Terms of Reference (TORs) for the establishment of a detailed socio-economic baseline and vulnerability assessment at the project sites of the Indus Delta.

Background:

The World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan), the global conservation organization, has a mission to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- Conserving the world’s biological diversity;
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and
- Reducing pollution and wasteful consumption.

Pursuant to its global mission, WWF-Pakistan works with central and local government agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the local communities to implement its various conservation programmes in the six thematic areas including energy and climate, forest, freshwater, wildlife, food and market, and ocean. WWF Pakistan has substantial experience in working with international donors.

WWF Pakistan, founded in 1970, is the largest independent nature conservation NGO in Pakistan with over 20 offices nationwide and an average annual budget of 5.06 million euros, mainly financed by private and public funding. WWF Pakistan has a mission to preserve the country's great biodiversity and natural resources through the aforementioned practices. Since its inception, WWF Pakistan has implemented more than 200 projects and programmes. WWF Pakistan works closely with local and national partners, government, private partners, research, and communities.

A 50-year vision (2006-2056) for the Indus Delta was developed, which is a central part of WWF-Pakistan’s Conservation Strategy for the coastal areas. Through participatory co-management, it has been endeavoring to protect mangrove forests and their associated biodiversity while promoting sustainable fisheries for the livelihood and food security of local communities. So far, more than 14,000 hectares of mangrove forest have been reforested in the Indus Delta region through cooperation between WWF Pakistan, the Sindh Forest Department, local communities, and businesses. WWF-Pakistan jointly with SFD and its local partners has planned to continue its work on the conservation and co-management of mangroves in Keti Bundar, Kharo Chan, and Shah Bunder under the framework of BMZ funded “Sustainable mangrove management and community development in the Indus Delta II.” Project till December 2024.

Brief Project Description:

The Project is the continuity of phase I. The project is being been implemented in 36 villages of the lower Indus delta comprising the sites of Keti Bunder, Kharo Chan, and Shah Bunder. The inhabitants of the project area are extremely poor and vulnerable to climate change. Most of them earn their livelihood exclusively from fishing and the natural resources of the mangrove ecosystem. The mangroves are used for firewood, construction timber, animal grazing and feed, the harvest of crabs
and mollusks, etc. Decades of continuous overexploitation resulted in severe loss and degradation of the Indus Delta mangroves. Lack of resources and coordination between relevant authorities further hinder the effective protection of mangroves, despite their legal protection. Frequent climate-induced natural disasters like cyclones and lately the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, have exacerbated the poor living conditions of the local population.

In Phase 1, Community Based Natural Resource Management was introduced in 6 mangrove areas of 14,000 ha. The communities organized themselves to protect their mangroves, afforested 3,000 ha, and improved 4,000 ha of degraded mangroves. For the first time, they introduced a rotating livestock grazing system to protect the mangroves from overexploitation and young mangrove sprouts from destruction. Alternative livelihood opportunities, improved value chains, and village development measures reduced poverty and increased the resilience of the local population. Nevertheless, success is still fragile. The second phase of the project aims at consolidating the achievements and out-scaling the sustainable management of the mangroves to an additional 19 villages in two additional mangrove areas.

Objectives of the Assignment:
The objective of this assignment is to collect socioeconomic baseline and vulnerability information from the project villages and set the baseline against the indicators of the project.

Socioeconomic baseline and vulnerability assessment is key to establishing comprehensive baseline information for the project area to track, monitor, and evaluate the envisaged project processes and outcomes at the desired level.

This consultancy, therefore, requests technical and financial proposals from the most suitable individuals and firms to undertake a socio-economic vulnerability assessment to establish reliable baseline information for mangroves and their associated biodiversity, fisheries, and human communities in the 36 villages of Keti Bundar, Kharo Chan and Shah Bunder UCs of Sindh, Pakistan.

Terms of reference

Specific terms of references for the study are as follows:

- Detailed demographic assessment of the living conditions, tribal system, population (household; people; male-female ratio; education level and source of income with associated risks and vulnerabilities and suggest suitable and implementable alternatives, etc.
- Provide details about the resource uses including but not limited to the fuelwood consumption, grazing pressure, energy use for lighting or other purposes, fisheries structure, availabilities of necessary equipment, and capacities for fisheries and other livelihood;
- Develop power mapping and social structure for each project village and the conflict resolution methods with conflict types among the same and other tribes and reasons;
- Provide details of the interventions done by WWF and other organizations with their failure and success rates with the people’s satisfaction and impacts (positive or negative);
• Identify potential livelihood activities engaging women in the area, identify and provide details of the women who have been engaging in the livelihood activities, with its associated risks and vulnerability index;

• Diseases types, ratio, and potential vulnerability for exposure to different diseases will be provided for each village, and identify other sources to be approached who can be engaged in the voluntary services of health care in the project area;

• Develop a baseline for fuelwood (type and percentage) consumption within 36 selected villages and suggest potential means for an alternative source of energy that may reduce the dependency on mangroves forests with community willingness for adoption, associated risk, and risks mitigation measures;

• Baseline on people having access to water reservoirs, solar energy, and fish cold storage facilities have to be developed;

• Baseline to be established for average daily catch and post-harvest losses per households.

• Identify reasons for mangroves overexploitation at the project sites and make recommendations to reduce its excessive use as firewood, fodder, etc.

• Identify and prioritize alternative income generation options and trainings for both men and women of the project sites to reduce dependency on natural resources o

• Identify sources of drinking water and their analysis report (report for quality of drinking water) and identify potential areas for construction of water reservoirs, with their associated threats, risks, and opportunities;

• Vulnerability assessment to be conducted for the use of traditional stoves in the household, especially for women and children;

• Assessment should be done for the need assessment on the village level, based on the project document interventions with its associated risks for failure and successes with recommendations;

• Assess the willingness of the people towards the conservation of mangroves and to take part in the WWF mangrove plantation on a voluntary basis.

**Deliverables:**

• Study plan, data collection formats, timelines, and table of contents of the final report to be submitted after the field visit and data collection etc., which will be endorsed by WWF-Pakistan

• Datasets with data captured from fieldwork (Original field data)

• Submit at least 3 perfectly bound hard copies and soft (Word and PDF versions) of the comprehensive reports against each field with clear and achievable recommendations
**Required Skills and Qualification:**

- Consultancy firm/individual having expertise in the above-mentioned fields.
- The consultants’ team should have a Master or higher degree in a discipline that is relevant to sociology, socioeconomic, anthropology.
- At least 7–10 years experience in delivering such consultancy services.
- Fluency in oral and particularly written English and Sindhi languages.
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity to gender issues.
- Experience in providing quality technical reports.
- Knowledge of WWF’s work globally and regionally is an asset;

**Timeline for the study: 45 days**

The socio-economic assessment is expected to take place starting in May 2022. The draft report is expected in the 1st week of June 2022 after which comments will be provided and the final report is expected on Mid of June 2022. The consultancy firm will be responsible for the overall management of the assignment and the production of the final report.

**Reporting:**

The Consultancy firm will report to the project manager, manager marine programme, and regional head of Sindh and Balochistan. Every two weeks, brief updates on progress must be emailed to the aforementioned personnel.

**Submission Procedure**

The consultancy firm that wishes to express interest in undertaking the prescribed assignment is requested to submit their respective proposals online through WWF-Pakistan website:

- A technical proposal not exceeding 10 pages
- An understanding and interpretation of the TOR
- Methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment
- Time and activity schedule
- Evidence of relevant experience and samples of products related to the assignment
- Curriculum vitae of the lead consultants to undertake the assignment
- A financial proposal

**Conditions:**

- WWF-Pakistan reserves the right to accept any proposal or reject all proposals
- Only shortlisted consultants will be contacted for further consideration.

**Copyrights:**

WWF-Pakistan will have the copyright for the entire study data; the consultant(s) will no right to use the data at any forum or in publication.
Criteria of Evaluation
Applicant’s proposal shall be evaluated based on Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method. Under QCBS both technical and financial proposals shall be evaluated as per following criteria against a maximum score of 100 points.
- Technical Proposal 70%
- Financial Proposal 30%

The following criteria shall be used as a basis for evaluation of technical proposals:
- Qualifications (maximum 30 points)
- Experience relevant to the assignment (maximum 30 points)
- Adequacy of the proposed methodology and work plan (maximum 20 points)
- Skills & Competencies for the assignment (maximum 10 points)
- Prior experience with WWF-Pakistan (maximum 10 points)

Budget
The tentative budget threshold for this specific assignment is PKR 1.7 million inclusive of all applicable taxes and out of pocket expenses. Evaluation process will be competitive; therefore, all the required documents should be submitted.

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