

## **Terms of Reference for**

### **Development of R-Package and Assessment of REDD+ Readiness in Nepal (FCPF/REDD/S/QCBS- 21)**

#### **1. Background**

Nepal is preparing itself for a forthcoming Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) program, which has the potential to generate financial incentives to participating countries for their improved management of forest resources and reduced carbon emission. This is expected to ultimately contribute to sustainable development in these countries. However, being “ready” for REDD+ will require an increased capacity to develop and coordinate relevant land use policies to mitigate future impacts on forest cover and quality. It is necessary to ensure that the benefits of financial incentives actually reach the forest dependent communities. Likewise, there should be positive impact of REDD+ activities on other stakeholders.

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) (with the World Bank as its delivery partner) is supporting Nepal in its national efforts towards “REDD+ Readiness”. The objective of the Nepal Readiness Preparation Program is to prepare Nepal to engage in and benefit from the emerging REDD+ program within the context of the international climate negotiations of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Such a performance-based payment system (for emission reduction) should be based on environmentally and socially sound policies and programs aimed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. This should be based on a credible and marketable reference level (forest carbon emission “baseline” scenario) and a technically robust system of forest monitoring and emissions reporting. The national REDD+ program should also develop relevant forest policies and management systems, information and data, participatory methods and other human and institutional capacity for improved management of forest resources in Nepal. Over the long run, the national REDD+ program is expected to significantly contribute to improving the economy and environment and reducing poverty in the country.

To participate in the FCPF, Nepal is required to prepare and submit a “Readiness Package” (or simply R-Package) and seek endorsement from the Participants Committee of the FCPF. The R-Package is prepared at a stage when activities proposed in the Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) are completed or in a well advanced stage. The R-Package is a major milestone and comes at the transition from REDD+ readiness preparation to piloting performance-based activities. The scope of the

R-Package is national and encompasses all readiness preparation activities, notably (1) readiness organization and consultation, (2) REDD+ strategy preparation, (3) reference levels, and (4) monitoring systems for forests, and safeguards (a total of nine corresponding subcomponents that mirror the activities in the national RPP).

FCPF Participants Committee has adopted the R-Package Assessment Framework that recommends a thorough assessment of progress on readiness preparation in the target country, demonstration of its commitment to REDD+ and recommendations and guidance to proceed towards Readiness. The R-Package encompasses all major readiness preparation activities, i.e. REDD+ organization, consultations, strategy preparations, establishing a reference level and monitoring systems, and other cross-cutting issues such as governance and environmental and social safeguards. The assessment and endorsement process consists of (i) a multi-stakeholder self-assessment by the country, and (ii) an assessment by the FCPF Participants Committee (including input from an ad hoc Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), the Delivery Partner and others).

The inherent value in preparing the R-Package is that this provides a critical step of assessing progress, strengths and weaknesses, and seeking objective feedback before moving towards REDD+ piloting and implementation.

The REDD Cell seeks consulting firm/consortium to conduct a study and develop a R-Package report in line with R-Package Assessment Framework adopted by the FCPF Participants Committee.

## **2. Objectives**

The objectives of the proposed study are:

- To synthesize and consolidate findings of and methodologies adopted in analytical studies carried out during readiness preparation process. The studies so far include development of MRV and reference level, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and development of REDD+ implementation framework.
- To assess progress made by Nepal on REDD+ Readiness through multi-stakeholder workshops at district, regional and national levels.
- To prepare R-Package report on the basis of criteria and diagnostic questions in the R-Package Assessment Framework.

## **3. Expected Output**

The study should lead to the production of a well articulated, comprehensive and sufficiently referenced report of R-Package that includes report of readiness assessment by national multi-stakeholders.

## 4. Study Approach

The study should be based on comprehensive review of available information and structured consultations at district, regional and national level.

A. Following documents should be consulted, but not limited to, for the study:

- FCPF guidelines on R-Package development and R-Package Assessment Framework.
- R-Package developed by other REDD+ countries
- Nepal's REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP)
- Reports from studies conducted during readiness preparation: MRV, reference level, SESA, drivers of deforestation, CGE modeling, value of forest, and PES.
- 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

B. The study should include interviews and consultations with major stakeholders and representatives of IPO, CSOs, and relevant NGOs at local, district, regional and national levels. It is expected that there will be 10 district level, 5 regional level and 2 national level consultations. About three more interest group consultations may be required to cover all major stakeholders.

### 4.1 Study Team

The study team is expected to consist of at least one international expert and two national experts. The team leader, with at least 10 years of relevant international experience, should have a thorough understanding of policy analysis, REDD+ and Climate Change, and NRM policies. He/she will be responsible for the overall coordination of the study and delivery of the final report. The team leader will also ensure that all tasks specified in the ToR are performed correctly and addressed properly in the final report. Other members should have at least 7 years of relevant experience and well versed in program monitoring and evaluation, REDD+ and Climate Change, and NRM policies. All team members should have post-graduate degree in forest policy, NRM or related disciplines.

The team will consist of the following members:

1. Policy Analyst and Team Leader (international – 1 month) will have minimum of a post-graduate and preferably PhD degree in NRM. Minimum 10 and preferably 15 years of experience on NRM policies, with at least 5 years of demonstrated policy analysis experience. The Team Leader will be responsible for the overall coordination of the study and all deliverables.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation Expert: (national – 3 months) will have minimum of a post-graduate degree and preferably PhD in a field related to NRM. The person should have minimum 7 and preferably 10 years of experience in project monitoring and evaluation in agriculture or forestry sector.
3. REDD Expert (national – 3 months) should have minimum of a post-graduate and preferably PhD degree in Forestry and expertise in REDD+. The expert should have a good understanding of the Nepal's progress on REDD preparedness and development of Nepal's REDD strategy.

#### 4.2 *Work plan*

The team is required to prepare and submit an inception report with a detailed work plan before the actual study. 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 study team and the REDD cell.

### 5. **Qualification and competency of consulting firm/consortium**

The consulting firm/consortium for this assignment should have a demonstrated ability and relevant experience in (i) leading multi-disciplinary teams, (ii) conducting similar studies, and (iii) producing comprehensive and quality reports.

Failure to meet the eligibility criteria- minimum three years of experience, intact tax payment status, adherence to the conflict of interest criteria stated in 1.9 paragraph of the World Bank's procurement guideline and legally binding joint venture agreement for consortium or sub-contracting- means automatic disqualification.

The consulting firm should possess the following experiences.

- **REDD+ Readiness assessment** (minimum of 2 and preferably more than 3 completed projects on REDD+ readiness assessment and REDD related projects/programs)
- **Program planning, monitoring, and evaluation** (minimum 2 and preferably more than 3 completed projects related to evaluation of national level programs/projects)
- **REDD+ and climate change** (minimum of 2 and preferably more than 3 completed projects related to evaluation of REDD related programs/projects)
- **Social, environmental, and economic assessment of REDD+** (minimum of 2 and preferably more than 3 completed projects related to evaluation of forest sector policies/strategies and REDD)
- **Forest governance system of Nepal** (minimum 2 and preferably more than 3 completed projects related to the development of national strategies and policies for Nepal or for any other developing countries )

## **6. Selection Procedure**

A consulting firm will be selected using the World Bank's Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) 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).

## **7. Duration of work**

This assignment should be completed within three months after signing the contract. This study is expected to start in January 2015 and complete in April 2015.

## **8. Reporting Schedule**

1. Inception report: Two weeks after signing the contract
2. Draft Report: first week of April 2015
3. Final Report (incorporating reviewers' comments): last week of April 2015

Language: All reports should be in English. An executive summary should be included both in English and Nepali in the final report.

## **9. Deliverables**

A comprehensive and fully referenced report including detailed recommendations must be submitted at the end of the assignment. 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.

Both hard copy and soft copies of the report should be submitted to REDD-Forestry and Climate Change Cell of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.

## **10. Payment schedule**

REDD Cell intends to sign a lump sum contract with the consultancy firm that stands at the top based on combined scores for its technical and financial proposals. 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. There will be a provision of 10% mobilization advance against the bank guarantee.

## **11. Contact person**

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