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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Participatory Biodiversity Monitoring – International Technical Advisor

- 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: Consulting services to provide technical backstopping and ensure quality control of participatory forest monitoring (PFM) model design, field testing and evaluation
- Duration: An initial 45 person-days in 2013, with possibility of extension in subsequent years
- 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+) offers an opportunity to capitalise on local stakeholders' experience of forest monitoring while presenting new technical challenges on how data can be generated for a national REDD+ programme. Participatory forest monitoring (PFM) presents a multifaceted approach to engage stakeholders, particularly local people in REDD+ and contribute to the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.

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 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (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 is not a specific methodology or monitoring protocol, but a multifaceted approach that encompasses a range of forest monitoring activities, from carbon stock changes to biodiversity and social impacts (positive and negative) of REDD+. SNV identifies a number of possible applications (or end users) of PFM data in national REDD+ programmes, from safeguard information systems (SIS) at the national level, through to adaptive management at the local level.

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 SNV knowledge partners (Winrock International and WCMC-UNEP). 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 senior international specialist to contribute to develop global PFM models and quality control pilot interventions in Vietnam.

## **2. Objective:**

Through the vehicle of the MB-REDD project in Vietnam, SNV REDD+ programme's PFM model design, field testing and evaluation comprise pilot interventions of international relevance and quality

## **3. Tasks:**

### **Knowledge products**

- Producing a global operational guidance document for participatory carbon monitoring (PCM) in collaboration with knowledge partners Winrock International (15 days)
- Ensuring technical quality of local-level PFM data collection and management guidance materials produced for Vietnam (5 days)
- Assisting knowledge partners/service providers developing globally applicable methodological guidance on PBM for national REDD+ programmes (5 days)
- Assisting the development of an 'operational framework' document, exploring the coupling of sub-national and national monitoring systems, for PFM in Vietnam (6 days)

- Finalising a technical paper on historical participatory biodiversity monitoring (PBM) experiences in Vietnam (2 days)

#### **Quality control**

- Backstopping the work of the project's national PFM Officer in their day-to-day duties (5 days)
- Exploring the coupling of sub-national to national monitoring systems based on the PFM pilot (2 days)
- Exploring the possibilities to link PFM with other established forestry sector financing schemes in Vietnam, such as Payment for Forest Environmental Services (2 days)
- Exploring linkages, and sharing lessons, between local REDD+ benefit distribution systems and PFM (2 days)
- Assisting identification of opportunities to up-scale the integration of PFM in local BDS piloting under the NRAP (1 day)

#### **4. Deliverables:**

Knowledge products to be produced in close collaboration with SNV advisors, and knowledge partners, working on the MB-REDD project:

1. '*Participatory Carbon Monitoring: Operational Guidance for National REDD+ Programmes*' in collaboration with Winrock International (by May 2013)
2. Participatory carbon monitoring data collection and management manuals for Vietnam in collaboration with knowledge partners (by March 2013)
3. '*Participatory Biodiversity Monitoring: Lessons from Vietnam and Potential REDD+ Applications*' in collaboration with I-REDD+ project (by March 2013)
4. Participatory biodiversity monitoring methodological guidance in collaboration with knowledge partners (by June 2013)
5. '*Participatory forest monitoring: operational framework for Vietnam*' contributions to draft iterations of the framework document (by December 2013)

#### **5. Requirements:**

- Second degree the fields of forestry, specifically forest mensuration, inventory and monitoring as a minimum requirement
- Minimum 10 years of proven track record in providing technical advice to national systems of forest mensuration, inventory and monitoring
- Strong knowledge of REDD+, payment for ecosystem services (PES) and other performance-based forestry financing mechanisms
- Experience with participatory approaches environmental and social impact monitoring, including indicator selection, data collection and management, in the forestry sector
- Knowledge of, and experience working with, existing forest inventory monitoring systems and practices in Vietnam a distinct advantage