

**Clarification#1: Consulting Services for Forest Census and Field Verification**  
**(MCA-N/ETP/LCS/001)**

**21 October 2022**

**Questions and Answers:**

#	Reference to RFP	Questions	Answer
1	Section III Evaluation and Qualification Criteria ITC 24.1 (Page 45 and 46 of RFP)	In line with evaluation criteria, sub-criteria ITC 24.1.1.2, it states the requirement for a Consultant to have 3 years of experience in forest census of Transmission Line in Hilly region. Is the institutional experience of the consultant in terms of duration/years necessary for evaluation purpose? We request MCA Nepal to consider the experiences of the working professionals in conjunction to this requirement as for professionals, experience required is at least for 5 years.	The Consultant is expected to have 3 Years of Experience in conducting forest census in transmission line projects in hilly region. The experience of the Consultant shall be evaluated as per 3.6 <b>Technical Evaluation Framework</b> . MCA-Nepal does not intend to amend the requirement.
2	Section III Evaluation and Qualification Criteria ITC 24.1.1.1, ITC 24.1.1.2 and ITC 24.1.1.3 (Page 45 and 46 of RFP)	Forest Survey is one of the main components while carrying out EIA and IEE studies for hydropower projects/transmission lines, but this may not be mentioned in the experience certificate. Does the consultant's experiences in EIA and IEE studies be considered for evaluation purpose? We request MCA-Nepal to be consider these experiences as forest surveying/census.	Yes, the consultant's experience in EIA and IEE where the consultant has performed the forest survey and census work will be considered for evaluation. However, the Consultant who has experience in tree counting for the preparation of forest clearance permit may score higher point. The Consultant shall provide proper and enough evidence that any past project implemented included the relevant scope of work related to the required experience for this experience a stated in Section III Qualification and Evaluation Criteria.

3	Section III Evaluation and Qualification Criteria ITC 24.1.1.4, (Page 46 of RFP)	<p>Could you clarify in detail about the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria ITC 24.1.1.4 which states, “Consultants shall also be evaluated on their performance under existing and prior contracts as per requirement of ITC 26 and MCC Program Procurement Guidelines” as we think ITC 26 may be missing in RFP?</p>	<p>Please refer Instruction to Consultant ITC clause 26 Past Performance and Reference check (page 35 of RFP) under Section I: Instructions to Consultants.</p> <p>As per MCC procurement guidelines (<a href="https://www.mcc.gov/resources/doc/021021-program-procurement-guidelines">https://www.mcc.gov/resources/doc/021021-program-procurement-guidelines</a>), the MCA-Nepal is required to verify past performance of the Consultant. As per RFP the Consultant’s past performance shall be evaluated in Pass/Fail basis.</p> <p>This evaluation criterion will be applicable to those consultants who executed contracts or are executing contract with MCC-funded project in any country.</p>
4	Section III Evaluation and Qualification Criteria ITC 24.1.3.1, (Page 47 of RFP)	<p>Is the “no of years of experience” not required for Team Leader?</p>	<p>The experience requirement of the Team Leader is based on their involvement in the engineering surveying of 132 KV or above voltage level transmission line projects in a hilly region and experience with project related to forest census. Hence experience of Team Leader depends on the number of specific projects that they have been involved in.</p> <p><b>Evaluation of Qualifications and Experience of the Key Personnel will be done based on disclosed criteria in Section III. Qualification and Evaluation Criteria</b></p>

5	Section III Evaluation and Qualification Criteria ITC 24.1.3.3, (Last Row of Table in Page 48 of RFP)	<p>It is mentioned that the sub-consultant experience shall not be considered while evaluating the experience of the Consultant and Past Performance. Is it so or are there any conditions?</p> <p>Also, many international companies hire local consultants in the capacity of sub-consultant after obtaining the consent of the main client and have issued the job experience letter following the completion of the assignment. As per this provision, these experiences are not responsive: Please clarify more on this?</p>	<p>If any consultant proposes a subconsultant in their proposal, the experience, and the past performance of proposed subconsultant will not be considered while evaluating the Experience of the Consultant and Past Performance under Evaluation criteria 24.1.1 for this procurement.</p> <p>The Consultant shall be evaluated based on their own experience.</p> <p>However, if the consultant submitting a proposal has previously worked in an assignment as subconsultant for any main consultant, those experiences of Consultant shall be taken into account for evaluation.</p> <p>However, any key personnel proposed may be a sub-consultant and the key personnel shall be evaluated.</p>
6	Form TECH-2A (Page 60 of RFP)	According to TECH-2A Financial Capacity of the Consultant, Consultant is required to provide evidence of financing (USD 150,000.00) dedicated for the implementation of the consulting services as attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant. In which form like Cash deposit/Bank Guarantee or Transaction Record in bank should the consultant show? Please clarify on this as some clients also recognize Bank Guarantee with transaction history of the entity.	This could be a letter from the bank.
7	NA	We have come to know that the Transmission Line alignment in some portions is being rerouted yet to be finalized. The quantity of trees may vary after	The 30 km length of the TL is under resurvey. The rerouting is expected to be minimum, and it is not expected to affect total area of the

		finalization of alignment. What will be your instructions to consultants for preparing proposals?	forest and number of the trees to be enumerated significantly than what was estimated by the ETP EIA. Therefore, the consultant can prepare the proposal to conduct the census based on the number of trees and TL ROW length estimated by the ETP EIA.
8	NA	The legal documents of our company including Tax Clearance papers are in Nepalese language. Is it necessary for us to translate these documents into English version?	Please refer ITC clause 11.1 which states “Supporting documents and printed literature that are part of the Proposal may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages into the language <b>specified in the PDS</b> ”.
9	Section IV A: Technical Proposal Forms	Is it necessary to attach the copies of academic certificates with the Curriculum Vitae (CVs) or will it be asked from consultant as and when it seems necessary?	At the proposal submission, consultant may only submit Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of their proposed personnel, but MCA-Nepal may request supporting documents like academic certificate/experience letter, if deemed necessary during the evaluation process.
10	TECH 4: Experience of the Consultant (Page 63 of RFP)	Is the work experience of all assignments should be MCC funded projects or at least one project should be MCC funded? Is it necessary to attach the copies of experiences or would it be asked as and when it seems necessary?	Consultant is required to fill in TECH-4: Experience of the Consultant all the similar assignments that the consultant have completed earlier. The experience of the Consultant could be on any funded project. Further, if the consultant has previously worked in MCC-funded tasks of similar nature then consultant, without failing, is required to enlist such experience in TECH-5. Consultant may submit the TECH-4 without any experience letters but MCA Nepal may request such information at any point of time during evaluation.

11	Section III Evaluation and Qualification Criteria ITC 24.1.1.2	A total mark of 15 is allocated for criteria, sub-criteria 24.1.1.2, 3 Years of Experience in conducting forest census in transmission line projects in the hilly region for which we do not have experience specifically for transmission line. Can we get the score if the project is specifically not carried out for transmission?	Page 49 of RFP contains the Technical Evaluation Framework to be used for scoring every criterion, sub-criteria and an example has been worked out for the consultant to understand this framework. If the consultant does not meet the said requirement as specifically asked in the RFP, then the Technical Evaluation Panel may consider it as a deviation from the requirements which will subsequently affect the scoring.
12	NA	The Terms of Reference has mentioned the procurement process will be conducted through the least cost selection (LCS) method. Can you please consider it and make the changes to the selection method?	No. The procurement method selected by MCA-Nepal and approved by MCC for this procurement cannot be changed at this stage of the process.
13	NA	In 3.7 Qualification Table, all JV firms must qualify for each of the criteria. Does this mean in a JV too each firm must fulfill each criteria for general, specific, and financial or one of the partners can fulfill the criteria?	In case of Joint Venture (JV), for General and Specific Experience (see Section III, 3.7 Qualification Table, factor 3.7.4.2) and Financial Resources (see Section III, 3.7 Qualification Table, factor 3.7.3.2) all members of JV combined should meet the requirement. Please refer the requirement for each criterion for the Joint Venture stated under 3.7 Qualification Table to clearly understand the requirement. The evidence of finance needs to be submitted with the proposal.
14	NA	Does the scope of work include the forest census of all kinds of forest types including private that fall within the project boundaries? Or it is limited to the government forests only?	Yes, the consultant needs to census all the trees which need to be removed under the ROW regardless of ownership (including private) and management regime. However, the consultant should focus on those trees

			<p>which are necessary to remove for erecting transmission towers and maintaining clearance between tree crown and the transmission line, and which require Cabinet approval for clearance. The consultant needs to prepare data base of all census trees as per the requirement of the forest clearance guideline and prevailing forest regulation. Also need to prepare the data sheet of the trees which are Categorized as protected and conserved species for ecological significance.</p>
15	NA	<p>Should the consultant provide all the equipment required for this consulting services or MCA Nepal do provide some equipment? If MCA Nepal do provide some equipment, it would be good to know these.</p>	<p>MCA-Nepal will not be providing any equipment for this Consulting Services. The Consultant shall be responsible for providing all required equipment. Please also refer to RFP, Section V: Terms of Requirement (7. Equipment), which defines the list of items to be provided by consultant or consultant may propose another equipment as per methodology mentioned in proposals.</p>
16	NA	<p>The RFP says the bidder should submit a financial statement/tax clearance of the last 3 years while submitting the proposal. As per the GoN provision, any firm/company is entitled to conduct a financial audit by the end of Poush so should the provision omit the submission of the financial statement/tax clearance certificate of last FY (FY 2078/79)?</p>	<p>The Consultant should submit financial statements of the last 3 available years.</p>
17	NA	<p>Is the consultant solely responsible to secure the consent letter from the concerned FUGs for forest clearance? As this is DFO led process so what would be the role of DFO and other concerned stakeholders in securing the consent letter from the concerned FUGs?</p>	<p>Yes, the Consultant will be primarily responsible for obtaining consent letters from concerned FUGs for forest clearance. Nevertheless, the respective DFO and MCA Nepal will provide all necessary facilitation and support as needed. Therefore, it is the joint</p>

			work/responsibility of the MCA-Nepal, respective DFO/SDFO and Consultant.
18	NA	Would there be any implications of the new forest rules 2022 on this assignment with respect to forest census (particularly with respect to the Article 89 and Annex 50 of the forest rules 2022)?	On 31 June 22, GON has revoked the forest clearance guideline 19 by publishing New Forest regulation in Nepal Gazette. Now, new Forest Regulation 2022 is an official document with inbuilt forest clearance procedure. There will be minor changes in the measurement of the tree size but will not have significant changes. Therefore, article 89 and annex 50 of the Forest Regulation 2022 are applicable in this task. Consultant should prepare a Forest census data as per the outlined format provided in the prevailing Forest Regulation.
19	NA	Should we follow any specific rates/norms to calculate/estimate per diem to the DFO staff involved in this assignment under the provisional sum heading?	Yes, the Consultant should follow MCA-Nepal policy/practices to provide the per-diem to DFO led census team involved during this assignment. Please refer to the Task 2, bullet point 5, page 98 of the RFP.