

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Consultancy – Development of short films on the Meghna River Basin (Bangladesh and India)

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(I) Background

The Meghna River Basin is shared by Bangladesh and India. The total area drained by the basin is 82,000 km², of which 47,000 km² (57% of the total area) is located in India and 35,000 km² (43% of the total area) is in Bangladesh.

The basin includes 29 transboundary rivers originating from India and flowing into Bangladesh. Some examples are the Feni, Khowai, Gumti, Manu and Muhuri Rivers originating from Tripura; the Myntdu (Shari) and Umgot Rivers originating from the Meghalaya Plateau; and the Barak River and its tributaries originating in Assam. Click [here](#) for the map of the Meghna River Basin.

The Meghna River Basin is also one of the most biodiverse and culturally rich basins in Asia. More than 50 million people in Bangladesh and India depend on the ecosystem services provided by the basin, including indigenous communities such as the Khasi, Garo and Jaintia.

To support the sustainable and inclusive management of the Meghna River Basin, IUCN is facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues and research under the BRIDGE GBM project, which is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through Oxfam's Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) project. The dialogues have fostered a deeper understanding of the basin's water governance issues and climate challenges. For more information on project activities, please visit the BRIDGE GBM project page [here](#).

The dialogues and research in the Meghna Basin point to a decline in summer rainfall and increased variability in rainfall patterns, intensity and distribution on the Indian side of the basin. In addition, the agricultural systems in the Surma sub-basin and the delta region in Bangladesh are expected to suffer from an increased frequency of droughts and floods.

IUCN aims to document the BRIDGE GBM/TROSA project outcomes in the Meghna River Basin, and the issues linked to climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions. To do this, IUCN is seeking support from organizations/individuals with relevant experience to support the development of three short films on the Meghna River Basin. Two of these films (max six minutes) aim to communicate results of the IUCN and GBM CSO Network activities in the Meghna River Basin. The final film will be a 15-minute documentary to provide an overview of climate change impacts and Ecosystem-based Adaptation opportunities in the basin. The films will be used as advocacy tools targeting policymakers and relevant civil actors.

(II) Activities and deliverables under the consultancy:

The consultant will develop three short films highlighting IUCN and CSO partners' activities in the Meghna River Basin, as follows:

- **Deliverable 1: Meghna River Basin Initiative:** Max six minute film to be screened during the virtual [Meghna Knowledge Forum 2021](#) (22-24 June 2021). This film will provide an introduction to the Meghna River Basin and highlight the outcomes of IUCN and partner activities. Materials for the development of this film, such as footage, photographs and a draft video script, will be provided by IUCN. The consultant will refine the script and conduct two to three interviews with IUCN and other partners working in the Meghna River Basin.

- **Deliverable 2: Outcomes of Meghna Knowledge Forum 2021:** Max six-minute film highlighting key messages from the three-day online MKF 2021 (22-24 May). To develop this film, the consultant will participate in the three-day event, and collect footage and information to draft the film script and finalise the film for online dissemination.
- **Deliverable 3: Meghna EbA Documentary:** A 15-minute film on [Ecosystem-based Adaptation \(EbA\)](#) in the Meghna River Basin. The film will provide an overview of climate change impacts and adaptation issues in the Meghna River Basin, focusing on how local communities are adapting through the conservation, management and restoration of ecosystems. The Meghna documentary should be empathy driven and motivational, told mainly from the perspective of the community, climate justice and the perspective of water security. The documentary will also include testimonies from the most vulnerable groups of society (with particular focus on women) and IUCN partners working in the basin in India and Bangladesh.

(III) Further guidance on the films:

The target audiences for all deliverables are diverse and include CSOs, decision-makers and stakeholders interested in water governance and EbA issues in the Meghna River Basin. The language utilised in the video narrative should be easily understandable, avoiding jargon and technical terms.

IUCN will provide factual data on the project and partner activities in the basin, as well as published references on the impacts of climate change in the Meghna River Basin. Based on the materials provided by IUCN, the consultant will develop a draft script for the proposed films. IUCN will also provide access to specific stakeholders for interviews.

For the documentary, original, high-quality footage from the basin will be collected using crowdsourcing strategies. If the COVID situation permits, the consultant will travel to a few sites (maximum three missions) in the basin to generate high-quality footage on the impacts of climate change. During these missions, the consultant will also conduct on-site interviews with the local communities, with particular focus on capturing the challenges faced by affected women and youth.

The draft videos will be reviewed and receive feedback from the IUCN Secretariat (Bangkok, Bangladesh and India), CUTS International (Jaipur, India) and Oxfam Bangladesh (Dhaka, Bangladesh). The final versions of the videos will be published on the IUCN and partner websites.

The films should be produced in English (with subtitles in Bengali) at the highest market quality standards, and be fast-paced and colourful, with clean stylistic touches. The entire film production i.e. starting from the development script (deliverable no. 2 and 3), editing, narration, strategy for crowdsourcing footage etc. should be done by the contractor, delivering a final, ready-to-air product at broadcast standards and in HD technology format. The entire development and production process will be closely monitored by the IUCN Asia Regional Office, which will serve as the Executive Producer of the films and have responsibility for the “final cut” as well as the creative, editorial and technical direction of the films.

(IV) Deliverables and timeline

Table 1: Deliverables and timeline

Deliverables	Timeline
Deliverable 1: Meghna River Basin Initiative (maximum six minutes)	
First cut of Meghna River Basin Initiative film - based on the materials and script to be provided by IUCN by 20 May 2021	10 June 2021
Final cut of the film for screening at MKF 2021	20 June 2021
Deliverable 2: Outcomes of Meghna Knowledge Forum 2021 (maximum six minutes)	

Participation in the MKF 2021 and draft the script for the film	22-24 June 2021
First draft of the film script	5 July 2021
First cut of the film for IUCN and partner review	25 July 2021
Final cut of the film after incorporating review comments	15 August 2021
Deliverable 3: Meghna EbA documentary (maximum 15 minutes)	
At least two online meetings with IUCN team to define the structure of the film script, strategy for the collection of footage, and specific data and issues to highlight.	Between 20 May to 30 May 2021
First draft of the script for IUCN and partner inputs	15 June 2021
Recording of stakeholder testimony (IUCN and partners will facilitate appointments with stakeholders)	25 June 2021 to 30 July 2021
Collection of high quality footage from selected sites in the basin (identified in consultation with IUCN and partners – maximum of three sites/mission)	1 August 2021 to 20 August 2021
First cut of the Meghna EbA documentary for IUCN inputs	10 September 2021
Final cut of the film for online publication	25 September 2021

(V) Desired experience and qualifications

The consultancy is open to institutions/ or team of individuals with the following expertise:

1. Minimum of three (3) years' documented work experience in the areas of film/reporting/documentary writing, producing, directing and editing;
2. Ability to operate under strict time limits and apply high technical standards;
3. Ability to communicate and conduct interviews in English and Bengali.
4. Previous experience working on short films for environment and development agencies linked to natural resource management, climate adaptation and community livelihoods.
5. Access to high-quality filming, light, sound and editing equipment and software;
6. Comparable (related) assignments in shared river basins is an advantage;
7. Demonstrated writing, analytical and reporting skills.

(VI) Consultancy fees and duration

- The maximum available budget to carry out this consultancy is Euro 22,000.
- Duration of consultancy: 20 May 2021 – 25 Sept 2021.

**Estimated number of days for the delivery of outputs is between 50-60 days (eight hours for one day).*

EOI Format; Annex 1

Please send your expression of interest in the desired format to the following:

- To: Mr. Vishwa Ranjan Sinha (Program Officer, Water and Wetland, South Asia, IUCN Asia Regional Office, Bangkok) Vishwaranjan.sinha@iucn.org
- cc: Ms. Archana Chatterjee (National Coordinator, IUCN India) archana.chatterjee@iucn.org and Dr. Khalid Hossain (Programme Coordinator, IUCN Bangladesh) khalid.hossain@iucn.org

Format for the Expression of Interest (below)

Name of institution/ individuals					
Postal and Email Address					
Proposal to implement the work , including consultant’s capacity and strategy to implement the work, as well as indicative work plan with the number of days expected for each task and deliverable. <i>Max 2 pages.</i>					
Summary of previous work highlighting consultant eligibility (max 300 words)					
References (including web links) to previous work					
Name and email addresses of the core team (max 3) , along with a 50 word summary for each member, indicating qualifications and skills. Please also attach the Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the team lead.					
Proposed budget and details of expected expenditure, such as number of days, daily rates of staff etc. in the format suggested below.					
Budget Line	Description	Unit	No. of units	Cost per unit	Budget in local currency
1.1					
1.2					
1.3					
1.4					
Total					