TERMS OF REFERENCE

Participatory Biodiverity Monitoring

Piloting for National REDD+ Programme Applications in Vietnam

Country: Vietnam

Programme: REDD+

Project: Delivering Environmental and Social Multiple Benefits from REDD+ in Southeast Asia ('MB-REDD') project

Implementers: SNV – The Netherlands Development Organisation and Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST)

Investor: German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), International Climate Initiative (ICI)

Abstract: Developing a 'state-of-the-art' methodology and data collection/management protocols for PBM piloting under Vietnam's National REDD+ Action Programme

Duration: 45 person-days

Start: 01 March 2013

Station: Home-based, with possibility to travel to Hanoi, Vietnam

1. Background:
'*Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries*' (REDD+) has the potential to benefit biodiversity, but there are also several potential risks. Monitoring the biodiversity impact of REDD+ can help ensure that risks are mitigated and benefits achieved. Additionally, the results of this monitoring may help in demonstrating compliance with multilateral environment agreements.

In recognition of these potential risks and benefits, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requested countries to promote and support a set of safeguards for REDD+, including the request that "[REDD+ activities are] *consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that actions... are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests*…". The UNFCCC also requested REDD+ countries to develop a system to provide information on how these safeguards are addressed and respected (a Safeguard Information System, SIS). Additionally, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) encourages parties to "support the strengthening of inventorying and monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services at appropriate scales in order to evaluate the threats and likely impacts of climate change and both positive and negative impacts of climate-change mitigation and adaptation on biodiversity and ecosystem services". Along with providing advice on the application of REDD+ safeguards.

Increasingly, forest monitoring functions are being shared among stakeholders, and local people have begun working together with forestry professionals to develop and implement monitoring systems. There are now documented cases of participatory forest monitoring (PFM) throughout the world's tropical forests. '*Full and effective participation of stakeholders, particularly local*

communities', in national REDD+ programme development and implementation is now promoted under the UNFCCC. Engaging local stakeholders in monitoring has the potential to offer national REDD+ programmes a cost-effective contribution to both carbon and non-carbon aspects of national forest monitoring systems. At the same time, REDD+ could incentivise improved PFM practices, generating data to inform adaptive management and better governance of forests. Adopting a 'no regrets approach', SNV also acknowledges the value of improved forest monitoring as a prelude to better management and governance of forest irrespective of REDD+ developments.

PFM presents a multifaceted approach to engage stakeholders, particularly local people in REDD+ and contribute to the livelihoods of forest-dependent people. Within the broader PFM concept, participatory biodiversity monitoring (PBM) offers an approach to monitoring changes in biological diversity that engages different stakeholders, from national government to the grassroots level. It can be applied to a range of forest tenure arrangements or management and governance systems: from public- or private-owned management boards contracting local people to perform certain monitoring functions, through to community forest management, where the State provides technical outreach services to villages managing their own forestland. PBM can be used to collect data on a range of indicators of biodiversity impact, through a variety of data collection protocols.

As a key intervention area in SNV's approach to 'pro-poor REDD+', PFM is promoted as a means to realise multiple benefits for local communities. To demonstrate these benefits SNV and partners are designing, field testing, and capturing lessons from PFM models to inform national policy reform and improve practices on the ground. SNV strategically intervenes in PFM through the provision of generic, globally applicable operational guidance, complementing technical assistance on monitoring methodologies and protocols produced in collaboration with knowledge partners. SNV also tries to ensure that PFM is embedded in existing national and sub-national forest monitoring systems through development of: 'operational frameworks' for PFM; sub-national piloting and provision of iterative technical training inputs for local stakeholders.

SNV and the Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST), together with local government and community stakeholders in the southern province of Lam Dong, are currently piloting a model of PFM. Vietnam's National REDD+ Action Programme (NRAP) indicates participation as the key principle in monitoring the impacts of REDD+ activity implementation. The initial focus is on participatory carbon monitoring (PCM), building on preliminary field tests by SNV in 2010. Participatory biodiversity monitoring (PBM) is scheduled for introduction in 2013 and plans are being developed to expand the model further to include participatory monitoring of social impacts (PSM) of REDD+ activity implementation from 2014 onwards.

SNV and partners, through the MB-REDD project are now seeking a team of international specialists to develop PBM methodological guidance and field protocols for piloting under the Vietnam NRAP.

2. Objective:
A model of PBM, demonstrating potential REDD+ applications, piloted in Cat Tien landscape of Lam Dong province, southern Vietnam, applying 'international state-of-the-art best practice' methodological guidance and field protocols for data collection and management

3. Tasks:

- Reviewing existing global 'best practices', and Vietnamese experiences of PBM, particularly SNV guidance materials, to inform PBM methodology and design (5 days)

- Understanding existing and evolving forest and biodiversity monitoring systems in Vietnam in the context of the National REDD+ Action Programme (NRAP) (5 days)

- Developing and refining, based on consultative inputs from in-country stakeholders, a methodology for PBM piloting in the Cat Tien landscape, Lam Dong province (20 days)

- Developing and refining, based on consultative inputs from in-country stakeholders, field data collection and management protocols for local-level application (15 days)

4. Deliverables:

- Inception report refining scope, outlining approach, detailing activities, division of tasks, timeframe, and deliverables to be approved by SNV project leader

- Initial work plan for the assignment, to be approved by the SNV project leader (as an annex to the inception report)

- Draft annotated Table of Contents (ToC) of the PBM methodology and protocols (as an annex to the inception report)

- Draft iterations of the PBM methodology and protocols responding to feedback from SNV advisors, knowledge partners and in-country stakeholders
  - the methodology should concisely describe monitoring objectives/questions and how data will inform local forest management and national REDD+ applications

- Annotated bibliography and soft/hard copies of all documentation consulted during development of PBM methodology and protocols

5. Requirements:

- Second degree the fields of biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, or forestry

- Minimum 10 years of proven track record in providing technical advice to national systems of biodiversity and forest inventory and monitoring

- Strong knowledge of REDD+, payment for ecosystem services (PES) and other performance-based forestry financing mechanisms

- Experience with participatory approaches to biodiversity and forest monitoring, including indicator selection, data collection and management

- Knowledge of, and experience working with, existing forest inventory monitoring systems and practices in Vietnam a distinct advantage

6. How to apply:

Interested consultant should send most updated CVs and Letter of Interest indicating how (s)he is qualified to perform the service to Mr. Nguyen Vinh Quang (qnguyenvinh@snvworld.org). Deadline of submission is 17:00 February 26, 2013.