

MONGOLIA
VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE PROJECT

National Biodiversity Specialist (CS-14)
Method: ICS

Advertisement date: 20 August 2020

A. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

The Government of Mongolia has received a loan and a grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) to finance the Vegetable Production and Irrigated Agriculture Project (“the Project”). The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) is the project executing agency of the project. The outputs of the project will be (i) efficient and climate-resilient irrigation infrastructure and management systems installed; (ii) environmentally sustainable agriculture production systems improved; and (iii) technical Institutional, and management capacity and coordination strengthened. The project design follows the principles of (i) upgrading irrigation systems; (ii) improving the efficiency of resource use in agricultural production through improved seeds and investment in farming equipment; (iii) improving the quality and safety of end-products for consumers; and (iv) ensuring that there is an opportunity to participate in equitable benefit sharing from the project (for more details on the Project, please refer to the Project Administration Manual and Financing Agreement).

Under the Project, The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry is seeking to recruit a qualified **National Biodiversity Specialist** to carry out following duties.

B. SCOPE OF THE WORK

The key objective of the survey is to assess the ecological significance of the area for migratory waterbirds and other biodiversity, including its global and national significance; and to conduct an ecological impact assessment of the Okhindiin Tal subproject construction and operation, to inform the detailed engineering designs. The findings will assist the Government and ADB in making a determination on the presence of “critical habitat” as defined under the SPS, and appropriate mitigation and management responses for any potential project impacts.

Tasks and responsibilities of the national biodiversity specialist include but are not limited to the following:

1. Design and implement waterbird surveys, to be conducted in September 2020 and May 2021, in the subproject area and overall Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBBA). The survey design will reflect what can be achieved in the two-week period and given the number of team members (assumed to be 2 to 5), resources, and the need to ensure that at least one person skilled in waterbird census and identification is present in each survey group. The design will ensure that representative areas of the IBBA can be surveyed as well as the subproject area, to enable site comparisons.
2. Be responsible for the daily collection and entry of field data, including quality control for count data and species identification.
3. Document and describe the current management status of the IBBA, including the presence of any local protected areas and/or plans for protection or Ramsar designation. This may include: (a) master plans (if any); (b) existing management zones and regulations; (c) existing operations, including park infrastructure, staff, management activities, monitoring, reporting, and budget; (d) the stated values of the park, including hydrological function, ecology, biodiversity, recreation and education; (e) existing threats and management issues.
4. Assess the global and national significance of the subproject project area based on established international criteria, including the determination of wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, and other relevant national and international criteria and agreements for the conservation and protection of waterbirds.
5. Review the preliminary technical designs for the subproject.
6. Assess potential impacts from the subproject construction and operation to the ecological and biodiversity values within and adjacent to the subproject area, and to the IBBA overall. The impact assessment will consider impacts at different scales e.g. national and international, to place the scale of impacts in context.

7. Assess the extent to which the project design could be improved to avoid or reduce impacts to the documented ecological values.
8. Develop mitigation measures to avoid and/or reduce potential subproject impacts, focusing especially on sites of highest ecological value. This might include, but not be limited to: offsite measures; subproject operational procedures to ensure that farmers and other on-site personnel do not impact nearby ecological values (e.g. nesting waterbirds); a biodiversity conservation action plan for the subproject. Proactive measures that contribute to the protection of the overall IBBA area will be well regarded.
9. Work with the detailed design engineers, to assess whether designs can be modified to avoid, reduce, or mitigate potential ecological impacts of the subproject.
10. Assess the net (residual) impacts assuming that the identified mitigation measures are implemented. Facilitate discussions with the Government and ADB to assess the extent of these net impacts and their implications under national regulations and ADB's Safeguard Policy (SPS).
11. Design a six-year waterbird monitoring program, using a Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI) framework, to assess construction and operation impacts of the project. The program will focus on comparing seasonal species richness and abundance of migratory waterbirds (waterfowl, waders) in the subproject area (the impact site) with nearby IBBA areas (the control site).
12. Develop recommendations, including time-based next steps.
13. Prepare a report on the findings.
14. Design a survey for other fauna, to be conducted in parallel with the waterbird survey, for mammals and amphibians. This might include a combination of systematic field surveys, consultations with residents, and desktop review.
15. Conduct original field work, data collection and analyses as necessary and realistic within the time available to address major information gaps or shortcomings in domestic studies. Undertake the majority of fieldwork and coordination required for the tasks of the national and international environment specialists.
16. For any key information gaps that cannot reasonably be addressed with the time and resources available, discuss these with the international specialist and ADB as soon as possible so that solutions can be discussed.
17. Assess the extent to which the project design could be improved to avoid or reduce impacts to the documented ecological values.
18. It is anticipated the specialist will be joined in the field for some of the time by the PIU Environment Safeguard Specialist, soum environment officers, and other personnel as needed.

DURATION

The specialist will commence inputs after loan effectiveness and will be engaged on an intermittent basis for an expected duration of 4 months, 2 months starting from September 2020 and 2 months starting from May 2021, including a four-week field survey in September 2020 and two-week field survey in May 2021 (presumed to be peak migration season).

EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES, AND OTHERS

The specialist will supply their own technical equipment for their use (e.g. telescope, binoculars, field guide, GPS).

Use of resource persons to be utilized as field team members (assumed to be 2 to 5), which will be identified by the specialist in acceptance of the project management. The financing of the resource persons will be allocated as a provisional sum of the contract. The provisional sum is to be used solely for given assignment, and its use will be decided by the project.

C. SUPERVISION AND REPORTING

The **National Biodiversity Specialist** will report directly to the PIU project coordinator.

DELIVERABLES

Deliverable 1: a report addressing the outputs above, in a digital format agreed with ADB and the Government. A draft report will first be provided to ADB for review. The report will include:

- review of existing data and description of survey methods, including a map of survey sites;
- survey results, including analysis of count numbers by site and broad habitat, and all raw data (summarized in an appendix);
- an estimate(s) of the total number of migratory waterbirds which visited the study area over the two-week survey period, with clear description of definitions and assumptions used to derive these estimates;
- identification of any species found in the study area that are listed under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Mongolian Red Data Book, or other relevant national regulations or international agreements;
- an assessment of the significance of the subproject area with respect to established international criteria including the documented conservation values of the IBBA and criteria of the Ramsar Convention;
- a five-year waterbird monitoring program, designed to monitor the impacts of the subproject construction and operation;
- mitigation measures to avoid, reduce and/or minimize subproject impacts to ecological values within and adjacent to the subproject area;
- conclusions and recommendations.

Deliverable 2: a powerpoint presentation summarizing the survey findings and recommendations.

D. QUALIFICATIONS/ SELECTION CRITERIA

- Education: a graduate degree, preferably postgraduate degree in biology/ecology or related disciplines;
- Experience: demonstrated overall experience of at least 5 years in the survey and conservation of fauna in Mongolia, especially birds and mammals, but with strong working knowledge of fish and amphibians as well; demonstrated experience in environmental impact assessment, focusing specifically on issues related to ecology and biodiversity management;
- Others: demonstrated ability to work effectively in teams, analyze data, and prepare reports; Proficiency in spoken and written English.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

96. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is supporting the Government of Mongolia to implement the Vegetable Production and Irrigated Agriculture Project. The project will establish or revitalize agricultural production in 12 subproject locations in central, eastern, and western Mongolia. One of the subprojects is the Okhindiin Tal subproject in Selenge *Aimag* (province). The subproject area comprises existing agricultural and pasture land within a delta between the Selenge and Orkhon rivers. The entire subproject is located within an internationally designated Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBBA): MN054 Delta of Orkhon and Selenge Rivers (26,800 ha). The IBBA supports: (i) seasonal and/or breeding populations of at least globally threatened bird species – Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*, Baikal Teal *Anas Formosa*, Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*, and Great Bustard *Otis tarda*; (ii) at least 1% of the East Asian-Australasian Migratory Bird Flyway populations of at least five bird species: Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*, Greylag Goose *A. answer*, Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, and Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*; (iii) nationally threatened mammal species, including Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*, Corsac Fox *V. corsac*, Grey Wolf *Canis lupus* and Siberian Marmot *Marmota sibirica*; and (iv) nationally threatened fish species including Mongolian Grayling *Thymallus revirostris*, Lenok *Brachymystax lenok* and Taimen *Hucho taimen*.

97. Activities for the proposed subproject comprise the establishment of a new “command area” (the area under irrigation) of 2,700 ha on current pastureland, to improve pasture management and cereal, vegetable and fruit growing. The main characteristics of the new scheme will be: water extraction directly by pump into a main canal thence by gravity to balancing storage, pump, pipes, command area by sprinkler and drip.

98. Although the subproject site is located on existing agricultural land, Google Earth imagery and comparison of the IBBA and subproject areas indicate that (i) the subproject is within the IBBA, and (ii) the subproject area encompasses at least one main tributary and many smaller waterways. These waterways may support wet meadows, marshes, and other wetland

habitats, and biodiversity values that are part of the overall IBBA values. Under the ADB Safeguard Policy (SPS, 2009), these habitats may qualify as 'critical habitat' e.g. "sites that are critical for the survival of migratory species" and/or "areas supporting globally significant concentrations or numbers of individuals of congregatory species".

99. There is limited available data on the ecological values of the IBBA in general and of the subproject area specifically. The technical designs for the subproject are at the preliminary stage of development (detailed engineering designs have not yet been prepared). There is insufficient data to ascertain whether the subproject area qualifies as critical habitat and to conduct an ecological impact assessment for the subproject. The SPS requires that "when the project involves activities in a critical habitat, the borrower/client will retain qualified and experienced external experts to assist in conducting the assessment".

If you possess the above qualifications, please submit a cover letter with CV, copy of diplomas or certificates and two references from last two employers in a sealed envelope, no later than **17:30 PM on 26 August, 2020** to below address:

Room #511, The National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives /NAMAC/
Building, Peace Avenue 18A/1, Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar 13381
Phone:+976 88100853
Email:vpia.info@gmail.com

At the same time the candidate can apply through ADB CMS.

Contact address:

Attn: Ms. Khishgee # 605, Phone: 261908, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants. Incomplete applications would not be considered.

MONGOLIA
VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Legal Specialist (CS-01)
Method: ISC

Advertisement date: 20 August 2020

A. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

The Government of Mongolia has received a loan and a grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) to finance the Vegetable Production and Irrigated Agriculture Project (“the Project”). The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) is the project executing agency of the project. The outputs of the project will be (i) efficient and climate-resilient irrigation infrastructure and management systems installed; (ii) environmentally sustainable agriculture production systems improved; and (iii) technical Institutional, and management capacity and coordination strengthened. The project design follows the principles of (i) upgrading irrigation systems; (ii) improving the efficiency of resource use in agricultural production through improved seeds and investment in farming equipment; (iii) improving the quality and safety of end-products for consumers; and (iv) ensuring that there is an opportunity to participate in equitable benefit sharing from the project (for more details on the Project, please refer to the Project Administration Manual and Financing Agreement). Under the Project, The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry is seeking to recruit a qualified **Legal Specialist** to carry out following duties.

B. SCOPE OF THE WORK

Tasks and responsibilities of the Legal Specialist include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Provide advice on procurement procedures in accordance with the ADB procurement policy/regulations when necessary;
- (2) Provide advice on preparation of the procurement manual from legal perspective;
- (3) Assist MOFALI’s legal department in drafting a project implementation agreement based on individual consultations with *aimag* government representatives and based on a review of the existing legal framework between central level and aimag level government;
- (4) Assist MOFALI’s legal department in defining *aimag* government responsibilities for operating and maintaining of project supported irrigation systems;
- (5) Assist MOFALI’s legal department in defining implementation agreement conditions and penalties that ensure sufficient funding for maintenance by the *aimag* annual budget;
- (6) Assist MOFALI’s legal department in defining implementation agreement conditions and penalties that ensure: (a) small-farmers are the beneficiaries of the irrigated systems for at least 15 years (land lease agreement period)
- (7) Assist MOFALI’s legal department in defining implementation agreement selection criteria for land leasers to lease land in the project supported irrigation subprojects;
- (8) Assist MOFALI’s legal department in preparing a strategy paper on recommended reforms and implementation of the reforms in the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for charging irrigation service fees by the *aimag* government;
- (9) Undertake other activities relating to the facilitation of project implementation, as required by the executing agency, implementing agency and ADB.
- (10) Revise the government’s standard bidding documents for community participation in procurement addressing ADB procurement principles and procedures and improvise the standard bidding documents strengthening legal and financial roles and responsibilities of community groups.
- (11) Deal with legal related issues of the entire project.
- (12) Undertake such other tasks as may be reasonably requested and/ or assigned by PU Coordinator and Project Director.

C. SUPERVISION AND REPORTING

The legal specialist will commence inputs immediately after loan effectiveness and will work 19 months on an intermittent basis, 3 months in 2020, 7 months in 2021, 4 months in 2022 and 2023, and 1 months 2024. He/she will report directly to the PIU project coordinator.

D. QUALIFICATIONS/ SELECTION CRITERIA

- He/she should have a bachelor's degree or above in law, or related field.
- At least of 8 years working experience related with legal and demonstrated knowledge in Government of Mongolia's institutional and legal framework for implementing official development assistance funded projects.
- Excellent command in both written and spoken English and Mongolian is required. Ability to plan and prioritize work duties as well as work competently under pressure and tight deadlines;
- Good interpersonal, communication and participatory skills with the ability to function effectively and collaboratively in a team environment; Excellent computer literacy, particularly, with MS Office and spreadsheets;

If you possess the above qualifications, please apply through the ADB Consulting Management System, and at the same submit a cover letter with CV, copy of diplomas or certificates and two references from last two employers in a sealed envelope, no later than **17.30 PM on 26**

August, 2020 to below address:

Room #511, The National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives /NAMAC/
Building, Peace Avenue 18A/1, Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar 13381

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