

Term of Reference (ToR)

for Preparation of National Framework on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in Nepal

1. Background

WWF is the world's leading independent conservation organization originated in Switzerland in 1961 and currently running in more than 100 countries across 6 continents. WWF initiated work in Nepal with a rhino conservation program in Chitwan in 1967 while the WWF Nepal set up its office formally on 19 May 1993. Currently, WWF Nepal works in five thematic areas- Wildlife, Freshwater, Climate and Energy, Forests, and Governance. WWF Nepal's focus has progressed from its localized efforts in conservation of a single species in the 1960s, to integrated conservation and development approach in 1990s, to a new horizon of landscape-level conservation encompassing national, regional, and global scales of complexity since the early 2000s.

WWF Nepal, in close collaboration with the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) has been implementing projects on nature-based solutions for resilient watersheds providing triple benefits for biodiversity, climate and people.

Nepal faces pressing environmental challenges including land degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, and recurrent natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and landslides. These threats jeopardize ecosystem services and the livelihoods of millions who rely on natural resources. To share and discuss challenges and best practices across the country, DoFSC convened a National Workshop on Addressing Land Degradation through Nature-Based Solutions from 9-10 June 2025 in Godavari, Lalitpur, in collaboration with partners including IUCN and WWF Nepal. The workshop concluded with the Godavari Declaration, which underscores the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration and calls for the development of a National Framework on NbS. This framework aims to standardize NbS implementation, foster shared understanding, and ensure measurable benefits for people, biodiversity, and climate resilience.

Nature-based solutions offer cost-effective, sustainable, and inclusive approaches to address land degradation, climate risks, and biodiversity loss while improving human well-being.

Although initiatives such as watershed management, agroforestry, ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, and climate adaptation are underway, they often remain fragmented and lack strategic coherence.

To address this gap, WWF Nepal under the guidance of DoFSC and in collaboration with development partners is supporting Government of Nepal in the formulation of a National NbS Framework. This framework will guide the integration of NbS into national policies and practices, ensuring a coordinated and credible approach to environmental challenges. It will also promote cross-sectoral collaboration across environment, agriculture, forestry, water resources, infrastructure, and disaster management, and facilitate alignment with national, provincial, and local governance structures as well as international commitments.

2. Objective

The primary objective is to develop a National Framework on NbS for Nepal, aligned with the Global Standard on NbS, relevant international commitments and the proposed Table of Contents provided in Annex 2.

3. Scope of Work

The framework will:

- Cover terrestrial, freshwater, agro-ecosystems, and other relevant landscapes.
- Be inclusive, consultative, and evidence-based, incorporating scientific, traditional, and indigenous knowledge.
- Align with SDGs, Paris Agreement, Freshwater Challenge, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and national priorities (e.g., LDN targets, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation).

4. Approach and Methodology

a) Assessment: Review policies, ongoing projects, global and national best practices.

- b) Consultations:** Conduct dialogues at national, provincial, and local levels, as appropriate.
- c) Drafting:** Prepare the draft framework with clear vision, goals, strategies, and institutional mechanisms aligned with the proposed structure in Annex 2.
- d) Validation & Finalization:** Organize validation workshop, incorporate feedback, and finalize the draft framework.

5. Timeline

The task will start immediately after signing the agreement. The consultancy is expected to be completed by the end of December 2025.

Total duration: **November – December 2025**

- Review & assessment: 2 weeks
- Consultations: 2 weeks
- Drafting framework: 2 weeks
- Validation & finalization: 1 week

6. Team Composition and required qualifications

Position	Qualification and Experience
Team Leader (NbS/ Policy Expert)	Master's or PhD in Environmental Science, Forestry, Natural Resource Management, or related field; minimum 10 years' experience in NbS, EbA or ecosystem management.
Social/GESI Specialist	Master's in Sociology, Anthropology, or Gender Studies with 10 years' experience in inclusive governance and community-based approaches.
Policy Analyst	Master's degree with experience in policy review, institutional mapping, and drafting policy frameworks.

7. Coordination and reporting

The consultancy team shall work in close coordination with the Head of Freshwater Programs of WWF Nepal and under the guidance of the DoFSC. The team shall regularly coordinate with the NbS Framework Task Force Team formed by DoFSC for guidance and quality assurance throughout the process.

The report, data collected, materials including photos related to project must be copyrighted to © DoFSC/ WWF Nepal.

8. Deliverables

- Draft National NbS Framework by 26th December 2025

9. Proposal Submission Details

Interested VAT registered firms are requested to submit technical and financial proposals (in NPR) electronically to: proposals-freshwater@wwfnepal.org. Please mention email subject as - **“NbS Framework”** and submit the proposal by **5:00PM Nepal Standard Time, 13th November 2025**. The proposal must include:

- Signed cover letter specifying the value of the proposal.
- Technical proposal
- Financial proposal
- CVs of team members
- Organization profile with experience (Not exceeding 2 pages)
- Organization registration and latest renewal
- VAT registration certificate
- Latest tax clearance certificate
- Latest audit report

Only selected applicants for further consideration will be contacted. Please refer to Annex 1 for Budget Template.

10. Mode of Payment

The payment will be made as per WWF Nepal norms and upon submissions of satisfactory deliverables. Note that payments are subject to tax deduction as per prevailing government rules.

Annex 1: Budget template

S.N.	Description	Unit	Qty.	Rate	Amount (NPR)
1	Fee (1.1+1.2+1.3+....VAT)				XXXX
1.1	Team Leader-Name	Days			XXXX
1.2	Team Member	Days			XXXX
1.3					XXXX
	VAT 13% on Fee				XXXX
	GRAND TOTAL				XXXX

**Note: please add/edit rows as required*

Annex 2: Table of Contents for the Framework (Proposed)

1. Introduction
 - a. Global Perspectives and Standard
 - i. Evolution of Nature-based Solutions
 - ii. Different perspectives on NbS
 - iii. Global Standard on NbS
 - b. National Context of Nature-based Solutions
2. Framing and Scoping the Nature based Solution
 - i. Rationale
 - ii. Goal and Objectives
 - iii. Scope and limitations
 - iv. Approach and process of framework development
3. National Framework for Nature-based Solutions
 - a. Core principles for designing, implementing, and evaluating interventions: addressing societal challenges, ensuring biodiversity gains, economic viability, and equitable governance.
 - b. Adaptive management based on evidence and performance: assessment and analysis- methodology, tools and approaches
 - c. Integration within a suitable jurisdictional context, explicit benefits for people and nature e.g. integration within policies and plans- process and mechanism
 - d. Implementation of Nature-based Solutions: Inclusive governance, equitable balancing, jurisdictional integration, landscape scale and evidence-based design and implementation
 - e. Transparency, inclusivity, and a focus on long-term sustainability: M&E system, Long-term performance, capacity building and integrated approach
 - f. Nature-based Solutions Self-Assessment with examples
 - g. Stakeholders' roles and responsibilities

- h. Financing Nature Based solutions: innovative instruments and tools for diversifying funding and financial leveraging

4. References

5. Annexes