



Invitation for Proposals (IFP) for a study on
**The Impact of Grazing Restriction on the Ecology of Sikkim and
on the Socio-economy of the Pastoral Communities**

1. Introduction

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Department of Forest, Environment, and Wildlife Management (DFEWM), Sikkim implementing the JICA assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project (SBFP) invites proposals, in the annexed format, from qualified organizations for conducting the captioned study as per the details provided hereunder. The overall objective of the SBFP is to strengthen the biodiversity conservation activities and forest management capacity and to improve the livelihood of the local communities. The project details are provided at www.sbfjica.org.

2. Background to the study

Traditionally, grazing is an important animal husbandry practice in all parts of Sikkim. During the period 1977-92 there has been a marked increase in the livestock population, with a cumulative increase of 66 per cent- the total livestock population, excluding poultry was put at 3.8 lakh¹. The forest lands and the traditional grazing lands (*gouchaaran* and *khasmal*) came under enormous pressure leading to rapid habitat degradation.

In order to reduce the grazing associated degradation, Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department (FEWMD) issued a ban on open grazing in reserved forest areas, plantations and near water sources in South and West Districts in 1995 and expanded the ban to all of Sikkim in 1998². Free grazing of domestic livestock has been prohibited in all reserved forests and plantations in the State through this order.

¹Rai, Sundriyal and Sharma (Eds) (1998) *Perspectives for planning and development*. Bishen Singh Mahendrapal Singh. Dehradun

² As for the legal provisions, Section 20(h) of the Sikkim Forests, Water Courses and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) Act 1988 prohibits “trespasses or pastures cattle or permits cattle to trespass without a permission in writing”; Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits grazing in National Parks but the powers to prohibit or permit grazing in Sanctuary rest with the Chief Wildlife Warden. The Hon’ble High Court of Sikkim has prohibited grazing through an order delivered on 14/05/1999, and the Hon’ble Supreme Court in its WP No 202/95 dated 14/02/2000 has proscribed all forms of consumptive uses in Protected Areas.

Considering the high dependency of the rural population on forest resources, the ban implementation has been a challenging task. The ban was implemented phase-wise and now covers all the reserved forest areas in the State. A recent report³ indicates that grazing pressure in the protected areas and its surrounding reserve forests in West Sikkim district is no longer a serious problem.

The present study is to understand the impact of the grazing restriction on the natural habitats covering the forests, including Protected Areas, alpine grasslands and the traditional grazing lands and to evaluate the impact on the pastoral communities.

3. Objective of the study:

To assess the impact of grazing restrictions on the forests and grasslands and on the socio-economy of graziers in Sikkim.

4. Duration of the study: Two years

5. Domains of impact to be considered:

The grazing restriction impact may cover ecological aspects such as the change in forest cover, the availability of non-timber forest produce (NTFP), the forest fire regime, the forest regeneration, etc. The socio-economic impact may cover the change in livelihood of the pastoral community including change in occupation, shifting of grazing pressure to areas less patrolled, change in livestock management practices, etc.

The area covered shall be the whole of Sikkim.

6. Proposed activities:

- Review the literature on the impacts of grazing or the grazing ban on vegetation and/or socio-economic condition of the local communities in Sikkim.
- To select sites to investigate the impact of the grazing ban on the vegetation, considering the various forest types in Sikkim, including grasslands. In view of the 2012 study in West Sikkim district mentioned earlier, priority for study sites selection may be accorded to the three other districts while at the same time adequately covering west district also.
- Confirm the methodology for determining the impacts/changes in the different attributes studying.
- Study the status of grazing animals (for example, number, their productivity and forms of grazing) and socio-economic status of the local communities in the sites in the past and at present, applying the methodology developed above.
- Determine changes in vegetation cover and composition of species after the implementation of the ban on grazing in the sites, with the aid of satellite images.
- Determine change in habitat condition, hydrology and edaphic factors in the sites.
- Assess the perspective of local communities on the grazing ban and to study the change in livelihood strategies adopted by them.

³Bhagwat, Shweta, Manasi Diwan and Vivek Venkataramani. 2012. *Study of ecological, socio-economic and livelihood dimensions of grazing exclusion in protected forest of west Sikkim*. Institute for Financial Management and Research – Centre for Development Finance (IFMR-CDF).

- Analyze the observed changes in ecosystem and socio-economic status in relation to the grazing ban.
- Assess the grazing issues in the traditional grazing lands.
- Review and analyse the legal issues related to grazing.
- Formulate recommendations for developing a grazing policy for the state.

7. Deliverables

1. Inception report in the first month of the Study.
2. Quarterly progress reports.
3. Draft Final Report to SBFP for comments at the end of the 22nd month.
4. Final Report to the satisfaction of SBFP at the end of the 24th month.

8. Expected output:

The outcome shall be a robust empirical narrative of the impact of grazing restriction on forests and grasslands in Sikkim and on the socio-economic condition of the local communities in Sikkim, and recommendations for strengthening the positive impacts of grazing restriction and to improve the livelihood security of the local communities. The recommendations shall subsequently form the baseline ideas for formulating a grazing policy for the State.

9. Budget:

The total fund available for this study is Rs. 24,78,110. Payment will be made to the selected consultant in a progressive manner against deliverables. No advance payment shall be made available.

10. Eligibility and team composition

Organizations with excellent track record in environmental studies may submit proposals. The research team shall be composed of a Principal Investigator and a Researcher. The Principal Investigator shall be a PhD with at least 10 years experience in a discipline relevant to the study. The Researcher shall be a Masters Degree holder in a related field and having a minimum of two years experience in a discipline relevant to the study.

11. Selection process

Selection of the consultant shall be based on the evaluation of the proposals received. The decision of the PCCF-cum-Principle Secretary shall be final.

12. Selection Criteria and Scoring Weightage

The following criteria and scoring weightage shall be used in evaluating the proposals received.

Table 1. Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Weightage

Evaluation criteria		Weight
1.	Consultant's general experience and record in the field covered by the study	20
	(i) Experience of studies of comparable size, complexity and technical specialty	8
	(ii) Experience in Sikkim or comparable areas	8
	(iii) Experience in projects assisted by international donors	4
2.	Soundness of the proposal (adequacy of the proposed approach, methodology and work plan)	45
	(i) Technical approach and methodology	20
	(ii) Level of understanding of the background of the study objectives	10
	(iii) Work plan (including assignment schedule)	15
3.	Experience and records of the researchers to be assigned to the work (Based on education and training, research experience, membership in professional bodies/expert committees, publications, experience in Sikkim, etc)	35
	(i) Principal Investigator	20
	(ii) Researcher	15
TOTAL		100

13. Services to be provided by PMU

The PMU shall provide the contracted consultant:

- a) access to past reports and documents of DFEWM related to the study,
- b) necessary permits for conducting the study, and
- c) introduction of the research team to the field level officials
- d) publication of the final study report.

14. Logistical arrangement

The contracted consultant shall be responsible for all logistical arrangements related to travel, accommodation, office space etc for its work. The PMU shall try to facilitate the provision of accommodation in forest guest houses whenever possible, at the applicable rates.

15. Intellectual property rights

All the data, reports and visuals generated by the study shall remain the property of the PMU; authorship of the researchers shall be acknowledged. No publication of the results of the study shall be made without the prior written consent of the PMU.

The proposals (hard copy), complete in all respect, should reach the under-signed on or before 4 pm on the **30th June, 2015.**

Dechen Lachungpa, SFS
 Divisional Forest Officer (Biodiversity Conservation),
 JICA assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project,
 Department of Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management,
 Government to Sikkim.

**Study on the Impact of Grazing Restriction on the Ecology of Sikkim and
on the Socio-economy of the Pastoral Communities**

Proposal Format

1. Name of organization:
2. Address, phone/fax, e-mail of registered office:
3. Name, address, telephone, mobile number and e-mail of the head of the organization:
4. Legal status of the organization:
5. Registration number, year, registering authority and place:
6. Objectives of the organization and its key areas of work (Attach copy of the Memorandum of Association and byelaws of the organization):
6. Brief description of the organization's history and past achievements in areas related to grazing studies (400 words) (Attach copy of the latest Annual Report).
7. Awards and recognitions if any received:
8. Research projects undertaken by the organization in the past 3 years on topics related to the grazing studies

Title of the project	Geographical area of study and period	Donor/client	Total financial cost	Key researchers involved	Outputs/publications produced

9. Details of three past research projects undertaken by the organization in Sikkim

Title of the project	Geographical area of study and period	Donor/client	Total financial cost	Key researchers involved	Outputs/publications produced

10. Professional background of the research personnel to be engaged in this study (Attach copies of CVs):

Name of researcher	Education and professional qualifications	Research experience related to the current study	Total years of research experience	No of papers on the subject in peer-reviewed journals
(Principal Investigator)				
(Researcher)				
(mention if input of additional researchers is envisaged)				

11. Explain your understanding of the topic of the proposed study:
12. Describe the detailed methodology you would like to follow for conducting this study:
13. Give the work plan and timeline for the study:
14. Give a detailed breakup of the budget
15. Declaration:

We hereby declare that all the information provided here are true and understand that any wrong information contained in it may lead to our disqualification.

We confirm that our personnel as proposed here will be available for the assignment and commit to work for the successful completion of the assignment, in the event of the assignment awarded to us.

Date:

Name of the signatory

Place:

Designation
Seal

List of Enclosures: