



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### **GEF-UNDP-DENR Project “Implementing the National Framework on Access and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in the Philippines” (ABS Project)**

**Source:** UNDP-GEF

**Monthly Rate:** PHP 130,000.00  
(inclusive of tax and benefits)

**Position:** Environmental and Social  
Safeguards Specialist

**Duration:** Immediately until June 2025  
(Renewable subject to performance and  
availability of funds)

#### **A. Background**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is implementing a six-year project, *Implementing the National Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in the Philippines (ABS Project)*. It aims to strengthen the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) in the Philippines through strengthening the national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework (Component 1), building national and local capacities (Component 2), and developing critical experience in ABS agreements (Component 3). The project seeks to increase economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits. Further, the project will develop bio-products from local genetic resources of Banaba (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) in Region 3 and Pili (*Canarium ovatum* and *Canarium luzonicum*) in Region 5.

A key outcome under Component 3 is the negotiation of at least one ABS agreement. An ABS agreement compliant with the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization* is one that secured Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC) from the providers such as Indigenous People/ Indigenous Cultural Communities and Local Communities (IPLCs); and negotiated a Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) that provides for the fair and equitable sharing of both monetary and non-monetary benefits for the use of the genetic resources and its associated traditional/indigenous knowledge. ABS agreements are seen as unique opportunities for enterprises and industries to participate directly in inclusive development.

As part of the pre-implementation activities of the Project, the DENR-BMB with support from UNDP intends to hire an individual consultant on Environmental



and Social Safeguards Specialist (ESSS) to assist the ABS Project Management Unit in ensuring implementation of project activities are UNDP Social and Environmental Standards compliant.

## **B. Scope of Work**

*With guidance from the National Project Director, and under direct supervision of the National Project Manager, the Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist will ensure that the ABS project through the Project Management Unit and key stakeholders are implementing activities in compliance with the updated UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES). Specifically, the Specialist will:*

- a) Provide overall guidance and facilitation in developing/implementing the project safeguard-related plans and Indigenous Peoples Framework;
- b) Ensure that planned and ongoing ABS Project activities at the national and local levels are aligned to the updated UNDP SES, the ABS Project's UNDP SES procedure, the Environmental Social Management Framework, Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, and Indigenous Peoples Framework, among others;
- c) Recommend risk mitigating processes that follow SESA principles;
- d) Review and provide recommendations on project products/deliverables and services to be consistent with the ABS Project's UNDP SES procedure;
- e) Monitor and update regularly the SESP and risk register, and other project reports in coordination with PMU and UNDP-Philippines;
- f) Assist the Project in implementing environmental, social, and risk management measures; and
- g) Assist the National Project Director/Manager in other tasks required of the ABS Project.

## **C. Minimum Qualifications and Professional Requirements**

1. Graduate of, at least Bachelor's degree related to environmental management and development, community development, or related disciplines;
2. With at least 5 years relevant experience in environmental and social safeguards management;
3. At least 2 years responsibility on developing and implementing plans aligned to UNDP SES, SESP, and related measures;
4. Has the ability to work effectively with government representatives, development partners and/or local communities;



5. Good knowledge on environmental and social safeguards relevant to the ABS project;
6. Proficient in using various MS Office applications and other IT-related tools and programs;
7. Must be a Filipino citizen and resides in the Philippines; and
8. Must have demonstrated experience in writing, editing, and documentation of consultations, meetings, workshops, or conferences.

#### **D. Management and Reporting Schedule**

The Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist shall be contracted by the DENR-BMB. He/she shall report to the BMB and shall work closely with the Wildlife Resources Division.

Interested applicants should submit to the undersigned the following:

1. Letter of intent highlighting the following:
  - a. Educational background
  - b. Relevant Work experience
2. Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212)
3. Photocopy of Transcript of Records and Diploma
4. Sample of completed technical works (SES-authored documents, project reports, etc.) in electronic copy .

Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest is on March 19, 2025 .

Approved by:



**MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR.**

Assistant Secretary for Biodiversity  
and Concurrent Director, BMB

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