

NATURE CONSERVANCY INDIA SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR THE (BIODIVERSITY STATUS AND REPEAT ASSESSMENT IN NON-PROTECTED AREAS OF SUNDARBANS)

Date of Issue of RFP	27.08.2026
Last date for seeking clarifications	03.09.2026
Date of Pre-Proposal Meeting (Via VC)	07.09.2026
Last date for Submission of RFP	14.09.2026

INTRODUCTION

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a leading conservation organization working to make a positive impact around the world in more than 80 countries and territories. Founded in 1951, TNC's mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. With our core values of integrity beyond reproach, respect for people communities and culture, and commitment to diversity we aim at environmental conservation through lasting tangible results.

TNC has been advancing projects in India since 2017 to support India's efforts to "develop without destruction". We work closely with the government, research institutions, civil society organizations, private sector and local communities to develop science-based, on-the-ground, scalable solutions for some of the country's most pressing environmental challenges.

Nature Conservancy India Solutions Private Limited (NCIS) is a Private Limited Company incorporated under The Companies Act, 2013. It is a subsidiary of The Nature Conservancy, one of the largest not-for-profit conservation organisations in the world. NCIS was incorporated with the objective of providing research, consulting, technical support, and advisory services to various stakeholders in and outside India relating to conservation of nature, environment, biodiversity, and climate change.

PURPOSE

The Sundarbans is the largest mangrove forest in the world, spanning 9,630 km² across the borders of West Bengal, India, and Bangladesh. It is the world's largest delta, formed by the rivers Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna. A large part of the Sundarbans is recognized as a Ramsar Site, a wetland of international importance, and the protected areas on the Indian side have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987. The landscape supports exceptional biodiversity, including the Royal Bengal Tiger, saltwater crocodile, Gangetic and Irrawaddy dolphins, fishing cat, and a wide range of resident and migratory birds, alongside globally significant mangrove floral diversity.

Millions of people depend on the Sundarbans for their livelihoods and for protection from storms, cyclones, tidal surges, seawater intrusion, and flooding. The Indian Sundarbans, particularly its non-protected regions, currently face many threats to ecological integrity, including cyclones, rising sea levels, unsustainable agriculture and aquaculture, reduced freshwater supply, erosion, and depletion of fisheries and other natural resources. This degradation has direct consequences for the wildlife and plant communities that depend on the mangrove habitat, as well as for the coastal communities who rely on it.

NCIS aims to restore 60 ha of degraded mangrove habitat in the Indian Sundarbans, in line with the MISHTI initiative of the Government of India, to rehabilitate degraded mangrove ecosystems,

enhance biodiversity, secure livelihoods, and improve climate resilience. Under this initiative, there is a need for robust, field-verified biodiversity evidence to:

- Document the flora and fauna present at restoration and reference sites;
- Establish a credible biodiversity status against which restoration outcomes can be measured;
- Track species-level and habitat-level change as restoration progresses; and
- Generate evidence to inform adaptive management, and to support reporting under national and global frameworks (e.g., MISHTI, India's NDCs, Global Mangrove Alliance, and CBD's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework).

This ToR outlines the scope, methodology, deliverables, and expectations for a biodiversity status and repeat seasonal assessment covering flora, fauna, habitat condition, and invasive species, status across restoration and reference sites in the Sundarbans.

CONTRACT TYPE AND CONTRACT SERVICES

NCIS will entertain under this, RFP Cost-Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF) completion type contract(s).

BIDS

We welcome bids from bidders for successful implementation of the activities as mentioned in Key Objectives.

NCIS reserves the right to postpone or cancel the bidding process for one or more clusters with no prior notice.

PROJECT LOCATION AND PERIOD FOR PERFORMANCE

Location: Non-protected areas of Sundarbans, West Bengal.

Period: From September 2026 to February 2027 (with two complete profile surveys – Status and repeat seasonal biodiversity assessment).

KEY OBJECTIVES

To generate status and repeat biodiversity evidence covering mangrove flora, associated fauna, habitat condition, and invasive species across restoration and reference sites in the Sundarbans, to establish the ecological starting point for restoration, and to track change over restoration phase.

- To compile and field-verify a species inventory of mangrove flora and associated fauna across restoration and reference sites.
- To assess habitat condition and the presence and extent of invasive species at status.
- To track, at status and repeat assessment (of restoration), change in species richness, regeneration and survival (species-level), presence of threatened species, and habitat connectivity relative to status and reference sites.
- To generate a standardized, reusable species database and biodiversity-specific database that integrate with the project's broader monitoring system.

The consultant/agency will be responsible for undertaking the following components:

1. Survey planning and design

- o Compilation of existing secondary information on reference site/surrounding flora and fauna to inform survey design.
 - o Design of a sampling framework for flora and fauna (with specification of taxa to be assessed) appropriate to area.
 - o Scheduling field visits within conducive windows wrt to pre and post restoration phases (note that a full annual faunal picture including seasonal migrants may need multiple field visits).
2. Status assessment
- o Mangrove species inventory: field verification with pictorial geo-tagged evidence of tree, shrub, and associated flora species present at each site.
 - o Flora assessment: field verification with pictorial geo-tagged evidence of species composition, stem density, seedling/sapling stocking density, and regeneration status.
 - o Fauna assessment: field verification with pictorial geo-tagged evidence of select faunal groups (indirect and/or direct sightings – mammals, birds, fishes, crabs, butterflies, dragonflies, bees, spiders, and any opportunistic recording of herpetofauna).
 - o Habitat condition assessment: with pictorial geo-tagged evidence of degradation or disturbance, soil and substrate condition, tidal/hydrological connectivity of the site, and any visible unsustainable human pressure.
 - o Invasive species assessment: field verification with pictorial geo-tagged evidence of invasive floral and faunal (if any) species, and cover/extent of spread at each site.
3. Repeat assessment
- o Repeat species inventory using the same methodology and, where possible, the same plots as status, to allow direct comparison.
 - o Species richness (flora and fauna, including invasives, reported separately) relative to status and reference sites.
 - o Species-level regeneration and survival rates from repeat plot sampling.
 - o Change in invasive species extent relative to status.
4. Data analysis, integration and reporting
- o Calculation of standard biodiversity indices for flora and fauna, by site and against reference sites.
 - o Comparative analysis of status vs. repeat and restoration vs. reference sites.
 - o Quality control, data validation, and documentation sufficient for the dataset to be reused in future monitoring cycles.
5. Monitoring indicators: The biodiversity assessment should include a detailed sample site details, sampling design and taxa specific methodology, and analytical framework to support estimation and tracking of following indicators:
- o Species richness index (flora and fauna, reported separately)
 - o Presence of any threatened species (IUCN Red List / WPA 1972, 2022 / National and sub-national endemism)
 - o Number of mangrove species (and, separately, associated faunal species) recorded

- o Survival rate (%) of restoration saplings at species-level, plot-based
- o Natural regeneration (%) at species-level stocking density
- o Seedling: sapling: mature tree ratio
- o Invasive species extent/cover (%)
- o Habitat/human-disturbance index, based on the status habitat condition assessment
- o Preliminary diversity indices

OUTCOMES

Sl.No.	Deliverable	Details	Month of deliverable
1	Inception report	• Secondary literature review • Survey planning and design • Preliminary field visit schedule • Supporting folder containing relevant literature referenced	October 2026
2	Status survey report	• Species inventory of flora, fauna, and invasives, including detailed methodology adapted for each group, date-time of sampling, sampling conditions, geo-coordinates of sampling locations, etc. • Sapling:mature tree ratio • RET species categorization • Habitat condition documentation • Supporting folder containing clearly demarcated groups with pictorial geo-tagged evidence for inventory and field sampling activity	November 2026
3	Repeat survey report	• Species inventory of flora, fauna, and invasives, including detailed methodology adapted for each group, date-time of sampling, sampling conditions, geo-coordinates of sampling locations, etc. • Sapling:mature tree ratio • RET species categorization • Habitat condition documentation • Supporting folder containing clearly demarcated groups with pictorial geo-tagged evidence for inventory and field sampling activity	February 2027
4	Comparative assessment report	• Changes in species richness; regeneration and survival rates	February 2027

		from repeat plot sampling relative to status • Changes in Sapling:mature tree ratio • Changes in habitat condition documentation • Change in invasive species extent relative to status • Analysis of monitoring indicators • Supporting folder containing any additional relevant information	
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ESTIMATED COSTS AND FIXED FEE

The costs allowable will be limited to reasonable, allocable, and necessary costs.

The financial bid should be prepared in accordance with the cost elements outlined below and Bidders should clearly identify their margin as part of their financial bids.

S. No.	Details	Amount
1	The estimated cost of project execution	INR X (please provide complete break up of total cost)
2	The estimated fee for project execution	INR Y (please mention your fee or margin to manage the project)
3	Applicable Taxes (if any)	INR Z (bidder will be responsible for complying with all applicable tax laws e.g., income tax, GST, etc.)
	Total Cost-plus Fixed Fee (CPFF)	INR X+Y+Z (Price up to - INR. 18,00,000)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The consultant/agency should demonstrate:

- Demonstrated taxonomic and field ecology expertise in floral and faunal assessments, ideally with 10+ years of prior subject experience in the Sundarbans or comparable Indian coastal/deltaic ecosystems.
- Experience designing and executing varied taxa adapted methodologies and data analysis.
- Local language capacity (Bengali) and experience engaging local communities/boatmen/guides, given the logistics of Sundarbans fieldwork.

PRE-BID QUERIES AND CLARIFICATIONS ON RFP

To clarify technical queries (excluding cost and fee) on RFP, Bidders must submit questions via email to manoj.singh@tnc.org, and any query relating to cost, bid price, etc. must be submitted to jayalakshmi.nair@tnc.org by no later than **11:59pm IST, September 03, 2026**. NCIS will make every effort to answer questions. Answers to all questions will be shared with all Bidders.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

Last date for submission of proposal is September 14, 2026 at 11:59pm IST.

Technical and Financial Proposals are required in soft copy only. The subject line of the email submission should state "Proposal for BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT FOR MANGROVE RESTORATION IN THE SUNDARBANS" – <Name of The Organization>" and will be shared at:

- Financial Bid: jayalakshmi.nair@tnc.org; sunil.choudhary@tnc.org
- Technical Bid: manoj.singh@tnc.org; mriddika.basu@tnc.org

Technical proposal should include the following:

- Key objectives
- Methodology
- Work plan and timeline
- Expected outputs and deliverables
- Experience of similar assignments in Sundarbans
- Profile of team engaged in assignment with their Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Financial Bid must accompany with the following documents:

- 1) Copy of incorporation documents.
- 2) Copy of registration certificate under income tax and GST (If applicable).
- 3) Copy of last three years audited financial statements with audit report.
- 4) Copy of last three years income tax return.
- 5) Copy of last two GST returns.
- 6) Copy of address proof.
- 7) List of similar project executed with name of client, year of execution, and value.
- 8) In case the bidder is registered with Ministry of Home Affairs , please also share FCRA Registration number and validity.
- 9) Total number of staff (full time, part time and volunteer)

Note: – You are requested to send all financial information in one go to avoid disqualification if any. **Bids with incomplete financial and other information as requested in this RFP will be rejected summarily.**

Submission of the proposal to any other individual will result in the disqualification of the proposal. Bidder can submit only one bid. Submitting multiple bids under different name will result in automatic disqualification.