

Request for Information

Country: India

1. INTRODUCTION

Uttarakhand is a Himalayan region mountain state, that is regularly impacted by flash floods, landslides, earthquakes, wildfires, glacier lake outbursts, and cloudburst incidences. Uttarakhand's disaster vulnerability is further exacerbated by climate change, elevating the risk of wildfires, flash floods, landslides, and droughts. In this context, the World Bank-supported Uttarakhand Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Project (U-PREPARE) focuses on enhancing the climate and disaster resilience of select critical public infrastructure in Uttarakhand and strengthening the preparedness and emergency response capacity in the State.

Improving forest fire prevention and management capacity is one of the subcomponents of U-PREPARE. The vast forest area of Uttarakhand is susceptible to climatic change, which increases the risk of wildfires. According to the ISFR Forest Fire Monitoring Report, 2021, Uttarakhand has the 6th highest number of detected forest fires in the country. The forest cover of the State is around 45 percent of the State's area, with a significant share of the rural population being dependent on natural forest resources. Around 65 percent of the forest area is sensitive to forest fires, with 2,800 registered forest fires in 2021, affecting an area of almost 4,000 hectares. Despite efforts to manage and prevent fires, gaps remain to effectively manage forest fire risk. A holistic and systematic approach is needed to mitigate forest fire risks and build resilience to forest fires in Uttarakhand through the long-term engagement of all stakeholders, particularly communities residing in or in proximity to forest areas.

The Forest Department, Government of Uttarakhand, a Project Implementing Unit (PIU) under U-PREPARE, is responsible for the implementation of various activities related to improving forest fire prevention and management capacity on the ground. Under the project, the PIU of the Forest Department aims to allocate a portion of the funds for consulting services related to the "Development of a Community-Based Forest Fire Risk Management and Carbon Finance Program." The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance forest fire prevention and management capacity coupled with a sustainable funding mechanism within a designated forest area in Uttarakhand.

Various mechanisms and approaches have evolved over the years for community-based forest management and carbon credit development. This invitation is open to acknowledge and welcome all relevant service providers actively engaged in this field.

2. As part of our initiative, we are inviting **information** to support and achieve the following objectives:

- I. Design and Implementation Support:** Develop and implement a community program for forest fire risk management in selected pilot areas.

- II. **Climate Finance Assessment:** Evaluate the potential for climate finance, identify appropriate national and international market-based instruments, determine forest degradation, and establish baseline and additionality metrics.
- III. **Institutional and Policy Framework:** Identify the necessary institutional and policy framework required for a climate finance mechanism.
- IV. **Carbon Credit Services:** Provide end-to-end services for carbon credit development, including monitoring and verification.
- V. **Capacity Building and Support:** Offer capacity building, implementation, and handover support.

The Proposals must include the following:

- **A detailed company profile, including information on available manpower and their expertise.**
 - **Previous experience in the relevant field.**
 - **A comprehensive approach document addressing the above objectives in the context of the Forest Department – Uttarakhand.**
 - **A detailed methodology for achieving the stated objectives.**
3. Upon receipt of proposals, U-PREPARE will organize a conclave, where selected service providers will be invited to present their approach, project understanding, and proposed methodology. This will facilitate the preparation of a detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and the commencement of procurement activities,

4. **Submission**

The proposals may be submitted by post or email on the following addresses on or before 10.09.2024

Address: 36 USDMA Building, 5th Floor, USDMA Building, IT Park Dehradun 248195

Email: apdudrpaf@gmail.com

Contact No: 8126148268, 8433456428

Please note that this Request for Information (RFI) is for informational purposes only, and no contract will be awarded as a result. A firm or organization's response to the RFI—or lack thereof—will have no impact on the evaluation of responses to any subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) or Invitation to Bid (ITB) released. Responses will be used solely for information and planning purposes.