Required
1	Training Coordinator	Bachelor degree or more in any discipline. Minimum 3 years work experience in coordination, developing training plan, training implementation, training monitoring and evaluation and data analysis etc. Experiences of occupational health safety and human resource planning in consultancy or industrial sector of Nepal will be preferable.
2	Head Trainer/ Training Instructor	Technical SLC course in relevant subject or NSTB Level II in relevant occupation from CTEVT and have at least two years or more experience in relevant field with minimum 390 hour work experience in delivering training in related occupation or relevant.
3	Assistant Trainer/ Training Instructor	Technical SLC course in relevant subject or NSTB Level II in relevant occupation from CTEVT and have at least one year or more experience in relevant field with minimum 390 hour work experience in delivering training in related occupation or relevant.
B Furniture Finishing and Polishing Training		
S.N.	Key Expert	Minimum Qualification and Experience Required
1	Training Coordinator	Bachelor degree or more in any discipline. Minimum 3 years work experience in coordination, developing training plan, training implementation, training monitoring and evaluation and data analysis etc. Experiences of occupational health safety and human resource planning in consultancy or industrial sector of Nepal will be preferable.
2	Trainer/ Training Instructor	Technical SLC course in relevant subject or NSTB Level II in relevant occupation from CTEVT and have at least two years or more experience in relevant field.
C Modular Furniture Fitter Training		


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1	Training Coordinator	Bachelor degree or more in any discipline. Minimum 3 years work experience in coordination, developing training plan, training implementation, training monitoring and evaluation and data analysis etc. Experiences of occupational health safety and human resource planning in consultancy or industrial sector of Nepal will be preferable.
2	Modular Furniture Designer	Bachelor degree or more in relevant discipline. Minimum 2 years work experience in modular furniture designing or relevant designing and assembling experience.
3	Head Trainer/ Training Instructor	Technical SLC course in relevant subject or NSTB Level II in relevant occupation from CTEVT and have at least two years or more experience in relevant field with minimum 390 hour work experience in delivering training in related occupation or relevant.
4	Assistant Trainer/ Training Instructor	Technical SLC course in relevant subject or NSTB Level II in relevant occupation from CTEVT and have at least one year or more experience in relevant field with minimum 390 hour work experience in delivering training in related occupation or relevant.

12. Selection Process and Criteria

Selection process of the qualified firm/s will start from advertising for "Expression of Interest (EoI)". Method of selection will be Consultant Quality Selection (CQS). The top ranked firm based on the evaluation of the submitted EoIs will be requested to submit the full proposal following The World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, fifth edition September 2023.

13. Work Schedule

The assignment is expected to commence from the last week of February 2025 and should be completed by June 2025.