

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Participatory Forest Monitoring Operational Framework 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 a draft participatory forest monitoring (PFM) operational framework document as vehicle informing a consultative multi-stakeholder process on PFM development for National REDD+ Action Programme Applications in Vietnam
Duration: Indicative 60 person-days
Start: 01 June – 31 July, 2013
Station: Hanoi with possible travel to 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).

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. 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. PFM can be used to collect data on a range of indicators of REDD+ effectiveness and impact, through a variety of data collection protocols, and could make a cost-effective contribution to demonstrating compliance with Cancun and other international safeguard frameworks.

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.

Vietnam's National REDD+ Action Programme (NRAP) together with major potential REDD+ readiness investments for Vietnam¹, indicate participation as the key principle in monitoring the impacts of REDD+ activity implementation. Through the MB-REDD project, 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. As part of this PFM model's development the MB-REDD project will support elaboration of an operational framework for Vietnam at the national level. The framework will identify the strategic entry points where PFM could add value to existing and evolving systems of inventory and monitoring in Vietnam, in addition to the key stakeholders and their functional tasks in operating PFM. The project is now seeking two national specialists to elaborate a PFM operational framework to inform implementation of the NRAP (subsequent provincial REDD+ action plans – PRAPs) and other forestry sector initiatives².

2. Objective:

A PFM operational framework document is prepared, drawing on an initial draft, together with up-to-date developments in Vietnam's forest inventory and monitoring systems, as a vehicle for multi-stakeholder consultations in developing PFM for NRAP and other forestry initiatives

¹ 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.

² e.g. the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance & Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between Vietnam and the European Union.

3. Tasks:

Phase I – Preparing (23 days)

1. Reviewing existing and evolving SNV REDD+ documentation on generic PFM operational guidance to become familiar with the PFM concept and that of a national 'operational framework' (2 days)
2. Consulting key stakeholders involved in national forest inventory and monitoring systems, in addition to those involved in REDD+ readiness and other forestry initiatives, to understand different perspectives of PFM for NRAP application in Vietnam (4 days)
3. Reviewing the initial draft PFM operational framework document produced by SNV Vietnam in 2012 to identify the key strengths and weaknesses of the document in preparation for developing a revised operational framework (2 days)
4. Reviewing Vietnam's existing and evolving policies, laws, regulations related to forest resources and forestland management and monitoring to identify entry points, obstacles and gaps pertaining to PFM (5 days)
5. Reviewing Vietnam's existing and evolving forest inventory and monitoring systems in the context of national and international policy requirements (particularly those under the UNFCCC) and opportunities (10 days)

Phase II – Analysing (25 days)

6. Identifying the primary objectives of PFM at different levels (national, provincial and lower levels), for different forest management types (production, protection, special-use) and different REDD+ activities (5 days)
7. Analyzing stakeholder institutions, at all levels, to identify roles (responsibilities, rights, benefits and relationships with other stakeholders) and key functional tasks under PFM (data collection, management, reporting, verification and analysis) (10 days)
8. Identifying generic capacity needs and gaps for identified stakeholder institutions, at all levels, to meet fulfill the functional tasks elaborated in the draft PFM operational framework (10 days)

Phase III – Writing (12 days)

9. Drafting a PFM operational framework, building on an initial draft, together with up-to-date developments in Vietnam's forest inventory and monitoring systems, as a vehicle for multi-stakeholder consultations in developing PFM for NRAP/PRAPs (10 days)
10. Presenting draft iterations of the PFM operational framework at national and subnational consultation fora for stakeholder feedback and subsequent revision of the framework document (2 days)

4. Deliverables:

- Initial work plan for the assignment, with interim milestones, to be approved by SNV
- Draft annotated Table of Contents (ToC) of the PFM operational framework

- PFM operational framework, elaborated over multiple iterations responding to feedback from SNV advisors, knowledge partners and in-country stakeholders
- Bibliography and soft/hard copies of all documentation consulted during development of PFM operational framework

5. Team member requirements:

- Second degree the fields of forestry/natural resource management
- Minimum 10 years of proven track record in providing technical advice to Vietnamese forestry projects and programmes, particularly in the fields of inventory and monitoring
- Strong knowledge of REDD+, payment for ecosystem services (PES) and other performance-based forestry financing mechanisms
- Experience with participatory approaches to forest monitoring, including data collection, management, reporting, verification and analysis
- Knowledge of, and experience working with participatory approaches to forest inventory monitoring systems outside Vietnam a distinct advantage

6. Team composition:

- Forest inventory and monitoring specialist (40 days) – over all conceptual vision, strategic direction and team management
- Participation specialist (20 days) – development/adaptation of indicators and data collection methods

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 rate to Mr. Nguyen Vinh Quang (nguyenvinh@snvworld.org). Deadline of submission is 17:00 May 20, 2013.