Terms of Reference

Road Ecology: Research Study on Existing Linear infrastructure with a focus on road kills / wildlife collisions in Snow Leopard Home ranges within the Hindukush-Karakoram-Himalaya landscape to develop a case of integrating wildlife crossings

Project: Greening Linear Infrastructure in Snow Leopard Home Ranges of the Hindukush-Karakoram-Himalaya Landscape in Pakistan

Location: Gilgit-Baltistan
Type of Contract: Individual / Firm
Type of Language: English
Duration of Assignment: 3 months

1. Brief Introduction of WWF-Pakistan:

WWF-Pakistan, founded in 1970, is the largest independent conservation NGO in Pakistan, with over 20 offices nationwide. WWF-Pakistan’s mission is to conserve the country’s vast biodiversity and natural resources. To this end, it works in the areas of food, climate & energy, freshwater, wildlife, forests, and oceans. Since its inception, WWF-Pakistan has implemented more than 200 projects and programs. WWF-Pakistan works closely with local and national partners, government, private partners, research, and communities.

2. Background of Project & Assignment:

WWF-Pakistan’s Sustainable Infrastructure initiative was formally launched in 2020 and has two core objectives. The first is to raise awareness among both local communities and government entities regarding the potential impact infrastructure development will have on nature and biodiversity (with a focus on linear infrastructure) and secondly is to ensure continuous engagement with government entities responsible for the execution of BRI investments so that WWF-Pakistan, along with local communities, academia, and local NGOs in the Hindukush-Karakoram-Himalaya (HKH) landscape – which are also Snow Leopard homes ranges - are involved in the discussions pertaining to the design and execution of infrastructure projects.

To this effect, WWF seeks to conduct a research study on road ecology with a focus on impacts on snow leopards, snow leopard prey species, and associated biodiversity with a focus on wildlife collisions, road kills etc. The objective of the research is to use it as grounds for advocating the incorporation of wildlife crossing designs within linear infrastructure projects - roads specifically. The study will form the basis for policy amendments with respect to wildlife crossings, especially in protected areas.

3. Specific Tasks

I. Review the existing legislations (such as the EPAs, Acts, rules, regulations) to assess whether any clause/policy for wildlife crossing exists. Review other bylaws as well for the same
II. Review the status of existing roads and the opportunity within the design of these roads for wildlife crossing considerations.\(^1\)

III. Assess the situation of road kills on the selected landscape/road/area with a focus on snow leopard, snow leopard prey species, and associated biodiversity.\(^2\)

IV. Review the existing infrastructure plans for road development (the data can be collected through bodies such as the NHA, FWO, GBPWD, LG&RD and EPA etc.

4. Deliverable(s)

I. Research Study

5. Eligibility Criteria of the Consultant:

Ph.D/ Wildlife Ecology, the experience of working in northern Areas and Belt Road Initiatives. Research and conservation background

6. Guideline for submission of proposal/expression of interest:

Interested consultants should submit the following documentation to Zohaib Qadir (zqadir@wwf.org.pk), and Neshmiya A. Khan (nakhan@wwf.org.pk)

I. Brief introduction of consultant (attach detailed CV with references)

II. Understanding of the context

III. Methodology

IV. Work plan

V. The consultant will submit the cost of assignment in lump sum including all applicable taxes of the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

VI. Evidence of past research work in similar field

7. Period of assignment:

- Start Date: 1st July, 2022
- End Date: 30th September, 2022

8. Conditions:

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

9. Criteria of Evaluation

- 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 following criteria against a maximum score of 100 points.
  - Technical Proposal 70%
  - Financial Proposal 30%

\(^1\) The roads can be mapped out from one point to another point for assessment, select some stretch of the road for the study.

\(^2\) The data can be collected for the previous one or two years or the stretch of the road specified can be increased and the corresponding road kill data is collected.
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)

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