

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

Terms of Reference for Individual National Consultant
for
Documentation and assessing customary practices of managing forest resources
at local level
(FCPF/REDD/S/IND-25)

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 involvement of local communities in forest and land management customary practices in forest, pasture and other land use systems are extensive in the country. These practices should be properly recognized, appreciated and brought within the national REDD+ framework. The customary practices are crucial for the success of REDD+ program in Nepal. A comprehensive assessment of the customary practices and institutions involved in forest and land resource management is necessary before identifying which and how the forest categories, customary practices and institutions could/should be included in the REDD+ program.

3. Objectives

The primary objective of the proposed study is to review and document customary practices of managing forest and pasture resources in Nepal in order to identify optimally suitable customary forest

and pasture management categories, approaches and structures to be included in REDD+ program in Nepal. The specific objectives are:

1. To review and describe past (since 1957) and present customary forest and pasture management practices in Nepal;
2. To assess relevant national policies and laws in relation to these customary practices; and
3. To prioritize communal forest and pasture management categories and practices for their potential in national REDD+ program.

4. Expected output

The study should lead to the production of a comprehensive report on customary practices of forest and pasture resources and their potential for an effective and inclusive national REDD+ program in Nepal. The final report should be well articulated, sufficiently referenced and comprehensive. The final report should include (i) a good analysis of customary practices of managing forest and pasture land in Nepal; (ii) analysis of customary institutions and strategies and their links with government policies, laws and agencies; (iii) identification of suitable customary practices and institutions for and inclusive REDD+ program; (iv) concrete recommendations and a clear work plan for including potential customary practices in Nepal's REDD+ program.

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 and in-depth literature review, for:
 1. identification and review of all known past (since 1957) and present customary forest and pasture management practices in Nepal; and assessment of their relevance in relation to national, regional, district and community level institutions;
 2. review of existing plans, policies, laws and regulations that have implications on customary practices and communal management of forest and pasture land; and
 3. assessment of potential of customary practices to be integrated into Nepal's REDD+ program.
- B. Prepare a draft report with assessment and recommendations on customary practices of managing forest and pasture resources in the context of REDD+. The report should be presented at a multi-stakeholder meeting for comments and feedback.
- C. Develop a Final Report that includes comments from the national multi stakeholder workshop and report reviewers. The recommendations should be closely aligned with the current forest and land related policies.

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, value of forest, PES, National Forest Database and 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, particularly on customary practices of forest and land management;
- Academic analyses and news articles; and
- Relevant laws, policies, strategies and programs.

5.2 Study Consultant

The study will be conducted by a national Consultant with excellent knowledge about social and customary aspects of natural resource management, national policies and laws and challenges in development countries. The expert should have minimum of a post-graduate, preferably PhD, degree in natural/social sciences and with a minimum of 10 years, and preferably 15 years, of working experience in community management of forest and land resources. He/she should have a good understanding of climate change issues and non-carbon benefits in REDD+ and REDD+ preparedness activities in Nepal.

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

- Expertise on local resource management and customary practices;
- Good knowledge about climate change, carbon financing arrangements, and social related issues, particularly about customary management practices, access and benefit-sharing;
- Good knowledge of forest policies and rules and of REDD+ preparedness activities in Nepal; and
- 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 three months after signing the contract. This study is expected to start in November 2014 and complete in January 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 assessment and recommendations on customary practices of managing forest and land resources in Nepal. The report should include comprehensive assessment of local institutions, approaches and practices that are potential for national REDD+ program. A review of the relevant existing policies, plans, laws and regulations should also be included. 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 clear recommendations and process of institutionalizing customary practices in a national REDD+ program. 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 or Jpeg 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

Rajendra Kafle
REDD Forestry and Climate Change Cell
Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977-1-4239126

Fax: 977-1-4215261; E-mail: info@mofsc-redd.gov.np