

Request of Expression of Interest

Inclusion in roster of entities for verification of REDD+ emission reduction programs
under the FCPF Carbon Fund

Background

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and Indigenous Peoples focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (activities commonly referred to as REDD+).

The FCPF has two separate but complementary funding mechanisms — the Readiness Fund (RF) and the Carbon Fund (CF) — to achieve its strategic objectives. Countries that have made significant progress in their REDD+ readiness endeavors may be selected to participate in the Carbon Fund, through which the FCPF will pilot result-based payments for REDD+ policies and measures.

The pilot emission reduction programs (ER Programs) in the FCPF Carbon Fund can be at the national or sub-national scale. The design and implementation of the ER Programs is guided by different documents including the FCPF General Conditions applicable to Emission Reductions Payment Agreements (ERPA¹) (November 1, 2014) and the FCPF Carbon Fund Methodological Framework² (June, 2016). The Methodological Framework acts as a standard containing a set of relatively high level criteria and indicators that are designed to achieve a consistent approach to carbon accounting and programmatic characteristics.

Under the governing rules of the Carbon Fund, periodic assessment by an independent third party (i.e. verification entity) of the monitored emission reductions ('verification') is required before result-based payment can be made to an ER Program. The Facility Management Team (FMT) of the FCPF is therefore approaching potential verification entities to seek their expression of interest for conducting verifications of ER programs under the CF. Based on the responses to this Expression of Interest, the FMT of the FCPF will prepare an initial list of entities that will be submitted to governing body of the CF and the Participants Committee of the FCPF for approval. The roster of approved entities is expected to be finalized by June 2018. Prior to the start of the actual verifications, entities included in the roster will be invited to participate in a competitive tendering process following the WB corporate procurement rules.

The pipeline of the FCPF Carbon Fund currently consists of 19 programs of which a total of 6 ER programs have already been accepted in the portfolio. It is expected that the first ER Programs will start their monitoring and reporting their emission reductions in the second semester of 2018 and verification of these emission reductions is expected to start in the second half of 2018.

¹ <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/erpa-general-conditions>

² <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/carbon-fund-methodological-framework>

Objectives

To conduct an independent assessment of the quantity and quality of emission reductions from Emission Reduction Programs in the FCPF Carbon Fund as reported in the Monitoring Reports (template to be developed) against the Methodological Framework and any other applicable criteria. This assessment will include, where applicable, the identification of opportunities for improvement in the Country's systems.

The verification entity will also provide support to the FMT to set and improve the verification process to allow a smooth and efficient process.

Scope

The scope of the verification will include *inter alia* the following aspects:

- Scope of accounting (REDD+ activities, carbon pools and gases) compared to the original program design;
- Process of measurement, monitoring and reporting of the Emission Reductions. This process is based on national systems and therefore the monitoring systems of the country that operate within the geographical extent of the ER programs will be part of the verification;
- Quantification of the uncertainty of the Emission Reductions;
- Calculation of the Emission Reductions;
- Reporting on Displacement (Leakage); and
- Risk assessment and accounting for Reversals;
- Operation of Projects and Program Information Management System and Transaction registries.

Qualifications

- Auditing experience and expertise in auditing approach;
- Experience in validation and verification of REDD+ projects and jurisdictional programs;
- Experts with good understanding of the UNFCCC decisions related to REDD+, the FCPF Methodological Framework and national GHG inventories;
- Expertise in carbon accounting, project and program information management systems and project registries.
- Experts with excellent writing and communication skills in English and preferably Spanish, Portuguese and/or French

Information to be provided

The firms interested in being part of the roster are expected to provide the following information:

- Short background information on the firm including information on their accreditation;
- Overview of most relevant of experience in validation and verification of REDD+ projects and jurisdictional programs;
- CVs of 3-5 experts that are expected to be the key staff for any future assignments.
- Please send your information to: ibrdcfucontract@worldbank.org, aespejo@worldbank.org, and pliu1@worldbank.org