

Terms of reference for Consultant for developing a Roadmap on Bhutan's approach to REDD+ safeguards

General Background

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests through Department of Forests and Park Services has been pursuing Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Sustainable Forest Management, Conservation and Carbon Stock Enhancement (REDD+) since 2010. REDD+ program is a global initiative to incentivize countries pursuing Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management to further help in preserving their forest. Starting from inception, several awareness programs were conducted along with a study to carry out feasibility of REDD+ in Bhutan. These works ultimately helped the department in preparing Bhutan's REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) document which was submitted to and approved by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in December 2013. The Readiness project of USD 4.612 million is for a period of four years from 2014 till 2018 with main support from the FCPF and co-financing from UN-REDD Programme and ICIMOD GIZ.

One of the major activities proposed under UN-REDD Targeted Support 2014 is to prepare a roadmap document/report on Bhutan's approach to REDD+ safeguards including an analysis of policies, laws and regulations (PLR) relevant to REDD+ safeguards and detailing out a roadmap of activities to be undertaken.

Interested local consultants are invited to submit their expression of interest to Watershed Management Division, DoFPS to carry out the above work.

Tasks to be performed:

- A. Develop methodology and work plan for carrying out the above activity.
- B. Country Approach to REDD+ Safeguards (Items 1 and 2 before the workshop)
 1. Working closely with the REDD+ secretariat, Technical Working Group (TWG) on Safeguards, Governance and Benefit Distribution, Technical Working Group on Strategy Options and the UN-REDD Programme, prepare an outline for Bhutan's approach to REDD+ safeguards including a list of relevant policies, laws and regulations (PLR) ahead of the safeguards workshop that identifies and, to the extent possible assesses Bhutanese PLRs likely to be relevant to addressing the Cancún safeguards (PLRs that promote or enhance the potential benefits and/or mitigate the risks or adverse impacts associated with REDD+).¹
 2. Review the inputs for the workshop supplied by UNEP, including draft content for the UN-REDD Benefits and Risks Tool to be drawn from the 2012 workshop report.
 3. Present the draft Roadmap document to National level REDD+ Safeguards workshop to be held in first week of October 2015.
 4. Assist the TWG in filling gaps in the PLR gap analysis after the workshop to finalize the PLR gap analysis.

¹ Guidance documents on BERT and PLR gap analysis conducted in other countries will be provided.

5. Based on national-level safeguards workshop and REDD+ TWG meetings, prepare a report or a roadmap document on the Bhutan's approach REDD+ Safeguards including policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) likely to be relevant to addressing the Cancún safeguards.

Expected Outputs:

A Roadmap document on Bhutan's approach to REDD+ Safeguards including a report on the Bhutanese PLRs likely to be relevant in addressing the Cancún safeguards

Monitoring and Progress Controls

The consultant will work with the National REDD+ Focal Point, the Technical Working Group on Safeguards, responsible staff in UNDP Bhutan, with additional guidance from the UN-REDD Programme Global and Regional Advisors.

Experience and qualifications

- A Master degree in Natural Resource Management, Sociology, Development Studies, Legal Studies or similar.
- At least 10 years of relevant working experience in the areas of natural resource management, community forestry or social development. Relevant working experience in REDD+ is an advantage.
- Strong research, analysis, report-writing, facilitation, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Fluency in English.

Time line and payment description for the consultancy

The consultancy is required for duration of 45 days starting from September 01, 2015 till December 31, 2015. The total amount for the consultancy is Nu. 300,000.00 (Three hundred thousand). While 50% of the total consultancy cost will be paid after 25 days of work and after producing a draft outline of the Roadmap document to be presented during the national level REDD+ safeguards workshop, 50% of the payment will be made upon acceptance of the outputs by WMD and UN-REDD/UNEP. The consultant needs to be stationed in WMD for the duration of the consultancy and work under close supervision of WMD and UN-REDD/UNEP regional office in Bangkok.