

Developing and using experience in implementing REDD+ in Himalayas  
REDD Implementation Center Nepal  
Project Management Unit

**Terms of Reference**

**The development of an inclusive and participatory Monitoring, Measuring and Reporting (MMR) guideline to complement REDD+MRV process at local level**

**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 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).

**2. Project brief**

The regional level REDD+ Himalaya project was designed to assist the countries to develop technical capacity in REDD+ processes which the countries are undertaking. As a regional level project, the project's objective is to improve the conditions for implementing REDD+ measures to mitigate climate change that are socially and environmentally sound in four Himalayan countries including Nepal, India, Bhutan and Myanmar.

At the same time, the multiple benefits of REDD+ help the project systematically consider climate risks and the potential for adaptive capacity to climate change of the local population.

### **3. Rationale of developing participatory MMR guideline**

Successful implementation of REDD+ needs meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders throughout the process. A broad and inclusive participation of stakeholders can help to ensure the sharing of responsibilities and benefits, in addition to strengthening ownership of implementing and monitoring REDD+ actions.

The various stakeholders including national and sub-national government institutions, local communities, women and indigenous population each have particular roles to play and contribute to the REDD+ process, including development of reference levels (RL/REL) and a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system (NFMS) to support MRV. Community based forest management (CBFM) practitioners and particularly the community forestry (CF) user groups have evolved as robust institutions with institutional arrangements and accumulated experiences of managing and monitoring forests. With realization of forest user groups' stake and potential role in REDD+, Nepal's R-PP has already highlighted the need of local involvement in the REDD+ process including the establishment of an inclusive and participatory MRV system. This justifies the need for all concerned CBFM practitioners to undertake REDD+ initiatives and regular/periodic carbon monitoring with capacity and technical support from local forest authorities. It is essential to establish an appropriate mechanism for measuring and MRV ensuring environmental and social safeguards of local communities impacted due to REDD+ are benefitted in an equitable manner.

Participatory monitoring, measuring and reporting (MMR) is understood as an approach to improve the vertical and horizontal institutional integration of different stakeholders for assessing performance of REDD+ programmes including safeguard compliance and carbon accounting,.

Participatory MMR guideline aims to guide national stakeholders involved in the REDD+ process in understanding: a) what a participatory MMR approach is; and b) how to organise stakeholders and operationalise MMR approach for assessing REDD+ programmes. In addition to carbon accounting and safeguard compliance, participatory MMR application for REDD+ also covers processes and approaches how stakeholders of different levels, diverse needs and with conflicting interests involve in low-emissions development planning; benefit sharing; and monitoring REDD+ policies and measures.

#### **4. Objective**

The primary objective of the proposed assignment is to develop a comprehensive MMR guideline ensuring meaningful participation of all REDD+ stakeholders ranging from local to national level in Nepal. Such guideline can be developed through:

- An extensive review of the REDD+ Himalaya project documents;
- Consultation with concern people being involved in designing and implementing the REDD+ Himalaya project;
- Reviewing other literature/documents describing desirable professional background and experiences for the consultants, time requirements, methodological approaches and quality of deliverables. literature on stakeholder analysis, process and approaches of MMR/V of REDD+ activities, and related indicators;

#### **5. Expected output**

The assignment should lead to the production of a comprehensive and participatory MMR guideline of REDD+ activities. The guideline should describe roles and key functional tasks for a participatory MMR approach to four distinct stakeholder groups: national government institutions, sub-national government institutions, local stakeholders (including local communities, women, Dalit and IPs), and non-government institutions and private sector. This will be published by RIC/MoFSC as a MMR guideline.

The guideline should be well articulated, sufficiently referenced and comprehensive. The guideline should be based on (i) assessment of all social and non-carbon environmental benefits from forests; (ii) robust indicators for monitoring these benefits and costs (trades-off) of REDD+ activities in line with UNFCCC safeguard principles; (iii) assessment of skills and capacity required for different stakeholder categories to be engaged with MMR of REDD+ activities in different forest management regimes. As the study area is a new venture for Nepal, relevant work experience from other developing countries is considered essential for this assignment.

## **6. Study approach**

### **6.1 Role and Responsibility (Process)**

The assignment should start with a thorough review of available literature and MMR/V reports; safeguard principles; and stakeholders of diverse category with diverse rights, roles and responsibilities. At the same time, the assignment should also undertake 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;
  - Aanalysis of flow and consumption of these benefits and services;
  - Mapping of key stakeholders in the flow and use of non-carbon benefits; and
  - Rreview 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/Adopt robust indicators for measuring quality, quantity and flow of benefits and their impact, particularly on forest dependent communities, reflecting on:
  - Indicators used in national MRV SESA and UNFCCC safeguards;
  - Roles and responsibilities of diverse actors including local communities in MMR/V process of REDD+.
- D. Develop a participatory MMR guideline with a detail of process, stakeholders to be involved and desired skills/capacity of them. The guideline should be presented at a multi-stakeholder meeting for comments and feedback.
- E. The guideline should include the need for capacity building of stakeholders to be engaged with MMR.
- F. The consultant is expected to organize 3 stakeholder consultation workshops in each district of Dolkha, Gorkha and Chitwan.
- G. The final draft will be presented to REDD working Group for inputs and comments.

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: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, MRV, Reference Level, SESA, REDD+ Strategy, Drivers of Deforestation;
- Relevant REDD+ documents published by REDD IC and other NGOs/IPOs/CSOs/;

- Reports of different REDD+ pilot projects from Nepal and other countries;
- REDD+SES indicators Nepal version, its monitoring and assessment reports
- District level consultation in the three pilot districts and one consultation with REDD working group in RIC.

## 6.2 **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 and preferably PhD degree in natural resource management. A minimum of 7 and preferably 10 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, particularly related to access and benefit-sharing;
- Good understanding of non-carbon benefits and impact of REDD+ activities;
- Good knowledge of REDD+ stakeholders, their potential roles, responsibilities and required capacity for meaningful participation in MMR.

## 6.3 **Work plan**

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

## **7. Reporting (deliverables)**

The following reports or deliverables are mandatory.

- A. Work plan that indicates the time frame for all the activities after the signing of the contract
- B. Inception report (2 weeks after signing the contract).
- C. Draft guideline for measuring, monitoring and reporting REDD+ activities including carbon and non-carbon benefits and social and environmental impacts of REDD+ activities in Nepal to be presented at a multi-stakeholder workshop (suggested delivery - about 3 weeks before the end of the contract).
- D. A MMR guideline that is comprehensive and details of MMR including procedural steps, stakeholders to be involved, their roles, responsibilities and required capacity for each of them. In addition to assess changes in carbon stock, the guideline should also explicitly explain procedural steps for monitoring social and non-carbon 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 guideline should be in English and in Nepali. Both hard copy and soft copies of the guideline should be submitted to the PMU. Electronic files of the guideline should be in an editable format using Microsoft Word. All data (raw, primary and secondary) collected during the assignment should be submitted as electronic files editable with Microsoft Excel. PDF files of the guideline will not be accepted.

## **8. Selection procedure**

A consultant will be selected following working modality of the project. The REDD IC/PMU will seek expression of interest (EOI) from qualified individuals and also encourage them to apply EOI through institutions having track record of undertaking/coordinating REDD+ related assignments in the past. REDD IC will form an EOI evaluation committee and select the most qualified/experienced/relevant one considering qualification mentioned above in 6.2. Once the EOI is selected, financial negotiation between PMU and the consultant will be made

within the allocated budget ceiling and in line with the approved cost estimation. PMU makes the cost estimation and gets approval from RIC chief.

### **9. Reporting and Supervising**

The consultant will work under the overall supervision of Dr. Mohan Poudel, REDD IC (PMU) unit coordination

### **10. Timeline**

The contract period is from the date of signing this contract till 15 Dec 2015.

### **11. Remuneration disbursement**

Disbursement will be made as follows:

- 30% of the budget upon submission of a detailed work plan after signing the contract
- 30% after submitting the inception report and 3 district level consultation workshop report
- 40% upon submitting the final report on participatory guideline for measuring, monitoring and reporting (MMR) of REDD+ activities which is approved and acceptable to RIC having been discuss and presented to the REDD Working Group