

Terms of Reference

Consultancy to Develop and Implement a Market-based Wildlife Damage Insurance Scheme to mitigate Human Wildlife Conflict in the buffer-zone of Bardia National Park

1. Background

Human wildlife conflict is a serious threat to conservation as it impacts both humans and wildlife. Negative interactions between people and wildlife - such as attacks on people, or livestock/crop depredation and property damage can consequently result in incidences of retaliatory killings of wildlife or contribute to the gradual loss of tolerance towards wildlife presence in the area. The loss of a single cow to a leopard, or an entire crop to elephants – the sole source of household income in many rural areas – can have devastating economic impacts to a family. Similarly, the loss of a family member to predators or elephants is a tragedy from which families never recover. These tragedies severely compromise conservation successes and can lead to retaliation, poaching, or other illegal activities, ultimately degrading wildlife habitats.

2. Rationale

While informal practices on providing certain relief for wildlife damage existed in some protected areas supported by park revenue funds or conservation partners, it wasn't until 2009 that a formal nation-wide wildlife damage relief scheme was introduced by the Government of Nepal. Between 1996-2016, 4,768 human wildlife conflict cases were registered in the Terai Arc Landscape of Nepal. However, these figures fall short in accurately reflecting realities on the ground as there are many unregistered cases due to lengthy processing times. Besides, not all types of wildlife damage are eligible under the government's relief process, resulting in many cases falling through the system. The extent and intensity of such risks and damages varies depending on the wildlife species; proximity to wildlife habitats; and preventive measures undertaken to avoid such risks and damages.

Mechanisms such as Livestock Insurance Schemes have been piloted in a few areas of Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA), Shey Phoksundo National Park (SPNP) and buffer zones of Chitwan National Park; as proactive measure to compensate for losses as well as manage negative perceptions towards wildlife. However, this scheme remains relatively unexplored by the private sector - in terms of its potential to insure human, properties, livestock and crops - until recently. The pervasive nature of the problem has also drawn attention of policy makers, conservationists, communities and the local government across the country.

Understanding the potential for public, private and community partnership in providing insurance coverage, USAID's Hariyo Ban Program supported the **design and pilot of a market-based Wildlife Damage Insurance (WDI) scheme to mitigate human wildlife conflict in Vadrayani area of Ratnagar, Chitwan in 2019**. The program was successfully launched, and provision for WDI were made for 149 households. WDI is a risk-based insurance scheme that is provided at household levels to cover loss of crops, livestock, properties, injuries or death resultant of wildlife damage, in order to incentivize co-existence, particularly in cases where human wildlife conflict is severe or economic loss to communities is substantial.

2. Objective

WWF Nepal is therefore seeking the services of a consultant to "**Develop and implement Market-based Wildlife Damage Insurance Scheme to mitigate Human Wildlife Conflict in the buffer zone of Bardia National Park**", with the objective of securing livelihoods of communities, and reducing risk of wildlife damage and wildlife retaliation. In longer run, this program aims to make communities sustainable, garner community stewardship in conservation and reduce financial liabilities to the government.

3. Scope of Work / Methodology

The selected organization/consultant will be responsible for (but not limited to) the following:

i. Literature Review

- a. Review the process and implementation modality of Hariyo Ban Program piloted WDI and capture best practices/learnings to integrate and adapt in the project accordingly.
- b. Review relevant policies, documents including Relief Guidelines for the Wildlife Damages 2067.

ii. Orientation, Site selection and Baseline Survey

- a. Map stakeholders
- b. Orient implementing partners in market-based wildlife damage insurance scheme and consult for site selection.
- c. Identify HWC hotspots in Bardia for implementing WDI scheme through consultations with government, partners and communities based on trends with highest wildlife damage as verified through government records.
- d. Undertake baseline survey of the identified site and compile data required for processing/designing WDI scheme in the project site.
- e. Submit household level information to the implementing partners and service providers, share results and finalize features of WDI through stakeholders and community consultations.

iii. Designing WDI Scheme

- a. Identify and collaborate with a private sector insurance company to design a micro insurance product targeted to the households in HWC hotspots in Bardia with a scope to include interested households and scaling up to other sites across the country.
- b. Design insurance product to meet the specific need of communities/households in the sites surveyed while ensuring the coverage of accidental death, accidental injury, damage to property, livestock and crop.
- c. Finalize insurance policy in close consultation with the insurance company and implementing partners.
- d. Work closely with government, private and community stakeholders – including local governments, national parks, buffer zones committees, community forest user groups, and insurance companies – to ensure meaningful participation and garner stewardship.
- e. Explore opportunities to leverage funds.
- f. Support implementing partners in developing working modality with clear roles and responsibilities.
- g. Develop brochures highlighting procedures for claiming insurance.

iv. Launching WDI Scheme and its Sustainability

- a. Launch WDI scheme formally in the proposed site.
- b. Conduct detailed orientation to the communities on insurance claim procedure.
- c. Propose and create a mechanism for annual renewal and sustainability of this scheme.

v. Project Impact Monitoring

Consultant will track implementation process and document learnings for a year since the launch of WDI scheme in the project site.

Provide technical support to the implementing agencies and submit detailed report on impact monitoring and sustainability WDI scheme

4. Timeline and Deliverables

SN	Deliverable	Timeline
1	Inception Report - detailed plan of action/methodology to be undertaken in covering above identified scope of work	Week 2 of Agreement Signing
2	Baseline Survey and Stakeholder Consultations Report- covering orientation on WDI scheme, site identification, baseline survey and designing “Wildlife Damage Insurance Scheme” under public, private, community partnership	Within 3 months of Agreement signing
3	Final technical report including scheme launch covering (100 households) and documentation of the entire process followed in designing unique wildlife damage insurance scheme, learnings and implementation modality for Bardia.	By the end of June
4.	Final financial report	By the end of June
5.	Project impact monitoring report (one year from the time of product launch)	

5. Project Output/Outcome:

- Increased awareness and attraction of the private sector companies, communities towards WDI scheme
- Minimum of 100 households (ca100 household or more inclusive of marginalized and HWC impacted families) are supported with WDI in Bardia
- Increased institutional capacity within government, buffer zone user committees and groups and private companies to start such initiatives at scales
- Reduction in wildlife retaliation (measured through numbers of mega-fauna retaliation) in the project site

6. Duration of the Assignment

The assignment will be initiated from first week of February 2021 and concluded by the second week of June 2021. Follow up one-year impact monitoring will also be done by the selected candidates within this project.

7. Estimated Budget

The maximum budget ceiling for the assignment inclusive of all above mentioned activities is **NPR 2668,000/-** (Nepali Rupee Two Million Six Hundred and Sixty-Eight Thousand) inclusive of VAT.

8. Team Composition and Qualifications

The consulting VAT registered organization/institution should have a minimum experience of five years in insurance product design, planning and management and working with diverse stakeholders. Preference will be given to organizations who have had similar experience and have delivered work of this nature in the past. The team should comprise of a multidisciplinary team with experience in finance/insurance, social science, wildlife and other biodiversity, veterinary, agriculture, related policy and legal issues.

9. Proposal Submission Details

Interested VAT registered organization/institutions are requested to submit electronic copies of proposals to info@wwfnepal.org. Please state “**Consultancy-Wildlife Damage Insurance Scheme**” in the subject line. Proposals should be submitted via email to the above-mentioned address no later than **20th January 2021 5:00 PM**.

The technical proposal should include the following but not limited to:

- Overall project approach, detailed methodology outlining step by step process for baseline survey, WDI scheme design including stakeholder consultations. Demonstrate thorough understanding and knowledge on insurance policy and legal issues.
- Timeline and Work plan
- Identification of any major risks foreseen in undertaking and completing the project and strategies for countering the risks.

The financial proposal should include the following:

- Detailed breakdown of total activities and budget
- Expert fee
- Travel costs
- Administrative costs
- Other cost, if any

The proposal should also include the following documents:

- Cover/Experience Letter demonstrating interest and experience to engage in the project
- Company Profile
- Organization Registration and latest renewal (applicable to NGO)
- Latest tax clearance certificate (for private company)
- VAT registration certificate
- Registration with Social Welfare Council (applicable to I/NGO)
- Tax Exemption Certificate, if applicable
- Latest audit report
- Latest curriculum vitae/s of Experts and team members
- Authorization letter from the current employer, if working

10. Mode of Payment

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.