

**FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST**

Terms of Reference

Regional REDD+ Coordinator

BACKGROUND

Ethiopia is not a major emitter of greenhouse gases, but does store substantial carbon stocks (over 2.7 billion tons of CO₂e) in more than 12 million hectares of forests and wood lands. Due to the increase of population and the expansion of agricultural activities, these forests are being lost at an alarming rate. Ethiopia has an opportunity to capture and deploy climate finance to improve livelihoods, build resilience and reduce poverty through climate actions including REDD+.

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) developed a Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy in 2012. The strategy aims to build a climate resilient green economy and to make the country carbon neutral by 2025. The CRGE is led by the Prime Minister's office and is enjoying growing ownership among national line ministries and development partners. The Strategy identifies eight 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 Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) is implementing a national REDD+ Readiness Program. Under the leadership of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA, the predecessor of the MEF), Ethiopia joined the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and submitted a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in April 2010, which was approved in March 2011. The R-PP lays out a roadmap for the country to become ready for a future REDD+ financing mechanism.

The government of Ethiopia is planning to establish REDD+ Regional Offices mandated to coordinate the Regional readiness and capacity building activities and REDD+ piloting. Piloting REDD+ is an important part of REDD+ Readiness aiming at generating lessons to the national REDD+ strategy. Piloting is targeted in three different Regional States (SNNPR, Amhara and Tigray regional states) while the Oromia Region is well underway in the design of state level REDD+ program. The aim of the upcoming REDD+ pilots is for the REDD+ Secretariat and sub-national governments to work together on preparatory activities that are necessary in documenting 'bankable' REDD+ Pilot Projects, that would be ready to receive further financing from GoE's CRGE Facility, development partners, private investors, or other climate and carbon finance sources. Moreover, pilot preparation activities in the three Regional States will help to ensure that local communities are properly engaged and informed, that officials and community members are trained in key activities, that institutional and legal arrangements are clear and well consulted, that a baseline of GHG emissions determined, a locally-appropriate monitoring and reporting systems and estimates of potential emissions reductions from the pilot project implementation are prepared, that the costs for the implementation of the activities are identified, and that social and environmental risks are identified and proper mitigation measures prepared that the benefit sharing arrangements are well understood at each level. Preparation activities will also help to ensure that future proposed REDD+ investments, financing needs, ER potential, and benefit sharing arrangements are well documented for potential investors.

Institutional arrangement. The federal-level REDD+ Secretariat and Amhara Forest Enterprise (until MEF regional structure is put in place) will provide technical support, supervision and oversight on the REDD+ pilot preparatory activities and implementation of REDD+ Readiness activities. A Regional REDD+ Coordination Unit will be responsible in the planning, execution, coordination and reporting of the pilot preparatory activities in selected sites and regional readiness and capacity building activities. The coordination unit will have a Coordinator, a Forest Officer and an Accountant, a Secretary and a Driver. The coordination unit will be regularly monitored by the national REDD+ Secretariat and report to the same. The REDD+ Coordination unit of Amhara Regional State will reside in Bahirdar and be housed in Amhara Forest Enterprise.

The REDD+ Secretariat at the Ministry of Environment and Forest seeks to recruit a Regional REDD+ Coordinator with tasks and qualifications stated below.

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Regional REDD+ Coordinator would be responsible for the overall planning, administering and coordinating the activities of the regional REDD+ readiness, capacity building and REDD+ Pilots at the regional level. He/she would ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with the Financing Agreement with IDA and the R-PP Assessment Note, and in compliance with government and IDA guidelines and procedures. He/she has the overall responsibility of monitoring, overseeing and guiding the implementation of the various Regional REDD+ activities in close cooperation with regional bureaus, Woreda office and administration, stakeholders of the regional pilot sites, working closely with the National REDD+ Secretariat, the Regional REDD+ Steering Committee, and relevant stakeholders, administering contracts, overseeing the program budget, monitoring progress of activities, and representing the Regional REDD+ Pilot Project in relevant REDD+ events, among others as required.

Specifically the Coordinator will:

- a. Coordinate the regional REDD+ Readiness and capacity building process;
- b. Ensure day to day management of REDD+ readiness and pilot operations through close coordination with staff of the coordination unit and government experts ;
- c. Lead and coordinate the REDD+ pilot project development process at regional level;
- d. Ensure the proper consultations of stakeholders including local communities at REDD+ pilots sites during pilot project development process;
- e. Prepare annual activity plan and prepare and submit quarterly, annual and regular progress reports;
- f. Manage the finance allocated for the regional REDD+ Coordination Unit;
- g. Ensure that the principles of the REDD+ national process are respected and realized;
- h. Support and liaise with the regional REDD+ Steering Committee and Technical Working Group, and will be in charge of ensuring that the activities to be implemented by each agency and consultants are in synergy, and will take a proactive role to ensure that benchmarks are achievable.
- i. Provide technical assistance to the regional state and to the Regional REDD+ Steering Committee on REDD+ issues,
- j. Oversee technical studies and will coordinate the regional REDD+ readiness process and the preparatory activities of the regional REDD+ Pilot in close alignment with the National process.

- k. Provide regular updates to the National REDD+ Secretariat on areas within his/her responsibility.
- l. Assist in the harmonization of the different technical, financial and operational efforts around REDD+ activities in regional state.

REQUIRED SKILLS, COMPETENCIES AND EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of Master's degree or equivalent in Forestry, Natural Resources Management, Environmental science, Environment and Development or related fields.
- A minimum of 6 years of professional or equivalent experience in development, and project/program management.
- Experience in project implementation in Ethiopia
- Regional experience in project implementation is an asset
- Proven ability to plan, organize and effectively implement activities.
- Experience in coordination and ability to work in teams, as well as in complex environments.
- Good communications skills, including fluency in English and Amharic.
- Understanding of government functioning.
- Experience in dialogue processes between Government and civil society, and on consensus building.
- Knowledge of REDD+ and climate change is an asset.

SUPERVISION AND COORDINATION

The Regional REDD+ Project Coordinator will play a coordinating function between the regional government, the National REDD+ Secretariat, the regional agencies, and the various REDD+ stakeholders in the Regional state.

The Regional REDD+ Project Coordinator will be based in Bahir Dar, the regional capital and will work closely with the National REDD+ Secretariat at Ministry of Environment and Forest.

The Regional REDD+ Project Coordinator will report to the Amhara Forest Enterprise and works under the overall supervision of the National REDD+ Secretariat and Regional REDD+ Steering Committee.

DURATION

The Regional REDD+ Project Coordinator will be recruited initially for a period of 12 months, to be extended based on performance.

DELIVERABLES

The Regional REDD+ Project Coordinator will be responsible for preparing reports summarizing the activities undertaken and results achieved.