



Ref No: 144-WRAP-25-26

RFP FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES WWF-PAKISTAN

SUBJECT: Study on Carbon sequestration of the selective peatland sites of KP and GB
(Deosai, Langar Shandor, Naltar, Broghil valley and Gobor valley)

Application Submission: Interested consultants should submit the Proposal on the Application Form Available Online or can access through the following Link:
<https://forms.gle/Mr6EeFsPHYytky9F9>

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1) INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Contract type: | Consultancy and Services |
| Duration of assignment: | 01 – 08 - 2025 to 30-12-2025 |
| Type: | Individual or firm |

Background of Project & Assignment:

Peatlands are the largest terrestrial carbon reservoir in the world, storing approximately one-third of the Earth's soil carbon in only 3% of the land area. They play a crucial role in mitigating global climate change. The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) is home to the most extensive high-altitude peatlands globally (above 3000 meters), with carbon stocks and carbon fluxes significantly higher than the global average. However, current climate change, land use, and population growth are threatening the region's peatland carbon storage and carbon sink functions. Despite their significance, there is a lack of systematic understanding of the spatial and temporal dynamics of peatland carbon stocks in the GB region. The stability of organic carbon under changing climatic conditions is a key research challenge and hotspot. The contributions of intense human activities and climate change to peatland carbon stock changes in this region remain unclear, posing significant challenges to its sustainable management.

This study aims to assess the distribution, evolution, and soil carbon dynamics of peatlands in the GB region through field surveys and model simulations. It will analyze the key mechanisms of peatland soil carbon stability across different areas and quantify the relative contributions of natural and human activities to carbon stock changes. Based on the evolution and stability mechanisms of peatland carbon in this region, the study will use model simulations to identify the key ecological factors and thresholds that drive shifts between carbon sources and sinks in the peatlands. It will propose sustainable management strategies aimed at maintaining the stability of peatland carbon stocks in the GB.

The objectives of the consultancy are to quantify the carbon sequestration potential of identified peatland areas in GB and KP, viz., Deosai, Langar Shandor & Naltar, Broghil valley and Gobor Valley) and provide data driven recommendations for conservation and restoration to enhance their role as carbon sinks.

2) GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 1) The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right to reject or accept any proposal. The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right to proceed with the implementation of any Service, in whole or in part, as described in the Proposal.
- 2) The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right to engage in discussions with any BIDDER to clarify responses or discuss certain issues with regard to the proposal or services requested. The WWF-PAKISTAN has no obligation to notify the other BIDDERS of the discussions, clarifications, or other information provided by a BIDDER. Any additional information required for the preparation of the BID shall be distributed to all participants at the same time.
- 3) The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right to award the proposal based on experience, qualification, completion date, service cost, and other criteria, and not necessarily the lowest cost.
- 4) Based on the RFP BID the WWF-PAKISTAN is entitled to change/replace or omit any clause/part of the preliminary defined scope of services of the proposal. The WWF-PAKISTAN shall conduct negotiations with WWF to achieve the full compliance to the requirements.
- 5) The WWF-PAKISTAN reserves the right in the event the successful CONSULTANT fails to comply with the terms and conditions as listed, to cancel this contract and award it to another CONSULTANT without penalty or action against the WWF-PAKISTAN. The RFP does not constitute an agreement or order.
- 6) The RFP is not a binding agreement between the parties, submission of a proposal or response by a proponent is voluntary.

7) By submitting a bid, the BIDDER is deemed to have acknowledged all of the undertakings, specifications, terms and conditions, **WWF Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Investigation Policy and WWF's Environment Social & Safeguard for consultant agreement** and to be bound by them if the BID is accepted. All expenses incurred by the Bidder in connection with the preparation of its proposal are to be borne by the RFP participant, and the WWF-PAKISTAN shall not incur any obligation whatsoever toward the Bidder regardless of whether such bid is accepted or rejected.

3) PURPOSE

a. The objective of the Consultancy:

The objectives of the consultancy are to quantify the carbon sequestration potential of identified peatland areas in GB and KP, viz., (Deosai, Langar Shandor & Naltar (GB), Broghil and Gobor (Chitral) and provide data driven recommendations for conservation and restoration to enhance their role as carbon sinks..

b. Specific Tasks:

The specific tasks are:

The consultant will be responsible for conducting the following tasks viz:

1. Review existing literature, data, and previous studies related to peatland carbon stocks in the project area.
2. Conduct field surveys to collect data on peatland extent, depth, vegetation, and other relevant parameters.
3. Collect soil and vegetation samples from representative peatland sites.
4. Identify and map selected peatland areas for carbon assessment.
5. Design and implement a scientifically sound field sampling strategy.
6. Sample peat soils to determine organic carbon content through laboratory analysis.
7. Estimate current carbon stocks and sequestration potential based on collected data.
8. Identify key factors influencing carbon sequestration in the peatlands.
9. Develop a carbon sequestration model or methodology that is suitable for the site conditions.
10. Prepare recommendations for peatland management to maximize carbon sequestration potential.
11. Assess anthropogenic threats and land-use changes affecting peatlands.
12. Provide recommendations for peatland protection, restoration, and inclusion in national Green House Gases (GHG) inventories and climate strategies.
13. Prepare a comprehensive report documenting methodology, findings, and recommendations.

Methodology

The methodology should be designed as:

1. Remote sensing and GIS tools for mapping peatland extent and changes.
2. Standard IPCC methodologies and other best practices for peat carbon assessment.
3. Laboratory analysis for soil organic carbon and peat characteristics.
4. Stakeholder consultations with local communities, government agencies, and conservation groups.

4) Deliverables

The deliverable for the consultancy is to:

1. Inception report with detailed methodology, survey tools, and work plan.
2. Field sampling and data collection report.
3. GIS based maps showing peatland distribution and carbon stock estimations.
4. Final reports for each site including viz.., Quantified carbon stocks and sequestration potential, Drivers of degradation or conservation, Recommendations for policy, restoration, and climate financing (e.g., carbon credits), Presentation of findings to key stakeholders.
5. Carbon accounting compatible with national reporting (e.g., under UNFCCC), and explore monetization options (e.g., Verified Carbon Standards).

5) REQUIREMENTS

a. Eligibility

- Proven experience in carbon assessment and ecosystem valuation.
- Familiarity with peatland ecology, restoration, and mapping.
- Knowledge of IPCC guidelines, REDD+, and carbon accounting frameworks.
- Strong analytical, writing, and GIS skills
- Proven experience in designing and delivering training programs, particularly in renewable energy technologies.
- Identifies and aligns with the core values of the WWF organization: courage, Collaboration, Respect, and Integrity.
- Adhere to WWF's brand characteristics: Knowledgeable, Optimistic, Determined, and Engaging.

b. Qualification

- Advanced degree in environmental science, soil science, forestry, climate change, or a related field.

c. Experience

- At least 8 years of experience in conducting the research studies related to peat lands and carbon sequestration.

6) CORRESPONDENCE & SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

1. **Application Submission:** Interested consultants should submit the Proposal on the Application Form Available Online or can access through the following Link:
<https://forms.gle/Mr6EeFsPHYytky9F9>
2. Interested consultants should submit the Proposal and can send their Queries through Email by attention to the following:

To: Faiza khan (fakhan@wwf.org.pk)
3. The RFP submission deadline is mentioned on WWF-Website.
4. Any information and responses to inquiries will be made in writing and distributed by email to all proponents. Enquiries after the foregoing deadline will not receive a response.

7) FORMAT OF THE PROPOSAL

The BID submitted by the participant must be structured as per the below provided instructions:

- 1) **Application Form available at WWF-Website** - General information about the Bidder, covering qualification and experience, CV and all related Information.
- 2) **Experience:**
 - a) **Description of the complete projects:** the list and general information about the complete projects, description of the role in the project, and other accomplishments of the Consultant.
- 3) **Proposal outlining scope consultancy service-** Description of scope and working process, stages, deliverables, exclusions, conditions;
- 4) **Provide template of already complete similar type of reports-** the WWF-PAKISTAN may request additionally;
- 5) **Service Provision Timeline** – Provide Detailed Work Plan as per Deliverable and TORs.
- 6) **Financial Proposal-** the prices shall be provided in **Pak Rs, 4,000,000//** the total price shall

include all costs related to service provision including applicable taxes.

Note:

Templates of all Information is provided on the application form available at WWF-Website. Any Additional Information related to the RFP can be attached along with the application Form.

8) FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The proposed prices shall be provided in PKR, the total price shall include all costs related to service provision including all Direct and Indirect taxes, Travel, Boarding & Lodging shall be based on actual receipt up to max Ceiling (If Any).

The consultant will submit the cost of the assignment in a lump sum, including all applicable taxes according to the Government of Pakistan and the Government of KP

The Payment Term: shall be defined by the contract to be concluded between WWF -Pakistan and the consultant.

9) EVALUATION PROCESS

The applicant's proposal shall be evaluated based on the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method. Under QCBS both technical and financial proposals shall be evaluated as per the following criteria against a maximum score of 100 points.

A) Technical Proposal (70%)

- Detailed work plan
- Expression of interest (EOI)
- Company Profile
- Detailed methodology

B) Financial Proposal (30%)

- Detailed financial proposal which should be inclusive of all applicable taxes and out of pocket expenses. The financial proposal should follow a breakdown structure i.e., specifying cost(s) to each head and subhead
- Company's registration certificate
- NTN detail(s)
- Any legal or technical certification required for the task
- Audited Accounts Report (if available) of last FY

Note: Late/ incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Only three (03) top-ranked firms will be included in the comparative process

10) DOCUMENTATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All documents completed based on requirements of the present RFP shall be the property of the WWF-Pakistan, and shall not without the consent of the WWF-Pakistan be used, reproduced or made available to third parties beyond what is necessary in respect of the fulfillment of the Project. All documents issued and information given to the BIDDER shall be treated as confidential.

11) BUDGET

Total Budget for this activity inclusive of all taxes and Out of Pocket expenses, are **PKR 4,000,000// only**.