**Request for Expression of Interest**

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**REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**SHIRE VALLEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (SVTP) -2**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)**

**Country: MALAWI**

**Name of Project: SHIRE VALLEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME-2**

**Credit No:** **71350-MW**

**Assignment Title: ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS SPECIALIST**

**Reference No**. **MW-MOAIWD- 366728-CS-INDV**

# **Introduction**

The Government of Malawi with support from the World Bank and the African Development Bank is implementing the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP). The program development objective (PDO) for the Shire Valley Transformation Program is to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization for targeted households in the Shire Valley; and to improve the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources. The SVTP is a 14-year program (2018-2031) which targets the development of about 40,000 ha abstracting water from the Shire River at Kapichira and conveying it by gravity to the irrigable area (in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts) mainly through canals. It is structured around three coordinated pillars:

i. Providing reliable, professionally managed and sustainably financed irrigation service to irrigators in a phased construction of the scheme and providing multiple services including water supply;

ii. Support farmer organization within a comprehensive land use plan; supporting land tenure strengthening and consolidation; as well as natural resources management; and

iii. Establishment of smallholder owned commercial farm enterprises transitioning into commercial agriculture from subsistence farming and integrating them into commercial value chains.

SVTP will be implemented in three sequential but partially overlapping phases. The SVTP-I (2018-2023) Project Development Objective is to provide access to reliable gravity fed irrigation and drainage services, secure land tenure for smallholder farmers, and strengthen management of wetlands and protected areas in the Shire Valley. The main areas of action for SVTP -1 are namely: 1) irrigation service provision; 2) Land tenure and natural resources management support; 3 Agriculture development and commercialization and 4) project management and coordination.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development now invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the position of Environmental Safeguards Specialist (ESS). The main responsibility of the ESS is to support the organization, coordination and implementation of environmental safeguard aspects under the Programme.

1. **The Position**

The Environmental Safeguards Specialist (ESS) is part of a larger Project Management Team, which comprises the Coordinator and other specialists. He/she will provide support to the Senior Environmental Safeguards Specialist in ensuring that the Project is effectively complying with the national, donor and Project Environmental Safeguards frameworks, policy guidelines and requirements.

1. **Tasks and Responsibilities.**

The ESS will be a competitively recruited individual consultant. In particular, the ESS will support implementation of the ESMP, C-ESMP, restoration plans, ensuring that the Project is effectively complying with the national donor and project Environmental Safeguards frameworks, policy guidelines and requirements. He/she shall work in liaison with other the project specialists and stakeholders in the implementation of all safeguards measures as described in the Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment (ESIA), ESMP, BMP and contractor’s operational plans.

# **3.1 Specific Tasks**

The tasks and responsibilities of the ESS shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Review the Programme related documentation to better understand the implications of SVTP on the environment.
2. Interface with National Authorities in charge of environment to ensure implementation of environmental safeguards, including preparation of catchment management plans, Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP), Pest Management Plans (PMP), ESIAS, ESMPs and RAPs, are developed and conform with Government and World Bank / AfDB requirements.
3. Oversee development and implementation of protected area management plans, construction ESMPs and investment options for natural resources conservation, measures to sustain Lengwe National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve and Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, during canal construction, invasive fish, wildlife-friendly canal features, development of code of conduct for the workers, rehabilitation and management of selected micro catchments within the clusters in order to enhance restoration of ecological functions of the selected micro catchment.
4. Provide technical guidance to ensure that natural resource management and investments reduce environmental degradation and assist farmers in the scheme cluster areas in management of the schemes to enhance/ mitigate environmental impacts, and contribute to sustainable land/soil management practices.
5. Assist the Cooperatives/ SOCFEs in developing Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) and in implementation of the mitigation measures as proposed in the ESMP and PMP.
6. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of Environmental Safeguards (ESGs), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), Pest Management Plans (PMP), Environmental Construction Plans (ECPs), and any environmental activity that might be implemented on the ground including the sub-projects under the Programme to ensure conformity with national requirements.
7. Facilitate integration of relevant and cross-cutting environmental issues including gender, GBV, SEA / SH/SA, HIV/AIDs, and labour influx.
8. Ensure enhancement of the role of local communities in monitoring environmental compliance dimensions during implementation of the construction environmental plans including the ESMPs.
9. In collaboration with team members of the PIU and relevant national authorities, organize and conduct training workshops, in accordance with the capacity building plan, on environmental safeguards and any relevant environmental management.
10. Periodically, carry out the necessary coordination activities for environmental activities and perform related field work as required and submit clear and concise written reports based on field inspections or regular monitoring.
11. Prepare monthly, quarterly and annual report to be submitted to the management as a follow-up on the implementation and monitoring of the sub-projects’ environmental activities vis-à-vis the respective ESMPs, ESGs, PMPs and EMPs as well as any issue that is encountered with regard to the environmental safeguards.
12. Support project in the finalization of Annual Work Plans and Budgets including Procurements plans
13. Support in the preparation of mid-term reviews, final evaluations, and environmental and social audits.
14. Assist the Senior Environmental Safeguards Specialist in any other tasks relevant to the expertise including preparing various reports and other documents required by Management and DPs.

**4.0 Qualifications and Experience:**

The ESS is expected to have the following credentials:

1. The Environmental Safeguards Specialist shall be a holder of a minimum of Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Management, Environmental Engineering or a related field . He/she must have at least 5 years of cumulative experience related to construction, rehabilitation and design studies, as well as specific experience (in the last 3 years) of the management of consultancy teams working on feasibility studies and detailed engineering design in projects of similar size and complexity. He/she must be fluent in English and Chichewa must have strong written and oral communication skills.
2. The Environmental Safeguards Specialist must have recognised competencies in implementation of World Bank’s Operational Policies and Environmental Social Framework (ESF) and the African Development Bank’s Operational Safeguards.
3. He/she must have hands on experience in construction supervision, operation and maintenance of hydropower plants and dam monitoring.
4. Working knowledge of dam safety regulations in Sub-Saharan Africa would be an added advantage.
5. The expert is required to be independent and free of conflicts of interest in the responsibilities accorded to him/her.

**5.0 Location of Employment**

The Environmental Safeguards Specialist will be based in Blantyre, but will be required to travel regularly and extensively to the project area (Chikwawa & Nsanje) to ensure that progress follows project plans and that appropriate support is provided for project activities.

**6.0 Duration of Employment**

The Contract is for an initial period of one-year renewable upon satisfactory completion of the assignment and satisfactory appraisal results.

**7.0 Reporting Requirements**

As part a member of the Project Management Team (PMT), the ESS shall report to the Senior Environmental Safeguards Specialist.

**8.0 Services and facilities to be provided by the Client**

The client will provide the following services and facilities to the consultant

1. Office space
2. Office equipment
3. Communication facilities
4. Logistics for field work

**9.0** The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” dated November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

**10.0** Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 7:30hrs to 12:00hrs and from 13:00hrs to 17:00hrs except on Weekends and Public Holidays.

**11.0** Expressions of interest including detailed updated curriculum vitae and copies of professional and academic qualifications must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **23rd October, 2023.**

The Project Coordinator,

Shire Valley Transformation Programme,

Makata Industrial Area,

Private 379,

Blantyre

Malawi.

(Attention: The Senior Procurement Specialist)

Alternatively, applications may be emailed to: procurement.doi@svtp.gov.mw

cc: [mmaoni.doi@svtp.gov.mw](mailto:mmaoni.doi@svtp.gov.mw); [mtewete.doi@svtp.gov.mw](mailto:mtewete.doi@svtp.gov.mw); [mwalabu2005@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mwalabu2005@yahoo.co.uk)