Ethiopia Ministry of Environmental Protection and Forestry

National REDD+ Secretariat

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Terms of Reference for Technical Assistance on the development of a national system which will enable Ethiopia to provide measurable, reportable and verifiable estimates related to the implementation of REDD+ activities.

1) **Background**

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has developed a Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy. The CRGE vision aims to build a climate resilient green economy and to make the country carbon neutral by 2025. The Strategy identifies eight key sectors that play key roles in sustainable development: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), soils, livestock, energy, buildings and cities, industry, transport and health.

To achieve the GoE's CRGE related goals on land use change and forestry, the GoE is implementing a National REDD+ Readiness Program with support from various partners, including the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) assists selected countries in their REDD+ efforts. It has the dual objectives of building capacity for REDD+ (the "Readiness Fund"), and testing a program of performance-based incentive payments in some pilot countries (the "Carbon Fund"). Assistance under the Readiness Fund includes support for: (i) developing a national reference scenario for REDD+; (ii) adopting a national socially and environmentally sound REDD+ strategy that would reduce emissions and at the same time conserve biodiversity, enhance the livelihoods of forest dependent peoples and other forest dwellers; (iii) setting up implementation management framework for the effective and efficient implementation of REDD+; and (iv) designing and implementing accurate measurements, monitoring and verification systems to enable countries to report on emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

2) **Scope of the Technical Assistance required**

The Government of Ethiopia and the World Bank are now seeking a qualified Party to provide technical assistance on REDD+ in the following two areas as listed above:
   (i)   developing a national reference scenario for REDD+; and
   (ii)   designing and implementing accurate measurements, monitoring and verification systems to enable countries to report on emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

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The Reference Emission Level (and/or forest reference level) is an estimate of historic forest cover change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and uptake from deforestation and/or forest degradation and the other REDD+ activities, reflecting national circumstances, potentially including forward-looking projections of emissions.

The Monitoring system is required to measure, report and verify the effect of the REDD+ strategy on GHG emissions and other multiple benefits, and to monitor the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as other variables relevant to the implementation of REDD+.

In order to progress on these two components, the GoE with support from its partners developed a 'MRV Roadmap' to facilitate the development of a national system which will enable Ethiopia to provide measurable, reportable and verifiable estimates related to the implementation of REDD+ activities. The purpose of this assignment is to provide technical assistance that will support the GoE to implement the Roadmap.

3) Outcomes and deliverables of the assignment

The technical assistance is expected to deliver on the outcomes outlined in the table below.

Outcome	Deliverables
Outcome 1. Institutional arrangements and data management systems to support the national MRV system are in place and fully operational	Needs assessment and establishment of institutional arrangements for MRV implementation
	Assess existing data storage and management systems relevant for MRV and Design and implement management solutions for key elements of the MRV system
	Develop a data sharing policy for internal and external usage
	Procurement of equipment for MRV

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Outcome 2. National MRV institutions are capable to to assess historical forest cover change and monitor activity data	Undertake trainings on remote-sensing techniques/analysis and open-source GIS softwares for key mapping institutions
	Develop a classification system for forest and other biomass-rich areas, prepare a basic land-cover/land-use map for REDD+ use and update the forest cover map
	Perform land cover change assessment with accuracy assessment and assess potential trends, including acquisition of high resolution images and other proxy data
	Establish and train an operational remote-sensing forest/land-use monitoring unit
	Develop a forest and land use monitoring web-portal to display REDD+ information
	Identify potential technologies to detect forest degradation
Outcome 3. Capacities to carry out NFI in the context of REDD+ are enhanced and new information is produced to improve carbon measurements and other relevant information on forest use and forest cover	Existing data is analyzed to assess accuracy and relevance for REDD+ needs, notably for calculating EFs
	Other relevant data sets are compiled and analyzed to assess potential contribution to the development of EFs and other MRV needs
	The relevance of proxy data to assess forest degradation emission factors (e.g fuel wood usage, small-scale farming, logging) is tested
	Provide trainings/workshops to field crews on field data collection, GPS/GIS usage for the NFI
	Provide trainings and support on field data compilation, quality control and analysis
	Support field work to establish PSP in key land classes areas, e.g. Oromia and key woodland areas

	Assess relevance of socio-economic and environmental NFI component and adapt, if relevant, to collect and provide information to address safeguards
	Field data from NFI is analyzed and combined with existing data to produce relevant forest information/analysis, including EFs for key land classes
	Support new research activities and collaborations to improve biomass estimates
Outcome 4. Capacities of governmental, research and civil society actors on MRV are enhanced at national and decentralized levels	Provide trainings and material to trainers on the basics of NFMS, MRV, field data collection and local-level mapping
	GoE trainers provide trainings to decentralized forestry officers and to local communities
Outcome 5. National RL(s)/REL(s) and relevant policies are endorsed and linked to the national GHG inventory process & policy framework	Test and calculate different RL/RELs approaches and conduct an analysis of key national circumstances for RL/RELs
	Undertake trainings on RL/RELs and facilitate a national dialogue to advance RL/REL(s) adoption and its policy application
	Provide trainings on LULUC/AFOLU GHG inventories softwares, methods and UNFCCC reporting requirements for REDD+ in coordination with CRGE process

4) Duration of the assignment

The overall assignment is expected to be finalized within three (3) years after contract signature.

5) Services, Facilities and Materials to be provided

If selected, the Party providing the technical assistance will develop and submit to the Government a Work Plan to cover the first six (6) months of implementation of the Technical Assistance. The Work Plan shall be updated on a semi-annual basis within the period of effectiveness of an Agreement.

The selected Party will contract or make available such qualified Experts and Consultants as are required, in their judgment, to carry out the Work Plan. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Forestry will provide counterpart personnel to work with the Party.

6) Supervision and reporting

The Party will be under the direct oversight of the National REDD+ Coordinator, working in close collaboration with the REDD+ Secretariat and also the CRGE Case team. The selected Party will submit to the Government the reports specified, in the numbers and within the time periods to be specified. In addition, Party will furnish to the Government a narrative programmatic report summarizing the activities carried out; identifying any problems in implementation; and assessing the results achieved against the agreed objectives.