

Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
REDD-Forestry and Climate Change Cell
Babarmahal Kathmandu, Nepal

Terms of Reference for Individual National Consultant
for
The development of REDD+ implementation framework
(FCPF/REDD/S/IND-10)

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-Forestry and Climate Change Cell 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

The REDD+ Readiness is progressing rapidly in Nepal. Numerous studies have been conducted and many more studies are being commissioned. These include monitoring systems for non-carbon benefits and benefit sharing, MRV, reference level, SESA, drivers of deforestation, CGE modeling, value of forest, development of national forest database and information system, capacity building at multiple levels and R-Package and REDD+ Readiness documents. There is a need to develop a REDD implementation framework to support measures (strategies) to address drivers of deforestation and degradation, to address leakage, to ensure equitable and transparent benefit-sharing and to monitor and report REDD actions and results according to agreed-upon national and international standards. Existing literature on REDD implementation focuses heavily on theoretical aspects of REDD implementation mechanisms, but these need to be translated into an operational plan in a cost-effective and feasible way to ensure that both national interest and stakeholders' rights are secure.

Certain guiding principles for the REDD implementation framework are indicated in the R-PP, along with some preliminary ideas on implementation mechanism. Various pilots initiated by national and international agencies are developing and testing new ideas. Depending on the current national context, a suitable REDD implementation framework needs to be designed along with identification of resources required.

3. Objective

The primary objective of the study is to develop an implementable and cost-effective institutional mechanism to initiate REDD+ in Nepal through:

- Review of issues including governance and legal aspects, relevant to REDD+ in the country setting; [some of the key issues to be reviewed include ownership of carbon rights, equitable revenue sharing mechanisms, national carbon registry, revenue streams, benefit distribution from national, regional, district and local levels, participation of women, indigenous, disadvantaged and marginal groups]
- Assess the feasibility of a hybrid approach (indicated by RPP) of REDD+ implementation, (including legal requirements under national laws and international agreements, with a perspective of addressing the issues; [the hybrid approach provides for simultaneous financing of local projects and the development of a national-level institutional architecture]
- Elaboration of key governance concerns and potential arrangements needed to engage in and track REDD+ activities and transactions; and
- Review of current institutions, policies and laws and partnerships in order to develop recommendations for improving the institutional arrangements and legal requirements;.

4. Expected output

The study should lead to the production of a final proposal report on REDD+ implementation framework for Nepal that includes institutional setup, legal reforms and resource requirements. The final report should be well articulated, sufficiently referenced and comprehensive. The final report should include (i) review of all key issues, including governance, legal and partnership issues; (ii) analysis of potential institutional and legal arrangements to address these issues; (iii) a clear, feasible and well justified REDD+ implementation framework along with a thorough ex-ante assessment of the mechanism's strengths and weaknesses; (iv) clear and concrete recommendations and a work plan for implementing the proposed framework.

5. Study approach

5.1 Process

The assignment will include a thorough review of available literature, documents and reports related REDD+ preparedness studies and activities, 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, protected areas and private forests) and in-depth literature review, for:
 - review of REDD+ implementation mechanisms indicated in RPP and other documents, including those proposed by national and international agencies;
 - assessment of institutional and legal issues relevant to national REDD+ program implementation in Nepal;
 - review of institutional mechanisms for promoting forest management and conservation in Nepal and other developing countries;
 - review of strategic partnership – both national and international.
- B. Develop a good understanding of on-going REDD+ preparedness studies on MRV framework, Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES), Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), National Forest Database and Information System, REDD+ Strategy and other relevant studies [reports of these studies are available for study].
- C. Prepare a draft report on selected REDD+ implementation framework. The framework should include institutional arrangements, legal framework and other resource requirements, and strategic partnerships. The report should be presented at a multi-stakeholder meeting for comments and feedback.
- D. Develop the Final Report that includes comments from a national multi stakeholder workshop and independent reviewers. A clear work plan to implement the framework should be included. The proposal framework should be closely aligned with the current system and policies and incorporate institutional setup for monitoring, evaluation and reporting REDD+ activities proposed by other studies.

Following documents should be consulted, but not limited to:

- Nepal's REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)
- Reports from studies conducted during Readiness preparation: MRV, Reference Level, SESA, Drivers of Deforestation, CGE modeling, Total Economic Valuation of Forests, National Forest Database and National Forest Information System, capacity building, R-Package and Readiness, SESA, REDD+ Strategy
- 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
- Academic analyses and news articles
- Relevant laws, policies, strategies and programs

5.2 Study Consultant

The study will be conducted through a national Consultant who has excellent knowledge about institutional development, governance, national policies and programs, human resource management and challenges in development countries. The expert should have a minimum post-graduate and preferably a PhD degree. A minimum of 10 and preferably 15 years of relevant work experience in

designing institutional arrangements in public sector is required. He/she should have a good understanding of climate change issues and REDD+ preparedness activities in Nepal.

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

- Expertise on institutional development and implementation in developing countries;
- Good knowledge about climate change, carbon financing arrangements, and social related issues, particularly related to access and benefit-sharing;
- Good knowledge of forest policies and rules and of REDD+ preparedness activities in Nepal;
- Strong writing and communication skills

Failure to comply with the eligibility criteria-VAT or PAN registration and the Bank's conflict of interest requirement, automatically disqualify the candidate from further evaluation.

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 cell and later finalized jointly by the Consultant and the REDD cell.

6. Duration of work

This assignment should be completed within four months after signing the contract. This study is expected to start in November 2014 and complete in February 2015.

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. Draft report on proposed REDD+ implementation framework that includes institutional arrangements, legal requirements and strategic partnerships for implementing a national REDD+ program. The report should be presented at a multi-stakeholder workshop (suggested delivery – at least 3 weeks before the end of the contract)
- C. Final report that is comprehensive and fully referenced. It should include a clear framework with institutional arrangements, legal arrangement and strategic partnerships. It should provide concrete suggestions on resource requirements and a clear work plan to put this into practice. The report should contain an in-depth analysis of the issues described in the objectives and should propose clear, implementable recommendations in PSIR (pressure, state, impact and response) framework.

All reports should be in English. Executive summary in both English and Nepali should be included in the final report. Both hard copy and soft copies of all reports should be submitted to REDD-Forestry and Climate Change Cell of 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 World Bank's individual consultant selection method. For further details refer to the World Bank's [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#), January 2011 (Consultant Guidelines).

9. Payment schedule

REDD Cell 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

Mohan Poudel
REDD Forestry and Climate Change Cell
Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 977-1-4239126
Fax: 977-1-4215261
E-mail: info@mofsc-redd.gov.np