

REDD Implementation Centre
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
Terms of Reference for Individual Consultant
for

**The development of monitoring system for other benefits and impacts of
REDD+**

1. Background

Global climate change threatens the livelihoods of people worldwide. A significant portion of the greenhouse gas emissions results from land-use and land use changes, particularly deforestation and forest degradation in tropical areas. The Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) program aims to provide positive incentives to help developing countries reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to support conservation, sustainable forest management, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. REDD+ has the potential to contribute to sustainable development in these countries.

Nepal has prepared its REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). The implementation of the R-PP is being coordinated by the REDD Implementation Centre (REDD-IC) under the MoFSC in close collaboration with multiple stakeholders including other government institutions, NGOs, INGOs, Civil Society Organizations and forest communities' representatives of which constitute a National REDD+ Working Group (RWG). The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) with the World Bank as its delivery partner is supporting Nepal in its national efforts towards "REDD+ Readiness".

2. Rationale

Forests provide a range of environmental, social and economic benefits in addition to carbon. These benefits (often referred to as co-benefits from a REDD perspective) include goods (non-wood and wood products, ecosystem and other services (biodiversity conservation, water conservation, soil conservation, cultural and spiritual values, forest pasture). There is concern that some activities undertaken during the implementation of REDD+ may be detrimental to forest ecosystem services and people. The inclusion of "safeguards" in the UNFCCC text is intended to avoid potential harm to ecosystems and people from certain forms of REDD+ activities such as natural forest conservation to plantations.

If safeguards in REDD+ are to be promoted, there is a need of assessing whether multiple benefits and impacts have been enhanced or harms have been avoided. Monitoring of these two issues would indicate whether safeguards were met and what corrective action is required. The Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), currently under development, focus primarily on carbon although non-carbon benefits will be included to some extent. Moreover, identifying

measurable indicators, setting baselines and determining the frequency of measurements for other benefits of REDD+ will not necessarily match those required for carbon. Monitoring multiple benefits with a dedicated system will improve the accuracy of monitoring the multiple benefits.

3. Objective

The primary objective of the proposed study is to develop a robust national monitoring system for non-carbon benefits and potential impacts of REDD+ activities in Nepal. This can be achieved through:

- An assessment, through review and consultation, of the nature, quality and indicative quantity of non-carbon products and services, including key stakeholder, in different forest regimes of Nepal;
- Development of good indicators for monitoring non-carbon benefits and social and environmental impact of REDD+ activities. These indicators should be closely aligned with the indicators used in the National Forest Database, National Forest Information System and MRV systems being developed in separate assignments; and
- Designing an implementable monitoring system with clear links from national, sub-national, district to local levels and with the national REDD Cell.

4. Expected output

The study should lead to the production of a comprehensive report for an implementable monitoring system for non-carbon benefits and social and environmental impact of implementing REDD+ activities in Nepal. The final report should be well articulated, sufficiently referenced and comprehensive. The final report should include (i) assessment of all social and non-carbon benefits from forests and the major stakeholders in Nepal; (ii) robust indicators for monitoring these benefits and impacts of REDD+ activities in line with UNFCCC safeguard system; (iii) proposal of an effective and implementable monitoring system with a clear work plan, including human resource requirement, for its implementation. As the study area is a new venture for Nepal, relevant work experience from other developing countries is considered essential for this assignment.

5. Study approach

5.1 Process

The assignment should start with a thorough review of available literature and reports of REDD+ preparedness studies, comprehensive structured consultations with all major stakeholders at local, district and national levels. The following activities are envisaged:

- A. Literature review and expert consultations (linked to six major forest regimes - community forests, leasehold forests, collaborative forests, protection forests,

government managed protected areas and private forests) and in-depth literature review, for:

- assessment of all non-carbon benefits and services from all forest regimes in Nepal;
 - analysis of flow and consumption of these benefits and services;
 - mapping of key stakeholders in the flow and use of non-carbon benefits; and
 - review of existing access, benefit sharing and incentive programs promoting forest management and conservation in Nepal and other developing countries.
- B. Develop a thorough understanding of on-going REDD+ preparedness studies on MRV framework, Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES), Strategic, Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). [Reports of these studies are available for study.]
- C. Develop robust indicators for measuring quality, quantity and flow of benefits and their impact, particularly on forest dependent communities, reflecting on:
- Data and indicators used in national MRV and National Forest Database and National Forest Information System, SESA and UNFCCC safeguards;
 - Cost-effectiveness of measurements to be taken.
 - Indicators used in monitoring systems in REDD studies in Nepal and other REDD countries
- D. Develop a Discussion Paper with indicators, measurements required, and options of monitoring systems and their assessment. The paper should be presented at a multi-stakeholder meeting for comments and feedback.
- E. Develop a Final Report that includes the proposed system for monitoring social and non-carbon environmental benefits and impact of REDD+ activities. The proposed monitoring system should supplement the national MRV and forest database systems. The system should be able to cater to the reporting needs of different international REDD related institutions (e.g. UNFCCC and World Bank). The report should include a clear work plan, including the need for capacity building, for implementing the proposed monitoring system.

Following documents should be consulted, but not limited to:

- FCPF guidelines on benefit sharing and the models developed by other REDD+ countries on this topic
- Monitoring systems for non-carbon benefits and benefit sharing developed/promoted by other REDD+ countries
- Nepal's REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)
- Reports from studies conducted during Readiness preparation: MRV, Reference Level, SESA, REDD+ Strategy, Drivers of Deforestation, CGE modeling, and Total Economic Valuation of Forest
- Relevant REDD+ readiness documents published by REDD Cell and other NGOs/IPOs/CSOs/INGOs

- Reports of different REDD+ pilot projects from Nepal and other countries
- REDD+SES indicators Nepal version, its monitoring and assessment reports
- Nepal Biodiversity Strategy
- Academic analyses and news articles
- Relevant laws, policies, strategies and programs.

5.2 Study Consultant

The study will be conducted by a National Consultant with expertise in designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems. The expert should have minimum of a post-graduate in natural resource management and a PhD degree is advantageous. A minimum of 10 and preferably 15 years of relevant experience is also required. He/she should have a good understanding of climate change issues and non-carbon benefits in REDD+. A minimum of 5 years of experience of working in developing countries, preferably Nepal, is required.

The Consultant should provide evidence of the following (based on previous assignments):

- Expertise on designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems for developing countries;
- Good knowledge about climate change, carbon financing arrangements, and social related issues;
- Good understanding of co-benefits and impact of REDD+ activities;
- Good knowledge of forest policies and rules and of REDD+ preparedness activities.

5.3 Work plan

The Consultant is required to prepare and submit an inception report with a detailed work plan before the study officially commences. The work plan should describe how the study will be carried out; it should include a work schedule, methodology for each task as well as type and nature of information to be collected and analyzed. The work plan will be reviewed by the REDD IC and later finalized jointly by the Consultant and the REDD IC.

6. Duration of work

This assignment is expected to take four months, starting in March 2015 and completing in July 2016.

7. Reporting requirement (deliverables)

The following reports or deliverables are mandatory. The delivery time of these reports should be clearly specified in the full proposal.

- A. Inception report (2 weeks after signing the contract).
- B. Discussion paper on indicators and framework options for monitoring non-carbon benefits and social and environmental impact of REDD+ activities in Nepal to be

presented at a multi-stakeholder workshop (suggested delivery - about 3 weeks before the end of the contract).

- C. Final report that is comprehensive and fully referenced including proposal of a robust and implementable model for monitoring social and co-benefits and impact of REDD+ in Nepal. A clear work plan, including human capacity building if necessary, for implementing the monitoring systems should be included. The report should contain an in-depth analysis of the issues described in the objectives.

- D. All reports should be in English. Executive summary in both English and Nepali should be included in the final report. Both hard (5 copies) and soft copies of all reports should be submitted to REDD IC MoFSC. Electronic files of the reports should be in an editable format using Microsoft Word. All data (raw, primary and secondary) collected during the study should be submitted as electronic files editable with Microsoft Excel. Electronic files of maps for submission may be in native software format. PDF files of reports, data and maps will not be accepted.

8. Selection procedure

A consultant will be selected using the Public Procurement Act (2007) and Regulation of Nepal individual consultant selection method.

9. Payment schedule

REDD IC intends to sign a lump sum contract with the consultant who secures top marks in the EOI evaluation. Each lump sum installment payment will be linked to a particular deliverable. Three time payments could be made - first installment of 20% of the contract amount against an acceptable inception report, second 40% against the draft final report and third and final 40% upon submitting an acceptable final report.

10. Contact person

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