

# Call for Research Proposal

IUCN Bangladesh and the Asian Centre for Development is seeking research proposals from researchers in Bangladesh for its project title ‘**Economics of Forest Restoration as Carbon Mitigation and Nature-based Solution in South Asia**’. The funding will be competitive, and it has to be completed within 12 calendar months from the date of award. Interested researchers (students enrolled in MSS/MPhil/Ph.D. programs in any recognized university in Bangladesh will be preferred) should submit a research concept note of their research topic in one of the following topics:

- 1:** Estimation of carbon sequestration capacity of coastal forests using secondary information.
- 2:** Estimation of the impact of coastal afforestation projects (1980-2016) on the livelihood of local people using a gender and poverty lens.
- 3:** Estimation of the benefits of afforestation program in terms of land reclamation, adaptation and resource management.

Application format is given in <http://acdonline.org/economics-of-coastal-afforestation/>

## **Study Locations**

Three unions of Hatiya Upazila under Noakhali District: Jahajmara Union, Nijhum Dwip, Burir Char Union

## **Requirements for Application**

- Apply with a short CV [no more than two pages] and a cover letter expressing research interest, mentioning the research area.
- A three-page concept note [as per the guidelines]
- Apply directly to email: [info.bangladesh@iucn.org](mailto:info.bangladesh@iucn.org); [r.proposal@acdonline.org](mailto:r.proposal@acdonline.org)

One research proposal from each area will be selected for funding.

**Deadline for submission is 3 December 2022.**

## **Format for Research Concept Notes**

### 1) Cover Sheet [1 page]

- Study Title
- Name of the Researcher, Full contact details (Address, Telephone, e-mail, and fax number)
- Institution
- Name of co-PI, if any with full contact details
- Date

### 2) Project Description [not more than 3 single-spaced pages: 12 point font with 1-inch margin on each side] Background and objectives [1 page] – Should cover the following content in general

- Research Problem: Provide a clear and simple description of your research problem
- Objectives: Identify overall study goals and specific research objectives
- Policy Relevance: Describe how your research would inform specific management or policy reforms of the Government of Bangladesh.

### 3) Research Methods [2 pages] – Should cover the following content in general

- Literature Review: Please restrict your review to literature most pertinent to the methods of your study [Please try to identify 4-5 peer-reviewed journal articles for this from within or outside the region]
- Hypotheses/research questions to be tested or answered
- Description of the study site, if any
- Methods for data collection and analyses [0.5 - 1 page].
- This section needs to be linked to the identified hypotheses, research questions and objectives
- Expected results and potential policy implications

## **Eligibility of the Researcher**

- A background in Economics/Forestry/Agriculture.
- Currently enrolled MSS/MPhil/PhD students are encouraged to apply
- Young applicants are encouraged to apply.
- Female researchers will be preferred.
- Quantitative skills and previous research experience would be helpful.

## **Budget**

Maximum BDT 650,000.

Budget should include a) field expenses including enumerator costs, b) travel expenses, c) accommodation and lodging, d) other costs: Honorarium for the researcher will be given as a scholarship.

NOTE: University professors engaged in the research with their students will be recognized as a mentor and will be part of the publication. IUCN/ACD may also appoint additional mentors to expedite the research and to ensure quality of the research works.

## **Annex 2**

### **Background of the Research**

Coastal Plantation and Afforestation program began as early as 1960 by the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD). From the 1980s onward BFD implemented several afforestation projects to achieve different objectives:(a) Mangrove restoration, (b) Afforestation to stabilize land (char development), (c) Afforestation through social forestry, (d) Coastal Greenbelt Project, and (e) Adaptation and Resilient Building.

A number of these projects have been implemented in 19 coastal districts of Bangladesh including Jahajmara Union, Burir Char, and Nijhum Dwip of Noakhali District. In addition to afforestation, in different parts of these areas, the Government of Bangladesh established a '*Hilsa*' sanctuary and a bird sanctuary.

Since the 1980s afforestation began in Nijhum Dwip and its adjacent areas and by 1990 nearly 60% of 16,337 hectares were water bodies, 27% were forest lands, 8% were non-forest vegetation grounds, 3.5% were sand areas and 1.5% were barren lands. Secondary information reveals that by 2020, the land use changed to 28% of these areas were water bodies, 15% were forest lands, 20% were non-forest vegetation grounds, 2% were sand areas and 35% were barren lands and 1,100 hectares of new agricultural lands were accreted in Nijhum Dwip and its adjacent areas and people have settled on these lands.

This study is intended to estimate the benefits in these areas from these programs.