

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

Training of the Forest Officers under the scheme “Foreign Training of Forestry Personnel” of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from Institutions of international repute dealing with training/capacity building of various levels of forestry personnel in Government sector / executives/ field personnel for conducting the training of Forest Officials under the scheme “Foreign Training of Forestry Personnel (FTFP)” of MoEF & CC. The training programmes would include short term trainings of duration of 3 weeks and 4 weeks including one-week of domestic program in India. The selected institute would be required to undertake the development and delivery of the training. A background note giving a brief introduction of Forest Management and Job Profile of Forest Officials is provided at website www.moef.nic.in or www.ifs.nic.in. The assignment is expected to be for duration of four years, but may be extended further. The training courses are required to be conducted w.e.f. 2018-2019.
2. The selected Institution would be required to design and execute the delivery of training programmes for the Ministry or any other agency assigned by the Ministry. MoEF & CC expects the selected institute to be able to demonstrate strong training capabilities in any one or more fields of Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity Conservation, Wildlife Management / Ecotourism, Geo-informatics in Forestry, Climate Change Scenario and Forestry: Response in Mitigation and Adaptation, Community Forestry and Livelihood Issues, Forest Genetics and Tree-Improvement, Forest Policy Research, Ecosystem Services from Forests: their Valuation and Payment, landscape management. The Institution should have a commendable record of running academic and executive education programmes in the field, especially for senior level officers/executives. The venue for the conduct of programme would be the respective institute.
3. Foreign training is initially proposed in countries of Asia and South America, which are closer to the conditions in Indian sub-continent i.e., Malaysia, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippine’s, Sri Lanka, Brazil etc.

ELIGIBILITY

4. The Institution should have a strong track record of at least five consecutive years in running academic and executive education programs in the area/areas mentioned earlier and must have annual turnover exceeding Rs. 5 Crore in last three years. It should have qualified & experienced in-house faculty well versed in the respective subject areas as indicated in proposed training modules and also should be in a vantage position to outsource resource persons of good standing and eminence in their specific areas.
5. In submitting the Expression of Interest (Eoi), information may be furnished on the nature of business of the Institution, more particularly the programs being run in forestry and allied subjects. A short resume of the key resource personnel likely to be deployed may also be given.
6. The short listed Institutions from amongst those who have expressed interest would be sent detailed terms of reference and criteria for final selection, to enable them to submit their technical and financial bids. Such a shortlist would be prepared primarily based on the acknowledged reputation of the interested Institution in teaching courses in forestry and allied subjects. MoEF & CC reserves the right to also shortlist an Institution that has not submitted its Expression of Interest (Eoi), provided it is satisfied that such an Institution otherwise meets the short listing criteria.

Responses may be sent to reach the undersigned by 1700 hrs (IST) on **14th July, 2018.**

Dr. Suneesh Buxy, IFS
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Note: - It may kindly be noted that no communication will be sent to the responding parties except to the shortlisted Institutions. Those sending their offers electronically will, however, receive an electronic acknowledgement of the receipt of their Expression of Interest (Eoi).

Dy. Inspector General of Forest (RT)

BACKGROUND NOTE

INTRODUCTION

The management and administrative system of forests in India is about 150 years old. This sector is primarily charged with the responsibilities of managing, protecting and developing country's forests on scientific lines based on ecological principles and to provide goods and services emanating from them to a vast multitude of masses, as also to provide ecological security for general well being of the people of the country.

Forestry management system of the country, of late, has undergone a paradigm shift by assuming key functions of meeting subsistence requirement and supplementation of income for livelihood support to the communities, solely dependent upon the vitality and sustainability of the resource base to which they are intricately linked by their culture and traditions, since generations. Forests are also perceived as an important resource for mitigation strategy for climate change, global warming and their ill effects. Forestry sector has also to play a key role in national missions for greening India, preservation of Himalayan eco-system and sustainability of agriculture, water resources & energy supply. Besides, the sector also plays a dominant role in conservation of wetlands, combating desertification, preservation of soil/water regime and providing a range of ecological services considered essential from the point of view of human welfare.

The reach of forestry sector is now considered for expansion to include various inter-sectoral issues such as its role as catalyst of environmental conservation, rural development and livelihood issues and social change.

JOB PROFILE OF FOREST OFFICERS

Indian Forest Service (IFS) is mainly manned by officers belonging to Indian Forest Service, State Forest Service and from Range Forest Officers.

Indian Forest Service (IFS) is one of the three All India Services constituted under the provisions of Article 312 of the Constitution of India. The IFS Officers provide senior level leadership to forest personnel, both in the States and at the Centre. The appointment to IFS is done in two ways, namely, recruitment through Indian Forest Service Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) every year and by induction promotion of the State Forest Service (SFS) Officers. Direct recruits to the Service undergo 15 (fifteen) weeks Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussorie and 80 (eighty) weeks basic/professional training at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun followed by practical training in States/Districts/Divisions allotted to them. The officer promoted from the State Forest Services to Indian Forest Service also undergoes 10(ten) weeks Induction training at IGNFA, Dehradun (Professional Skill Upgradation Course).

While the minimum qualification for being selected into IFS is a Bachelor's Degree in any of Science/Engineering disciplines, yet, given the high level of competition, most of the officers have a Master's Degree and an outstanding academic record. They come from a wide range of backgrounds such as Botany, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Science etc. A good number are also engineers and doctorates.

On completion of the training, officers are posted to respective state cadres allocated to them and assigned postings as Assistant Conservator of Forests.

During the initial year, they also undergo short trainings and district attachments with various district level officers of revenue and police administration and sometimes a short programme at the State Academies with special emphasis on local general/financial procedures, local laws, etc.

After a few years (2-3) of experience, they are promoted to become Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF) to hold charge of division level posts (also called Divisional Forest Officers) and are entrusted with a wide range of functions related to scientific management of forest, prevention and detection of forest and wildlife related crimes and enforcement of various laws and policies of Government.

Over the first 12-13 years, the officers continue to function as head of forest divisions (DFO's) and are entrusted with various responsibilities related to general management and upkeep of forest areas under the division. After having done these postings as DCF, the officer gets promoted to next level supervisory post i.e. Conservator of Forests. The Conservator of Forests (CF) heads a forest circle, usually having 3-4 divisions under its charge. Finally, after about 18-25 years of service, they enter the last phase of their service and hold top posts in the forest department at State/Central level as Chief Conservator of Forest/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

Thus, members of the IFS serve the government for an entire career spanning over three decades. Their job profile, from initial field level implementation responsibilities, changes to supervisory management and finally to policy formulation level.

State Forest Service (SFS) Officers and Range Forest Officers (RFOs) carry out execution of forestry operations and sustainable management of forest estate based on working plan prescriptions both in the States. The appointment to SFS is done in two ways, namely recruitment through State Forest Service Examination conducted by the State Public Service Commission (SPSC) every year and by promotion from the subordinate service (RFO). Direct recruits to the Service undergo 24 months basic/professional training at Central Academics for State Forest Service (CASFoS), Dehradun, or Coimbatore followed by practical training in States/Districts/Divisions allotted to them. The officer promoted from the Range Forest Officers to State Forest Service also undergo 2 weeks refresher training at CASFoS Dehradun or Coimbatore apart from the induction training of 18 months while entering in service as RFO.

While the minimum qualification for being selected into SFS/RFO is a Bachelor's Degree in any of Science/Engineering disciplines, yet given the high level of competition, most of the officers have a Master's Degree and an outstanding academic record. They come from a wide range of backgrounds such as Botany, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Science etc. A good number are also engineers and doctorates.

On completion of the training, the officers are posted to respective state cadres allocated to them and assigned postings as Assistant Conservator of Forest/RFOs. During the initial year, they also undergo short trainings and district attachments with various district level officers of revenue and police administration and sometimes a short programme at the State Academies with special emphasis on local general/financial procedures, local laws etc.

After 10-12 year of experience, SFS officer are promoted to become Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF) to hold charge of division level posts (also called Divisional Forest Officers) and are entrusted with a wide range of functions related to scientific management of forest, prevention and detection of forest and wildlife related crimes and enforcement of various laws and policies of Government. Similarly RFOs are also promoted into State Forest Service (SFS) after about 15-20 years of service and become Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF).

Over the first 12-13 years, the officers continue to function as head of forest divisions (DFO's) or ACF and are entrusted with various responsibilities related to general management and upkeep of forest areas under the division. After having done these postings as DCF, the officer gets promoted to next level supervisory post i.e. Conservator of Forests. The Conservator of Forest (CF) heads a forest circle, usually having 3-4 divisions under its charge.

Officers of Range Forest Service are also selected through a similar process by state public service commission of respective provinces. Educational qualifications are also same as described above for State Forest Service. Initial training of these officers is for 18 months covering various forestry and allied subjects in the forest academy and subsequent field trainings range from 6-12 months depending on the state. These officers work as Range Forest Officers for about 12-15 years and then by way of promotion get inducted into State Forest Service, as mentioned above.

Forest Range Officers are an important link between DFO and cutting edge level staff of Foresters / Dy. Rangers / Forest Guards. He plays an important role in execution of forestry Programs in the field and supervision of field works. He also holds minimum bachelors qualification.

Technical Officer/Technical Staff in the forestry wing are an important link between AIG/DIG and other staff posted in the forestry wing. They plays an important role in execution of forestry training/conservation/policy/afforestation and supervision of works. They also holds minimum bachelors qualification in Forestry/Mathematics/Statistics/Agriculture etc.

Forestry as a profession has gained lot of importance in view of recent developments and concerns expressed for protection of global environment. In the era of expanding frontiers of science and technology, the forestry professionals cannot remain in isolation and confine themselves to classical forestry practices. It has become very important to develop expertise, within the department, in specialized areas. The significant technological developments and innovations in methodologies in the recent past are aimed at better conservation practices and sustainable management of forests. It is important to keep the Indian Forest Service, State Forest service and Forest range officers abreast of these frontier technological advancements, so that SFDs are in tune with the global practices and methods. It is with these intentions that such short & long term training programmes have been proposed.