

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Participatory Biodiversity Monitoring **Piloting for National REDD+ Action Programme Applications in Vietnam**

Country: Vietnam
Programme: REDD+
Project: Delivering 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 or adapting existing international good practice for participatory approaches to biodiversity data collection and management, integrating with existing/evolving monitoring and inventory systems in Vietnam
Duration: Indicative 100 person-days
Start: 01 June – 30 September, 2013
Station: Home-based, with occasional travel to Vietnam (Hanoi, Dalat)

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 Cancun 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).

In addition to providing advice on the application of REDD+ safeguards, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) also encourages parties to *"support the strengthening of inventorying and monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services...in order to evaluate...both positive and negative impacts of climate-change mitigation...on biodiversity and ecosystem services"*. Monitoring of biodiversity impacts of national REDD+ programme implementation would also contribute to national reporting on progress towards a number¹ of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

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*

¹ Targets 5, 7, 11, 14 and 15 (see www.cbd.int/sp/targets/ for details)

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 a 'Tier 3' approach (Gardner *et al.* 2011)² to monitoring changes in biological diversity as a result of REDD+ implementation that engages different stakeholders, from national government to the grassroots level (*cf.* Danielsen *et al.*, 2011). 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, and could make a cost-effective contribution to demonstrating (UNFCCC) Cancun safeguard compliance and progress towards (CBD) Aichi Targets.

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) together with major potential REDD+ readiness investments for Vietnam³, indicate 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. PBM is scheduled for introduction in 2013 and plans are being developed to expand the model further to include participatory monitoring of livelihood impacts (PLM) from 2014 onwards.

Field testing of *ex-post* carbon and non-carbon impacts of the NRAP cannot be piloted at this early stage of REDD+ readiness. Consequently, the MB-REDD project proposes to pilot PBM

² Priority further work on integrating biodiversity concerns into national REDD+ programmes, number 7. 'Testing and developing (simplified, robust and replicable) Tier 3 [*cf.* IPCC 2006 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories] field monitoring of biodiversity with the involvement of...local communities (so as to encourage local, evidence-based decision-making and threat reduction), and exploring suitable approaches to link participatory monitoring approaches with national-level monitoring'.

³ Such as the Joint Declaration between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Norway on REDD+, and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Carbon Fund.

under existing forest management activities (i.e. candidate REDD+ policies and measures - PaMs) activities in the province of Lam Dong. SNV and partners, through the MB-REDD project are now seeking a team of international and national specialists to elaborate PBM methodological guidance and field protocols for piloting under national PFES policy to inform future implementation of the NRAP.

2. Objective:

A model of PBM, demonstrating immediate PFES (with a view to potential NRAP) applications, developed for piloting of Lam Dong province, southern Vietnam, applying 'international state-of-the-art good practice' methodological guidance and field protocols for data collection and management

3. Tasks:

Phase I PREPARATION (25 days)

- Reviewing existing global conceptual thinking, internationally accepted standards and policy frameworks, and good practices⁴, and Vietnamese experiences, of PBM to inform PBM methodology and design (5 days)
- Understanding and identifying strategic entry points for PBM in existing and evolving forest⁵ and biodiversity⁶ inventory and monitoring systems in Vietnam (5 days)
- Assessing and identifying strategic synergies for PBM with emerging assessment processes⁷ for biodiversity, ecosystem services and REDD+ in Vietnam (5 days)
- Assessing potential compatibility (including sampling needs) of PFM with remote sensing and geographical information system (GIS) platforms⁸ in Vietnam (5 days)
- Assisting co-ordination/collaboration with other development partners with relevant interventions in the Vietnamese forestry and biodiversity sectors (5 days)

Phase II DESIGN (45 days)

- Developing and refining, based on consultative inputs from in-country stakeholders, methodological options, for PBM piloting in Lam Dong province (40 days):
 - identifying the data customers' (end users') needs at all levels – national, subnational, local forest management unit – for adaptive forest/land management PaMs
 - establishing monitoring objectives at local, subnational and national levels

⁴ Particularly for REDD+ at both project (*cf. Danielsen et al. 2011*) and programmatic (*cf. Gardner et al. 2011*) levels

⁵ Including, *inter alia*: the National Forest Inventory (NFI), proposed National Forest Inventory & Statistics (NFI&S), forest area monitoring system, proposals for a national forest monitoring system (NFMS) and safeguard information system SIS) (as required for national REDD+ programmes under the UNFCCC)

⁶ Including, *inter alia*: national biodiversity database system, proposed piloting of management information system (MIST) for biodiversity in special-use forests.

⁷ Including, *inter alia*: proposed ecological gap assessment and biodiversity corridor planning under the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP), Strategic Environmental & Social Assessment for the NRAP, assessment of ecosystem services by ProEcoServ project

⁸ e.g. Vietnam Forestry Information Portal (FORMIS)

- selecting possible criteria and indicators⁹ meeting local, subnational and national monitoring needs
 - stratified (by forest ecological type) sampling strategy (sampling frequency, density, random sampling versus targeted¹⁰, etc.) and methods
 - assessing and determining (financial, human and time) resources, training needs and constraints
 - reviewing and collating existing data sources
 - reviewing and selecting data collection, management and analysis techniques and technologies (including soft- and hardware requirements)
 - define strategy to integrate lower level monitoring (i.e. at the forest management unit level) into higher level system across jurisdictional hierarchy (i.e. at district, province, or national level)
- Preparing a conceptual outline and ToR for a follow-on assignment to assess relative costs and benefits of PBM contributions to monitoring for REDD+, and other forestry/biodiversity programmes, compared to: (5 days)
 - professional-executed data collection and management systems
 - RS/GIS based approaches to monitoring REDD+ impacts
 - coupled/un-coupled PBM and PCM in terms of data collection and management

Phase III INSTALLATION (30 days)

- Developing and refining, based on consultative inputs from in-country stakeholders, field data collection and management protocols/manuals for local-level application (20 days)
- Developing a training plan and ToR, for both PBM co-ordinators and village-level field data collectors for field testing methods and protocols in Lam Dong province (5 days)¹¹
- Conducting a two-day introductory training workshop to national and provincial project partners on the proposed PBM methodology and protocols (5 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)
 - Individual ToR for team members aligned with work plan and detailing milestone deliverables to ensure timely progress of the assignment
 - Draft annotated Table of Contents (ToC) of the PBM methodology and protocols (as an annex to the inception report)
- PBM methodology, including estimates of suggested/required (financial, human, time) resource inputs, elaborated over multiple iterations responding to feedback from SNV advisors, knowledge partners and in-country stakeholders

⁹ Including, *inter alia*: i) components of biodiversity at the taxonomic level (e.g. species), ii) biodiversity functioning at the ecosystem level of organization, iii) threats to biodiversity (including drivers of deforestation and forest degradation), iv) threat counter measures (including REDD+ PaMs), and non-REDD+-related activities (e.g. anti-poaching measures)

¹⁰ Targeting areas of greatest (particularly negative) biodiversity impact

¹¹ Implementation of the training plan is extralimital and subsequent to the ToR described here.

- PBM data collection and management protocols/manuals, providing step-by-step instruction to field data collection teams and local data managers
- Assessment of training needs, ToR, and work plan for a) training of trainers (PBM coordinators); b) village-level data collectors; and c) forest owner/local government data managers
- Conceptual outline and ToR for a follow-on assignment to assess relative costs and benefits of PBM for REDD+ compared to other monitoring approaches
- Bibliography and soft/hard copies of all documentation consulted during development of PBM methodology and protocols

5. Team member 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. Team composition:

- Team leader (40 days) – over all conceptual vision, strategic direction and team management
- Monitoring specialist (35 days) – development/adaptation of indicators and data collection methods
- Data management specialist (25 days) – development/adaptation of data management systems

The Team leader and Monitoring specialist had been identified. We are looking for the Data management specialist to complete the team.

7. How to apply:

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