

Request for Proposal 2020-2021

Goal: Environmental Conservation for Sustainable Livelihoods

Under the visionary leadership of His Majesty the fourth King of Bhutan, the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTFEC) was established as an independent grant making organization and functions under the "Royal Charter" 1996. Through its successive Strategic Plans starting from 1997, the BTFEC has supported the implementing agencies through its core funding in the conservation of flora, fauna and eco-system.

The Strategic Plan III (2015 to 2020) had identified three strategic priorities; 1) Funding few core conservation threats; 2) Support population most affected by loss of natural resources; and 3) Collaborate with other institutions to maximize conservation benefits of the BTFEC funding.

Based on the Strategic plan, the BTFEC prepares "Request for Proposal" (RFP) on an annual basis. The RFP is formulated involving a wide range of stakeholders. The purpose of the RFP is to establish a clear and focused program to fund priority conservation challenges and support community livelihoods.

The RFP for fiscal year 2020-2021, has three (3) thematic areas on which project proposals can be formulated. Under each thematic area, a list of expected outcomes and broad guiding framework are suggested that can be used as the basis for proposal formulation. (details are as listed below)

BTFEC will accept project proposal for fiscal year 2020-2021 till 30 June 2020. For agencies under the Royal Government of Bhutan, project proposal should be routed through the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) while the non-governmental & community based organizations can submit directly to BTFEC Secretariat.

Thematic Area I: Water resources management and its sustainable utilization

Rationale:

Despite the abundance (109,000 cubic meters per capita per annum) of water resources, many places across the country are facing water shortage. Drying of water sources, catchment degradation, long dry seasons, irregular rainfall, lack of climate resilient water infrastructure, inefficient utilization of water resources, weak institutional linkages and poor coordination among water agencies are some of the prevailing issues and concerns.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Enriched watersheds through Integrated Water Resources Management approaches
2. Improved efficiency of water utilization and management through innovative and climate smart technology

Broad guiding framework:

1. Community based watershed protection through initiative like PES schemes
2. Use of innovative and climate smart technology in water utilization & water harvesting
3. Revival of polluted streams and other water bodies
4. Effective and efficient water governance for water management

Thematic Area II. Human wildlife conflict and its adverse impacts

Rationale:

Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) is a major problem for the farmers in the rural areas. RNR census 2008 estimates almost 70 percent of the agriculture dependent households have been affected with crop and livestock loss to wildlife. Further, IFPRI (2010), reports that annually approximately 126 kg of crops are lost to wild animals by each household. The economic annual loss of crops in the country is equivalent to Nu.91.08 million. A total of 2035 numbers of livestock was depredated from 2002 to 2012. On average 118 animals are depredated annually which results paying up almost Nu. 1.7 millions of compensation cost for the lost incurred. On the other hand, retaliation killing of predators emerges as an emerging issue.

Expected Outcome:

1. Reduced HWC incidences through integrated conflict management approaches

Broad guiding framework:

1. Research & development on HWC management
2. Enrichment of wildlife habitat in HWC hotspots
3. Promote and up-scale the good practices on HWC management

Thematic Area III: Poor waste management and its adverse implications

Rationale:

Fast socio-economic development, rapid urbanization, increasing population, change in lifestyle, etc. have contributed to the generation of waste across the country. Poor waste management practices threaten flora, fauna and eco-system through pollution of water, air and the land.

Unsustainable waste management practices, lack of education & awareness among general public, weak institutional linkage and poor coordination among agencies, inadequate and poor infrastructure, weak compliance and monitoring of waste management are some of the prevailing issues and concerns.

Expected outcomes:

1. Improved waste management system in the country
2. Reduced adverse implications on natural environment due to poor and unsustainable waste management practices

Broad guiding framework:

1. Instituting best practices in waste management and systematizing it for sustainability
2. Community initiatives and ownership in waste management
3. Workable and community friendly waste management infrastructures and services
4. Effective and efficient sectoral coordination and collaboration on waste management