

Job Title: Scoping Study on Landscape Restoration through Locally Led Approaches in Coastal Bangladesh

Sector Name: Climate Action

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Context: Bangladesh's coastal areas, particularly the Sundarbans and surrounding regions, are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, storm surges, and salinity intrusion. These environmental challenges have caused significant degradation of ecosystems and livelihoods. The targeted Polder no 19, 20, and 21 in the Paikgacha Upazila are especially susceptible to flooding and salinity, impacting agriculture, fisheries, and local infrastructure caused by coastal flooding induced by cyclone and embankment failure. Locally led landscape restoration (LLLR) has emerged as a promising approach that combines ecological restoration with community empowerment. To inform future programming and investment to address these challenges, there is an urgent need for landscape restoration that integrates locally-led approaches, focusing on enhancing community resilience, restoring vital ecosystems such as mangroves, and strengthening disaster risk management capacities. This assignment seeks to engage an experienced consultant to carry out a comprehensive scoping study that will serve as the foundation for future restoration initiatives.

PART 2: OBJECTIVE

Objective of Assignment: The objective of this assignment is to conduct a scoping study to assess the feasibility, challenges, and potential of implementing landscape restoration in the targeted areas of Polder no 19, 20, and 21 in Paikgacha Upazila, focusing on locally led, sustainable solutions for ecological restoration and community resilience.

Overall Tasks:

1. Identify key landscape degradation issues in the selected coastal areas.
2. Conduct a comprehensive environmental, socio-economic, and technical assessment of the target areas to understand the existing challenges and opportunities for restoration.
3. Assess the existing landscape restoration efforts and initiatives.

4. Engage local communities, government agencies, and relevant stakeholders to evaluate the capacity, roles and perspective of local communities, local government institutions, government institutions and stakeholders in designing community led landscape restoration interventions and approaches.
 5. Identify enabling and limiting policies, governance and socio-economic factors and dimensions and provide recommendations on influencing policy aspects and governance considerations
 6. Recommends strategies, sustainable livelihood interventions and community-led approaches for promoting and scaling up locally led restoration approaches.
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PART 3: SCOPE of WORKS

The selected firm/institute will be responsible for delivering the following components:

3.1 Component A: Environmental & Technical Assessment

- Conduct land-use and land-cover analysis using satellite imagery and ground-truthing.
- Assess soil and water quality (salinity, pH, fertility, drainage conditions).
- Analyse hydrological patterns and water flow structures (sluice gates, canals, embankments) and local water governance in polder areas.
- Identify critical ecological areas with restoration potential (e.g., mangroves, wetlands, riverbanks).
- Map natural and human-induced risks (erosion, floods, saline intrusion).

3.2 Component B: Socioeconomic & Livelihoods Assessment

- Document existing livelihood practices and strategies (farming, aquaculture, fishing, non-timber forest products (NTFPs)).
- Identify needs of most vulnerable groups (women-headed households, youth, landless) and their exposure to climate risks.
- Analyze seasonal livelihood calendars and coping mechanisms.
- Recommend alternative, more sustainable or complementary income sources aligned with ecosystem restoration (e.g., saline-tolerant agriculture, crab farming, homestead gardening, eco-tourism).

3.3 Component C: Community Readiness and Local Leadership

- Assess community perceptions of environmental change and restoration.
- Identify community-based organizations (CBOs), philanthropy toward landscape restoration, youth groups, and women's groups that could champion locally led restoration.
- Evaluate traditional knowledge and practices that could be incorporated into restoration planning.

3.4 Component D: Institutional & Policy Analysis

- Map all relevant institutions (Union Parishads, BWDB, DoE, DAE, NGOs) and their mandates.
- Review past and ongoing restoration and infrastructure projects in the area.
- Analyse coordination mechanisms among agencies and identify gaps.
- Identify and reflect relevant policy frameworks (Delta Plan 2100, NAP, BCCSAP, Forest Policy) to align with future action on landscape restoration.

3.5 Component E: Strategy Formulation

- Identify potential nature-based restoration approaches suitable to the landscape (e.g., mangrove replanting, green embankments, water retention ponds, agroforestry).
- Propose scalable models for locally led restoration aligned with available government schemes or donor priorities.

Develop a phased implementation roadmap with short-, medium-, and long-term actions.

PART 4: METHODOLOGY

- Mixed-methods approach combining desk review, geospatial analysis, field surveys, stakeholder consultations, and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools.
 - Minimum of 4 field missions to each polder.
 - Data disaggregated by gender, age, and socio-economic status.
 - GIS mapping and visual presentation of findings in reports.
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PART 5: DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

No.	Deliverable	Description	Deadline
1	Expression of Interest (EoI) submission	Submit a short brief of your EoI (Maximum 2-3 pages)	31 May'2025
2	Request for Proposal	Selective firm/institute/individual to submit detailed technical & financial proposal	03 June 2025
3	Review of Proposal	Friendship will be review	15 June'2025
4	Notification Award	Selected Firm/Individual/Individual will receive Notification Award from Friendship	22 June'2025
5	Field works will start	Awarded Firm/Individual/Institute must have start field works	1 July'2025
6	Inception Report	Detailed methodology, tools, team composition, and field schedule	FSP Partners
7	Interim Field Report	Summary of initial findings, field observations, maps	10 August'2025
8	Draft Scoping Study	Full draft report covering all components	20 September'2025
9	Final Report	Revised and validated final report with annexes, maps, recommendations	30 September'2025
10	Stakeholder Workshop	Presentation of draft findings to stakeholders and incorporation of feedback	October'2025

Methodology:

The consultant is expected to use a participatory, inclusive and gender-sensitive approach, including

- Desk based research and literature reviews.
- Key informant interviews.
- Focus Group discussion with local communities.
- Field observations.
- Stakeholders' consultation workshop.
- Stakeholder validation workshop.

PART 6: TEAM COMPOSITION REQUIREMENT

The firm/institute must deploy a qualified team with expertise in the following areas:

- **Team Lead/Project Manager (1):** At least 10 years of experience in environmental studies, climate adaptation, or development planning.
 - **Environmental Scientist (1):** Soil, water, and land management expertise.
 - **Hydrologist/Water Engineer (1):** Understanding of polder systems, drainage, and salinity management.
 - **Socio-Economic Expert (1):** Livelihoods, gender, and vulnerability analysis.
 - **Institutional Analyst (1):** Governance, policy, and stakeholder coordination.
 - **GIS & Remote Sensing Specialist (1):** Mapping and spatial analysis.
 - **Field Enumerators/Facilitators (as needed):** For community consultations.
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PART 7: INSTITUTE OR FIRM CAPACITY

The interested institutions and firms should have the following expertise:

- **Hydrologist** – Expertise in water management, embankments, tidal/storm surge impacts, and hydrological analysis.
 - **Environmental Scientist** – Expertise in soil and water salinity, biodiversity, and climate change impacts.
 - **Ecologist** – Expertise in mangrove ecosystems, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem restoration.
 - **Livelihood Specialist** – Expertise in major livelihood practices, alternative income options, and climate adaptation.
 - **Civil Engineer** – Expertise in roads, infrastructure, transportation, and electrification relevant to coastal resilience.
 - **Sociologist** – Expertise in migration patterns, gender and youth engagement in livelihoods, and social structures.
 - **Public Health Specialist** – Expertise in waterborne diseases, nutrition, and healthcare access in vulnerable communities.
 - **WASH Specialist** – Expertise in drinking water sources, sanitation, and hygiene risks, particularly in flood-prone areas.
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PART 8: ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum Criteria:

- Legally registered consultancy firm or research institute with valid trade license and TIN/VAT.
- Minimum 7 years of experience in environmental research, coastal development, or DRR. Minimum 7 years of experience in environmental research, coastal development, or DRR.

- Proven track record in conducting similar assessments or strategy development.
- Prior experience working in Bangladesh's coastal region or polder systems.
- Evidence of previously produced high-quality reports (at least 2).

Preferred:

- Experience working with government agencies, international development organisations, or climate donors.
 - Fluency in Bangla and English in report writing and facilitation.
 - Availability to begin by June 1, 2025.
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PART 9: BUDGET AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- The contract will be issued on a lump sum basis, inclusive of all applicable taxes and costs.
 - Payment milestones:
 - * 20% on approval of Inception Report
 - * 30% on submission of Interim Field Report
 - * 30% on submission of Draft Scoping Study
 - * 20% on approval of Final Report
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PART 10: WORKING AREAS

The consulting firm/Institute based on anywhere in Bangladesh with frequent travel to the targeted areas in Paikgacha Upazila, including Polder no 19, 20, and 21, for field assessments and consultations.

PART 11: LINE MANAGEMENT

The consultant will report directly to **the Sr. Director-Strategic Planning & Head of Climate Action** of the **Landscape Restoration Initiative**, with additional coordination with the **Assistant General Manager** and relevant Friendship official during the study.

PART 12: LIST OF DELIVERABLES

1. **Inception Report:** Methodology, work plan, and schedule.
 2. **Preliminary Field Assessment Report:** Overview of data collected, key findings, and initial recommendations.
 3. **Draft Scoping Study Report:** Detailed assessment of the landscape restoration potential, including technical, socio-economic, and governance aspects.
 4. **Final Scoping Study Report:** Comprehensive report with specific recommendations for landscape restoration and livelihood interventions, including an implementation framework.
 5. **Stakeholder Consultation Report:** Summary of consultations, including feedback and recommendations from local communities and stakeholders.
 6. **Final Presentation:** Presentation of the scoping study findings and recommendations to stakeholders.
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PART 13: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Interested firms/institutes are requested to submit:

- **Technical Proposal (max 15 pages):** Understanding of ToR, methodology, workplan, team structure, past experience.
- **Financial Proposal:** Detailed budget breakdown.
- **Supporting Documents:** Registration certificates, updated Cv for team members, two sample reports of past assignments.
- **Email:** climateaction@friendship.ngo

Read Before Apply

Please note that application via any other method will not be considered.

"FRIENDSHIP is committed to safeguarding children, young people, and adults, and employees, Donors, visiting Doctors, visiting journalists, visitors, beneficiaries including communities where we work and volunteers/interns. We believe every stakeholder and every member of the communities we work with, has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, harassment, and exploitation - regardless of age, race, religion, and gender, status as an individual with a disability or ethnic origin. Therefore, our recruitment policy and procedure fully include background checks and disclosure of criminal records in order to ensure safeguarding. FRIENDSHIP is an equal opportunity employer and will do everything possible to ensure that those who are suitable to work within our values and beliefs are recruited to work for us. Any personal persuasion will result in a disqualification of candidature".

Photograph must be enclosed with the resume.