

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Developing greenhouse gas emissions reduction/enhanced removal scenarios for subnational REDD+ planning applications in Vietnam

Country:	Vietnam (Ca Mau and Lam Dong provinces)
Programme:	REDD+
Projects:	Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) Mangroves and Markets: supporting mangrove protection in Ca Mau (MaM) Delivering Multiple Benefits from REDD+ in Southeast Asia (MB-REDD)
Abstract:	Developing greenhouse gas emissions reduction/enhanced removal (ER/ER) scenarios to inform participatory subnational REDD+ planning processes in Ca Mau (Ngoc Hien district only) and Lam Dong provinces, Vietnam
Duration:	Indicative 170 person-days
Start:	1 April – 30 September 2014
Station:	Home-based, with travel to and within Vietnam (Hanoi, Dalat, Ho Chi Minh City, Ca Mau)

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+) as a national programme cannot become operational on the ground without some level of subnational planning. Indeed, it could be argued that programmatic REDD+ is primarily a means to incentivise better land and forest use planning for sustainably productive landscapes. Such planning processes will require some form of analysis of what drives deforestation and forest degradation, and what constrains more extensive and effective sustainable management of forests and forest carbon stock conservation and enhancement (the 'plus activities' of REDD+).

Analysis of changes in forest cover and land use, and what forces drive these changes, in addition to those forces that constrain more sustainable land and forest use options, is necessary to establish different scenarios to inform planning processes and future land use choices to reduce the greenhouse (GHG) emissions profile from these sectors. Business as usual emissions scenarios will need to be determined to form an interim provincial reference scenario, from which, a number of plausible future scenarios can be projected based upon candidate emission reduction/enhanced GHG removal (ER/ER) policies and measures (PaMs).

Scenario planning is one comparative approach that can be used to assess the performance of alternative emission reduction strategies as defined by proposed PaMs. In addition to projecting ER/ER profiles, assessing the (social, environmental and economic) costs and benefits of candidate PaMs can facilitate the alignment of key political incentives to support an informed decision making process. This approach will also quantify the potential opportunity costs of foregone land use options required to implement priority PaMs, particularly for local farmers and rural poor households.

The Government of Vietnam has already approved a National REDD+ Action Programme, which mandates Provincial REDD+ Action Planning (PRAP) as the appropriate level of operationalising REDD+ in the country. Lam Dong, as a pioneering province for Vietnam's domestic Payment for Forest Environment Services and pilot REDD+ activities, has recently approved a Framework

PRAP that states GHG emissions for the Province should be reduced by 27% against current levels by 2020.

The LEAF and MB-REDD projects are currently collaborating to assist Lam Dong province to elaborate a full PRAP within 2014. LEAF has supported the development of an interim performance-based Reference Level and will continue to support work on ER/ER scenarios that will inform the Lam Dong PRAP. LEAF has already collaborated with Da Lat University to develop a number of hypothetical GHG scenario reduction strategies and considered environmental, social and economic trade-offs between these scenarios. This work was completed to build capacity in low emission land use planning, rather than to develop policy options, but this collaboration with Da Lat University is expected to be continued under this consultancy. As an integral part of the full Lam Dong PRAP process, MB-REDD is piloting Participatory Impact Assessment & Monitoring (PIAM) that will identify social and environmental benefits and risks of the potential PaMs that would comprise the PRAP. To strengthen this SNV REDD+ technical assistance to Lam Dong's PRAP, MB-REDD has also tasked an environmental economist to review and update 2010 opportunity cost assessments for Lam Dong Province.

In Ca Mau province, MaM and MB-REDD are collaborating to establish similar scenarios for a pilot district, Ngoc Hien, as a demonstration exercise to inform a future PRAP process. UN-REDD Vietnam Phase II is also seeking to support PRAP in Lam Dong, Ca Mau and four other provinces in Vietnam. The selected consultancy team will need to collaborate closely with the various work programmes of LEAF, MB-REDD and the emerging work programme of UN-REDD.

SNV-Vietnam REDD+ programme is now seeking a team of international and national specialists to conduct an integrated scenario planning process for the two target locations of Lam Dong province and Ngoc Hien commune in Ca Mau province. The ultimate output of this assignment will be a number of ER/ER scenarios (measured in tCO₂e), where the various economic costs and benefits (i.e. in dollar terms) for each scenario are quantified and a preliminary assessment of the potential social and environmental benefits and risks for each scenario (through the proposed PIAM methodology) also assessed.

2. Objective:

1. Plausible and target-orientated greenhouse gas emissions reduction/enhanced removal scenarios elaborated in Ca Mau (Ngoc Hien district only) and Lam Dong provinces; and
2. Development of capacity within relevant institutions on scenario planning and development.

3. Indicative tasks¹:

Phase I - Preparation

- National consultants will identify key stakeholders necessary for scenario development based on goals and objectives in collaboration with SNV REDD+ team.

¹ All tasks will be implemented with assistance from, and/or working through, existing full-/and part-time SNV advisors and counterparts in provincial and national government agencies. In Lam Dong province, LEAF project will be responsible for direct task managing the consultant team; in Ca Mau, MaM project will take the lead in assignment oversight.

- International consultant to develop and submit a work plan that outlines critical tasks and key milestones, in collaboration with SNV REDD+ and national consultants.
- Consultants will understand the status of subnational planning for REDD+ in the two target sites
- Consultants will review existing data sets and information products², document all known data and information gaps and make recommendations on additional data sets that will need to be collected in order to meet the objectives of this assignment.
- The international consultant will assess previous scenario planning or modelling work that could inform ER/ER scenario development for subnational REDD+ planning.
- National GIS consultant to review and select an appropriate geographical information system (GIS), based on capacity and current systems used by stakeholders in the two target locations, in consultation with the international consultant (this review would include an assessment of off-the-shelf commercial, open-access and bespoke software packages³).
- Consultants to familiarise themselves with historical assessments of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation completed by LEAF and other projects for the target locations.
- National consultants to synthesise relevant government plans and policies – notably, Socio-Economic Development; Forest Protection & Development; and Biodiversity Conservation Action plans and document goals and objectives that will provide context to the development of all scenarios.
- Consultants to summarise the above findings into a concise work plan and submit to SNV REDD+ within four weeks of the start date.

Phase II – Scenario development

- Identify indicators associated with goals and objectives for REDD+ or low emission land use development and implementation in the each of the two selected locations. Thresholds and sensitivity for each of the indicators that stakeholders are willing to accept must be identified through a consultative process (facilitated by the relevant SNV projects)
- Collect necessary data for each of the identified indicators, summarise and identify how indicators are linked to each other based on datasets collected (task to be linked to the development of the scenario spreadsheet tool)
- Review the existing interim 'business as usual' scenarios (as developed by LEAF for Lam Dong province) and present results to stakeholders. During stakeholder consultation meetings, jurisdictional maps are also to be presented to assess different stakeholders' mandates and objectives.

² Data sets to include, but not limited to, standardised land cover maps, standardised land use maps, standardised land zoning maps, census data consistent with historical land cover assessment periods, jurisdictional maps (also consistent with the historical land cover assessment periods), relevant economic data, past opportunity cost assessment work.

³ e.g. Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (InVEST); Land Change Modeler; Land Use Planning for Low Emission Development Strategy (LUWES); Marxan; REDD Abacus SP Model; etc.

- Through a consultative process, define two to four plausible PaMs that could be implemented, prioritised by key drivers of change that have been previously defined (e.g. in the LEAF Historical Forest Cover Change Assessment report for Lam Dong province).
- Produce briefing paper that summarises the scenarios to be model and distribute to key stakeholders for review.
- Upon stakeholder agreement, international consultant will spatially incorporate defined scenarios into possible landscape configurations using inputs from the consultative meeting.
- Present scenario outcomes and configurations to stakeholders at consultative meetings. During the meetings, consultants to refine scenarios developed based on stakeholder input and feedback.
- Consultants to communicate with the MB-REDD project to ensure that the proposed PIAM process is integrated into development of the scenarios agreed at stakeholder consultation meetings (Lam Dong only).
- Consultant to finalise scenarios, ensuring spatial projection of the landscape through to 2020 with inclusion of economic implications and outcomes of the PIAM process (that will consider the expected social and environmental impacts from each of the proposed scenarios). (Implementation costs to be quantified through the SNV MB-REDD+ project).
- Consultant to define and document probable trade-offs between the finalised scenarios and report these trade-offs for review by stakeholders.
- Final presentation of all scenarios at consultative workshops for stakeholder to agree upon one scenario for implementation through the Lam Dong PRAP (or appropriate planning process in Ca Mau).
- For Can Mau (Ngoc Hien district), establishing trends in land use and forest cover change based on existing assessments of historical drivers/constraints, and novel assessments of planned drivers/constraints⁴, to inform the development of BAU and reference scenarios for each site
- Refining existing quantitative opportunity costs and benefits, in economic terms⁵, particularly to local farmers, of identified ER/ER scenarios and their associated PaMs to provide a robust economic dimension to scenario planning
- Qualitatively and quantitatively assessing the costs and benefits of applying scenario development and analysis to subnational planning processes in Vietnam, drawing on experiences and lessons emerging from this assignment

Phase III - Socialisation of outputs

- Engaging a core working group of provincial stakeholders, facilitated by SNV REDD+ project advisors, throughout the development of the scenario planning and cost-benefit analysis

⁴ Such as the Project for Ecosystem Services' (ProEcoServ) application of InVEST for carbon sequestration, coastal vulnerability and erosion potential in Ngoc Chien district.

⁵ Through evaluation of net present values of future profits from alternative land and forest uses, as indicated in priority candidate PaMs.

- Expressing possible ER/ER scenarios spatially (as a time series of maps); graphically (as projections of forest cover changes/emissions profile changes over time); and narratively (as priority PaM results chains – PaM – output – outcome - impact)
- Presenting outputs and outcomes of the costed scenario planning exercises in provincial-level consultation meetings, as key contributions to the subnational REDD+ planning process
- Qualitatively and quantitatively assess the costs and benefits of applying scenario development and analysis to subnational planning processes in Vietnam, drawing on experiences and lessons emerging from this assignment.

Phase IV: Capacity Building

- Consultant to develop and deliver a three-day training on scenario development and assessment for appropriate Vietnamese stakeholders. Timing of the training to be set in consultation with SNV REDD+ team and concerned stakeholders. Location of training will be in Lam Dong Province.

4. Deliverables:

All written outputs to be developed in English, unless stated otherwise; SNV will be responsible for arranging and covering the cost of any translation of written outputs under this assignment.

- Inception report presenting ER/ER scenario development, refining scope, outlining approach, detailing activities, division of tasks among team members, including, annexed to the inception report:
 - Initial work plan for the assignment, with milestone interim outputs
 - Individual ToR for team members aligned with work plan milestones
- Two to four technically and economically robust reference scenarios (reference emission level or forest reference level), which are also institutionally and political acceptable to local stakeholders, local government agencies in particular, for each site
- Two concise⁶ technical reports, one for each site – Ca Mau (Ngoc Hien) and Lam Dong documenting aims, methods, results, discussion and conclusion; responding to feedback from SNV advisors and stakeholders through iterative revisions
- A four-page policy brief, drawing on and summarizing the content of both full technical reports, outlining key messages and lessons from this costed scenario planning assignment for national government and REDD+ practitioner audiences
- A concise blog article, based on the policy brief, for publication on the SNV REDD+ website, but with more of a focus on a narrative of lessons, challenges and successes experienced during the execution of this assignment
- A series of user-friendly visual outputs (e.g. A0 posters) communicating ER/ER scenarios spatially (maps) and narratively (concise bullet-pointed text) as key inputs into subsequent multi-stakeholder planning processes for the two target sites
- A spreadsheet tool that allows stakeholders to assess and quantify trade-offs between scenarios for key environmental, social and environmental indicators as defined by the

⁶ <30 page body text, excluding annexes

above process. (The sophistication of this spreadsheet is to be aligned to the capacity, knowledge and resources of the stakeholders expected to use the spreadsheet. Furthermore, the spreadsheet tool is to be 'built' in a step-wise process with stakeholders as part of the capacity building objective for this assignment).

- Training presentations that support the scenario development implemented through this consultancy and a brief (<15-page) training report that outlines training objectives, content, participant feedback and ways to improve for subsequent trainings.
- A qualitative and quantitative assessment of the costs and benefits of applying scenario planning for low emission land use planning at the subnational level in Vietnam, drawing on experiences and lessons emerging from this assignment (report <15 pages).
- Bibliography and soft/hard copies of all documentation consulted during development of BAU, reference and ER/ER scenarios for the two target sites.

6. Indicative team composition:

- International Team leader (70 days) – overall quality control and assurance of outputs methodological vision, team management and liaison with relevant SNV REDD+ projects
- National GIS forester (50 days) – spatial analysis of scenarios and modelling of land use and forest cover change, quantifying ER/ER potential from different scenarios
- National rural/agricultural economist or environmental scientist familiar with land use planning processes (50 days) – collecting and analysing environmental economic data for opportunity cost (and benefit) analysis of different land uses under different scenarios

7. Application:

Please send letters of interest, CVs, a four-page indicative methodological approach to the assignment, together with an indication of your expected fee rates, to Ms Vu Thi Kieu Phuc (PVuThiKieu@snvworld.org), copy to Ms Nguyen Thi Hong Hanh (HNnguyenThiHong@snvworld.org) by **14 February 2014**.

International consultants are encouraged to introduce the national team members within his/her professional networks or apply as a team. National consultants are encouraged to apply as individuals or on an organizational basis.