



CLARIFICATION#1

FOR

Consultancy Services for Implementation of the Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for Transmission Line Project, Ref. No (MCA-N/ETP/QCBS/015)

(ISSUED ON 08 JANUARY 2025)

SN	Reference to the Request for Offers	Questions from Offers	Response of Millennium Challenge Account Nepal (MCA-Nepal)																								
1.	Section III: Qualification and Evaluation Criteria, ITO 24.1,1 Organizational Capability and Experience of the Consultant	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Criteria, sub-criteria, and point system for the evaluation of Technical Offers.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">ITO 24.1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Criteria, sub-criteria</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1. Organizational Capability and Experience of the Consultant</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Evidence of organizational capability and relevant experience in the execution of projects of a similar scale and complexity in the power sector, as follows:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1.1</td> <td>The consultant should have 20 years of general experience.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1.2</td> <td>The Consultant should have at least 15 years of work experience in designing, organizing and implementing livelihood development and restoration programs.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1.3</td> <td>Working experience in the project districts (at least in five project districts) in similar nature of assignment.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total Points for This Criterion</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> </table> <p>Requested Clarification It is mentioned that Evidence of organizational capability and relevant experience in the execution of projects of a similar scale and complexity in the power sector, as follows:"</p>	Criteria, sub-criteria, and point system for the evaluation of Technical Offers.			ITO 24.1	Criteria, sub-criteria	Points		1. Organizational Capability and Experience of the Consultant			Evidence of organizational capability and relevant experience in the execution of projects of a similar scale and complexity in the power sector, as follows:		1.1	The consultant should have 20 years of general experience.	8	1.2	The Consultant should have at least 15 years of work experience in designing, organizing and implementing livelihood development and restoration programs.	10	1.3	Working experience in the project districts (at least in five project districts) in similar nature of assignment.	2	Total Points for This Criterion		20	<p>The requirement has been amended. Please review Addenda issued. (This criterion has been amended in Addendum#2 issued on 2 January 2025.</p>
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		<p>This line indicates that the RFO requires the consultant to submit relevant experience in livelihood planning and development specifically in the power sector, in alignment with the three (3) sub-criteria outlined in sections 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 of ITO 24.1.</p> <p>We seek clarification on whether work experience related to livelihood planning and development in infrastructure projects beyond the power sector—such as roads, irrigation, water resources, and agriculture—will also be considered during the evaluation process.</p> <p>Given that the criteria explicitly refer to the power sector, we respectfully request confirmation on whether non-power sector infrastructure projects with relevant livelihood development experience may also qualify under this criterion.</p>																									
2.	Section III: Qualification and Evaluation Criteria, ITO 24.1,1 Organizational Capability and Experience of the Consultant	<table border="1" data-bbox="701 807 1383 1174"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3" data-bbox="701 807 1383 824">Criteria, sub-criteria, and point system for the evaluation of Technical Offers.</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="701 828 772 867">ITO 24.1</th> <th data-bbox="772 828 1325 867">Criteria, sub-criteria</th> <th data-bbox="1325 828 1383 867">Points</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="701 870 772 909"></td> <td data-bbox="772 870 1325 909">1. Organizational Capability and Experience of the Consultant</td> <td data-bbox="1325 870 1383 909"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="701 912 772 1010"></td> <td data-bbox="772 912 1325 1010">Evidence of organizational capability and relevant experience in the execution of projects of a similar scale and complexity in the power sector, as follows:</td> <td data-bbox="1325 912 1383 1010"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="701 1013 772 1052">1.1</td> <td data-bbox="772 1013 1325 1052">The consultant should have 20 years of general experience.</td> <td data-bbox="1325 1013 1383 1052">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="701 1055 772 1107">1.2</td> <td data-bbox="772 1055 1325 1107">The Consultant should have at least 15 years of work experience in designing, organizing and implementing livelihood development and restoration programs.</td> <td data-bbox="1325 1055 1383 1107">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="701 1110 772 1149">1.3</td> <td data-bbox="772 1110 1325 1149">Working experience in the project districts (at least in five project districts) in similar nature of assignment.</td> <td data-bbox="1325 1110 1383 1149">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="701 1153 1325 1174"></td> <td data-bbox="772 1153 1325 1174" style="text-align: right;">Total Points for This Criterion</td> <td data-bbox="1325 1153 1383 1174">20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="701 1214 1031 1247">Requested Clarification</p> <p data-bbox="701 1250 1383 1349">Clause 1.2 of the ITO 24.1 mentions that “The Consultant should have at least 15 years of work experience in designing, organizing and</p>	Criteria, sub-criteria, and point system for the evaluation of Technical Offers.			ITO 24.1	Criteria, sub-criteria	Points		1. Organizational Capability and Experience of the Consultant			Evidence of organizational capability and relevant experience in the execution of projects of a similar scale and complexity in the power sector, as follows:		1.1	The consultant should have 20 years of general experience.	8	1.2	The Consultant should have at least 15 years of work experience in designing, organizing and implementing livelihood development and restoration programs.	10	1.3	Working experience in the project districts (at least in five project districts) in similar nature of assignment.	2		Total Points for This Criterion	20	<p data-bbox="1396 800 1978 943">In case one project is from 2020 to 2023 and another one is from 2018 to 2022. The Consultant has experience from 2018 to 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="1396 987 1978 1057">Please indicate month and year while indicating start and end date.</p>
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		<p>implementing livelihood development and restoration programs”.</p> <p>The Consultant seeks clarification on the method used to calculate the required "15 years of work experience" particularly in cases where the timelines of two or more projects overlap.</p> <p>For example: Timeline for Project A: 2010 to 2014 Timeline for Project B: 2009 to 2013</p> <p>In this case, will the total experience of the consultant for these two projects be considered as 8 years, or will the overlapping period be counted only once, resulting in 5 years of experience?</p>	
3.	Annex II: RAP and LRP Survey Report (Approved) Available at : link	We see in the provided link that RAP and LRP survey report of 9 districts has been provided, Kathmandu being the exception. We were wondering the reason why. Please kindly advise	The RAP and LRP survey report of Kathmandu is under preparation. However, the eligible PAPs from Kathmandu for LRP is included in the scope of the LRP implementation.
4.	Section II. DATA SHEET I ITO 18.1	<p>The deadline for submission of offers is 14:00 hours (local time of Nepal (GMT +5:45)) on 16 January 2025.</p> <p>Requested Clarification</p> <p>We kindly request your consideration to extend the proposal submission deadline by at least 15 days. This extension would accommodate interested firms and individuals who may be unavailable due to Christmas and New Year holidays.</p>	The submission deadline has been extended to 31 January 2025. For details, please refer to the addendum to the bidding document issued on 02 January 2025..
5.		Is a national level NGO of Nepal registered in PAN eligible as offeror in this procurement MCA-N/ETP/QCBS/015?	Instruction to Offerors (ITO) 5.1 states “An Offeror may be a private entity, certain government-owned entities (in accordance with MCC PPG), or any combination of such entities supported by a letter of intent to

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			<p>enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement of association in the form of a joint venture or other association.”.</p> <p>However, NGO should convert its PAN to VAT after the contract is awarded and the same should be reflected in the invoice submitted for payment.</p>
6.		Can a VAT registered Nepalese consulting firm and a Nepalese NGO registered in PAN, apply as a Joint Venture offeror?	Yes. If the Offeror wishes to apply as JV then, JV should be registered under Nepal law. and get VAT registration once the contract is awarded to the JV firm.
7.		If a Nepalese NGO registered in PAN and a VAT registered Nepalese consulting firm applies as a Joint Venture offeror, is it mandatory for the NGO to take VAT registration upon selection?	If the Offeror wishes to apply as JV then, JV should be registered under the Law of Nepal and get VAT registration once the contract is awarded to the JV firm. However, the Offerors are also requested to check with their tax/legal consultant.
8.	Specific Procurement Notice	Request for MCA to postpone the submission deadline of the RFO by two weeks due to the short turnover period and holidays.	The submission deadline has been extended. Please refer the addenda to the bidding document issued.
9.	Section II. Data Sheet	Preparation of Offers (Pg. 8) - Can MCA confirm if the budget USD 4,912,000.00 in the RFO is the ceiling budget or does the offeror has the flexibility to propose higher than the mentioned amount in the proposal based on the approaches outlined and proposed activities in the proposal keeping on mind the price reasonableness.	The budget indicated in the RFO is the estimate prepared by MCA-Nepal. The Offeror are free to quote a reasonable price above or below the indicated budget.

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10.	Section II. Data Sheet	Submission and Opening of Offers (Pg. 9) - Does MCA have specific format for the filename for submission of the technical and financial offer?	<p>Yes, please refer ITO 17.1 (i) (Addendum#1 issued on 30 December 2024), which shows the file name as below:</p> <p>ABC firm can name the file as follows:</p> <p>Technical Offer: ABC_Tech Offer_TL LRP Financial Offer: ABC_Fin Offer_TL LRP</p> <p>Please identify the file name clearly that it is financial or technical Offer so that the correct file can be opened during technical and financial opening.</p>
11.	Section IV A. Technical Offer Forms	Form TECH-4 (Pg. 35) - MCA has requested letters of reference in FORM TECH-4. Can MCA provide more details on the requirements and format for the reference letters?	The main purpose of the Reference letters is to know that the consultant has carried out the assignment, listed services and how good or bad was the performance of the consultant on the past contract. Thus, the reference letter should be in line with the purpose. There is no specific format.
12.	Section IV A. Technical Offer Forms	Form TECH-4 (Pg. 35) - The RFO says offerors should provide experience of at least 15 specific years of experience, or more than 20 years of general experience. It will be challenging for offerors to obtain reference letters for older projects. Would MCA consider removing the requirement to provide reference letters for projects included in TECH-4?	<p>RFO states two separate requirements:</p> <p>1.1 The consultant should have 20 years of general experience and</p> <p>1.2 The Consultant should have at least 15 years of work experience in designing, organizing and implementing livelihood development and restoration programs. The requirement shall not be amended.</p>
13.	Section IV B. Financial Offer Forms	There is inconsistency among the FIN Forms where local currency is applicable or not. Can MCA confirm where the local currency is required in the FIN Forms?	Please refer Section II, ITO 15.1, which states “The currency(ies) of the Offer shall be as follows: United States Dollars

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			(US\$).”. Thus, the Offer should not be in local currency.
14.	Section IV B. Financial Offer Forms	Can MCA kindly confirm the applicable exchange rate to the local currency or if the offeror can propose an exchange rate based on its policy?	The Offer shall only be in United States Dollars (US\$), no local currency and exchange rate is required.
15.	Section V. Terms of Reference (ToR)	Can MCA provide the criteria for which the districts were separated in lots? Some of the wards of the municipalities are repeated in two lots, for example: Ward 7 of Belkotgadhi Municipalities in Lot 1 and Lot 2? Can MCA provide the rationale for the duplication of the wards? (Pg. 67)	The duplication of the same ward/district is due to the transmission line alignment configuration. Please note that the repetition of ward/district number in lots is not repetition of the 1500 PAPs,
16.	Section V. Terms of Reference (ToR)	Is there a difference between the Evaluation Survey described in Task 4.9 and the Impact Assessment Survey described in 4.12 on pages 78-79?	Both are different. Task 4.9 is the evaluation of the progress for each PAP after 26 months of the program implementation which will help to evaluate the output of the program and support in finalizing Task 4.10, Exit Strategies.
17.		It is in reference of TECH Form 2 A regarding the Evidence of financing (US\$490,000) dedicated to the implementation of the consulting services as attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant. Should it be cash balance or proof of credit facilities by the financial institution?	The consultant may provide the letter from their Bank demonstrating that they have availability of US\$490,000 dedicated for the implementation of this assignment and be attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant.
18.		Form TECH-2A. Financial Capacity of the Offeror bullet no. 3 Evidence of financing (US\$490,000) dedicated to the implementation of the consulting services as attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant - Is it necessary to reflect the	The consultant may provide the letter from their Bank demonstrating that they have availability of US\$490,000 dedicated for the implementation of this assignment and

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		amount in the audit report or okay in the recent bank statement?	be attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant.
19.	Refer to Page no. 13 3. Key Personnel 3.1 Team Leader 3.1.4 Experience of mainstreaming gender and social inclusion, environmental and social aspects in at least two projects.	Would it be acceptable if the expert has carried out activities related to mainstreaming gender and social inclusion, or does the expert need to have been specifically employed as a GESI expert to meet this requirement?	The Expert does not necessarily have to have GESI expert title/position, however s/he has to have documented evidence of mainstreaming gender, and social inclusion, environmental and social aspects while implementing the project.
20.	Eligibility of Firm to participate in a Joint Venture	Can a Government or a Semi- Government entity such as Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), Training Institute for Technical Instruction (TITI) be eligible to participate as a JV partner?	As per ITO 5.2 “An Offeror may be a private entity, certain government-owned entities (in accordance with MCC PPG), or any combination of such entities supported by a letter of intent to enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement of association in the form of a joint venture or other association.”. Thus, Government or a Semi- Government entity are eligible. However, please refer Part 8. Government-Owned Enterprise to better understand the requirement and please note that the Consultant is required to satisfy other requirements stated under the RFO.
21.		The requirements outlined for the consultant's organizational capability and relevant experience in the execution of projects in the power sector. Specifically, I have questions about the alignment of the following criteria with the stated focus on the power sector:	The requirement has been amended. Please review Addenda issued. (This criterion has been amended in Addendum#2 issued on 2 January 2025.

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		<p>1.1 The requirement for 20 years of general experience.</p> <p>1.2 At least 15 years of experience in designing, organizing, and implementing livelihood development and restoration programs.</p> <p>1.3 Working experience in at least five project districts on assignments of a similar nature.</p> <p>While these criteria are valuable, they appear to primarily relate to livelihood development rather than the technical, operational, or strategic aspects typically associated with the power sector. Could you kindly confirm if these requirements are accurate or if there might be a need to revise or contextualize them in line with power sector-specific expertise?</p>	
22.		<p>Could you please confirm whether the required working experience should span?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National-level, Provincial-level, Local-level programs or a combination of all three levels? 	<p>Question is not clear about experience of what, is it firm or individual?</p> <p>However, it depends upon the criteria stated in the RFP, if the regional experience is not mentioned in the criteria, experience of any level is acceptable.</p>
23.		<p>Also please clarify on the experience requirements for the Team Leader, specifically regarding point 3.1.4: Experience of mainstreaming gender and social inclusion, environmental and social aspects in at least two projects.</p> <p>In this context, we would like to confirm the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implicit Responsibilities: As Team Leaders generally oversee all aspects of project implementation, including gender, social inclusion, environmental, and social aspects, is it correct to assume that such responsibilities, even when not explicitly documented, would fulfill this requirement? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All the related experiences of the sector should be documented.

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		2. General Sector Environmental Projects: For individuals who have worked extensively in the government sector and been involved in projects with general environmental components (not explicitly labeled as "mainstreaming gender and social inclusion"), would such experience also be considered relevant?	2. All the related experiences of the sector should be documented.
24.	General	Expected Commencement date is missing, which will be required for preparation of work schedule and taking consent from the proposed experts regarding expected period of the contract. Please provide the same.	Contract signing is expected in mid of April 2025 and commencement is expected in mid of May 2025, if there is no further extension and delay.
25.	TOR 2. Overview/ Page 64/65 Last sentence of the Page 64 states, "To gain comprehensive information on policy documents, guidelines, plans, and procedures related to the Electricity Transmission project, the LRP Implementation Service Provider (Consultant) can thoroughly review the following documents available in Annex III. IX) Ratamate LRP and Evaluation Report. Last sentence of first paragraph of page 65 states, "The Ratmate LRP and Implementation Reports plus the Evaluation Report will be made available to bidders."	Annex III does not contain 'Ratamate LRP and Evaluation Report'. Please provide the same.	For information to the prospective offeror, the Executives Summary of Ramate LRP and Evaluation report can be accessed through the link below: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JG-pQ3Kiwie70nATAADpORsDQdQ3gqfX?usp=sharing Please check under folder AnnexIII_MCC and MCA-Nepal Policy Documents.

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26.	<p>TOR 4.11/ Page 78 Last. sentence of the: Page 78 state, "The MCC and MCA-Nepal's policy documents namely Environmental Social Health and Safety Management Plan (ESHSMP), Social and Gender and Integration Plan(SGIP), Trafficking in Person (TIP) Risk Management Plan, Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace, Stakeholder Engagement Plan are the major guiding documents for mainstreaming GSI and social safeguarding."</p>	<p>Please provide these documents.</p>	<p>For information to the prospective offeror, please find the link for the Documents listed below:</p> <p>Link:</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JG-pQ3Kiwie70nATAaDpORsDQdQ3qqfX?usp=sharing</p> <p>Please check under folder AnnexIII_MCC and MCA-Nepal Policy Documents.</p> <p>Documents available are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ESHSMP V 14 2. SGIP 3. TIP risk Management Plan
27.	<p>Request for Extension of Submission Deadline:</p>	<p>The recent international holidays, Christmas and New Year have already begun, and are presenting challenges for us as one of the international consulting partners in preparing and submitting a comprehensive and high-quality Request for Offer (RFO) by the prescribed current deadline of January 16, 2025. To ensure that we can deliver a proposal that fully meets the project's requirements, we kindly request an extension of the submission deadline to February 2025.</p>	<p>The submission deadline has been extended. Please refer the addenda to the bidding document issued.</p>
28.	<p>Clarification on Team Leader's Residency:</p>	<p>We would like to seek clarification regarding the residency requirements for the International Team</p>	<p>As per SCC/GCC 10.5 the Team Leder is required to be resident full time in Nepal.</p>

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		<p>Leader. We request flexibility in this zone, allowing for remote work arrangements while ensuring the Team Leader's full-time commitment to the project. The Team Leader will be readily available for all mandatory meetings, critical onsite engagements, and any other necessary in-person interactions with prior coordination.</p>	
29.	Inclusion of Deputy Team Leader/Project Coordinator:	<p>To enhance the project's implementation and ensure smooth operations, we propose the inclusion of a Deputy Team Leader and/or a Project Coordinator (either national or international). This role will provide valuable support to the Team Leader and contribute significantly to the overall project's efficiency along with providing necessary authorized letters and Power of Attorney to coordinate with MCA-Nepal team and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>The Offeror are free to propose additional position they believe will enhance the quality of their proposal.</p> <p>However, please ensure to meet the personnel requirement stated in the RFP.</p>
30.	Clarification on Man-Month Requirements	<p>We would appreciate it if you could provide detailed clarification regarding:</p> <p>The estimated man-month requirements for each key and non-key expert as outlined in the Terms of Reference (TOR).</p> <p>The division of man-months between fieldwork and office-based activities for these experts.</p> <p>This information is critical to ensure our proposal aligns with the expectations and scope of the project.</p>	<p>MCA-Nepal has disclosed the budget and hence will not be able to disclose the level of effort. The consultant shall propose the Level of Effort that is required to complete the assignment successfully as per Terms of Reference and Conditions of Contract.</p>
31.	Request for Submission Deadline Extension	<p>As we are collaborating with an international partner for this proposal, the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays have significantly impacted the availability of key stakeholders and resources. To</p>	<p>The submission deadline has been extended. Please refer addenda to the bidding document issued.</p>

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		<p>ensure a comprehensive and high-quality submission, we kindly request an extension of the submission deadline by at least 15 additional days beyond the current deadline of 16 January 2025. This extension would allow us sufficient time to finalize all necessary documentation and coordination efforts with our international counterparts.</p>	
32.		<p>Due to the upcoming international holidays, including Christmas and New Year, our international consulting partner is facing challenges in finalizing the proposal by the current submission deadline of 16 January 2025. To accommodate these challenges and ensure the submission of a comprehensive and high-quality proposal, we kindly request an extension of the submission deadline by at least 15 additional days, preferably to February 2025.</p>	<p>The submission deadline has been extended. Please refer the addenda to the bidding document issued.</p>
33.	Clarification on Key Experts' Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Man-Month Allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Could you please provide clarity on the total man-months required for each key and non-key expert? ➤ How are these man-months distributed between field-based and office-based work? • Team Leader's Residency Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Could you confirm if the Team Leader must be physically based in Nepal for the entire project duration? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Both bullet: MCA-Nepal has disclosed the budget and hence will not be able to disclose the level of effort. The consultant shall propose the Level of Effort that is required to complete the assignment successfully as per Terms of Reference and Conditions of Contract. 2. For both bullet: As per SCC/GCC 10.5, the team leader is required full time physically present in Nepal.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If flexibility is allowed, we propose the option for the Team Leader to operate remotely with availability for all mandatory meetings, onsite engagements, and critical milestones with prior coordination. • Additional Roles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Would the inclusion of a Deputy Team Leader or Project Coordinator (national or international) be considered acceptable to provide operational and strategic support to the Team Leader? 	<p>No flexibility with the provision of the RFP is allowed.</p> <p>3. Additional Roles: The Offeror are free to propose additional positions they believe will enhance the quality of their proposal.</p> <p>However, please ensure to meet the personnel requirement stated in the RFP.</p>
34.	Clarification on Financial Resource Requirements	Could you confirm if the financial capacity requirement of USD 490,000 can be fulfilled collectively by a Joint Venture (JV) or if the lead partner alone must meet this threshold?	All members combined can meet the requirement.
35.	Clarification on Deliverables Timeline and Reporting	Can you provide additional details on the expected frequency and format for deliverables such as progress reports, training completion reports, and the final project completion report?	<p>Frequency of the deliverables is already scheduled in the RFP.</p> <p>Formats for these deliverables shall be finalized in mutual discussion during inception phase.</p>
36.	Flexibility on Grievance Mechanism Implementation	Could you clarify if the selected consultant has flexibility in proposing modifications or enhancements to the grievance redress mechanism outlined in the Terms of Reference?	The MCA-Nepal's Grievance Redress Mechanism must be followed by the consultant.