Technical Oversight of Participatory Forest Monitoring (PFM) for REDD+ Applications

Country: Vietnam
Organisation: SNV – Netherlands Development Organisation
Program: REDD+
Project: Harnessing Carbon Finance to Arrest Deforestation (Darwin Initiative-funded)
Abstract: Consulting services to provide technical oversight of PFM piloting in Cat Tien
Duration: Indicative 40 days over period: August 2011 to March 2012

1. Background:

Local communities have participated in the monitoring of forest resources, through national programmes and development co-operation, for decades. REDD+ presents a new opportunity to capitalize on previous experiences whilst presenting new technical challenges in terms of forest carbon monitoring. International commitment to REDD+ safeguards also demand monitoring systems to demonstrate social and environmental performance of REDD+; forest carbon supplier countries need to track both carbon and non-carbon forest value, such as biodiversity, livelihoods, and governance indicators.

SNV aims to add value to participatory monitoring of forests through application of emerging best practice, and contributing to methodological innovation. Recognition of local actor contributions to sub-national and, ultimately, national REDD+ monitoring systems are key to securing forest carbon financing as a significant contribution to the livelihoods of rural poor communities, together with recurrent investments in the conservation of the biological diversity that underpins these livelihoods.

A key area of intervention for SNV REDD+ programme is the piloting of Participatory Forest Monitoring (PFM) for REDD+ applications; both forest carbon measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and safeguard information system (SIS) purposes. At present, there exists a polarised debate, both at international and national levels, about the role of local (government and community) actors in PFM for REDD+. The SNV-Vietnam REDD+ programme intends to pilot PFM at scale in the province of Lam Dong, within the Cat Tien landscape to demonstrate REDD+ PFM potential in the Vietnamese context. Consequently, the programme is seeking a highly qualified and experienced Local Capacity Builder (LCB) to take the lead in technical development of PFM models and methodologies for this pilot intervention.

The piloting is proposed to be conducted in two phases: Phase I (August 2011 to March 2012) – establish solid participatory carbon monitoring (PCM); and Phase II (April 2012 to December 2013) – integration of biodiversity indicators into PCM and full-scale operation of the PFM model. Piloting is intended to be stratified across forestland management, tenure and ecosystem types to explore the full range of opportunities and constraints presented by REDD+ PFM in Vietnam. Lessons learnt will be captured, evaluated and documented by another parallel LCB assignment.

1 Four communes: Dong Nai Thuong and Tien Hoang (Cat Tien district), and Loc Bac, Loc Bao communes (Bao Lam district)
2. **Objective:**
Technical advisory services to the SNV REDD+ programme to support the testing and demonstration of the role and function of local actors (villagers and government officers) in generating and managing field data for REDD+ (MRV and SIS) applications.

3. **Tasks:**
- Collecting, collating and synthesising historical and up-to-date information on PFM at the international and national level.
- Advising SNV REDD+ programme team on emerging methodological best practice based on international lessons learnt and specific context of Vietnam; Develop a stratified sampling (frequency and intensity) strategy for a delimited pilot area.
- Leading authorship of technical PFM manuals and training materials in English and Vietnamese.
- Leading in technical training to local actors in forest data collection and management consistent with evolving national MRV and SIS.
- Supporting international consultants in PFM policy studies at the international and national levels; contributing to resultant reports, policy briefs and other documents.
- Advising SNV on modalities of linking PFM data generation and management in the field and emerging sub-national and national MRV and SIS systems.
- Contributing to SNV REDD+ programme efforts to inform policy dialogue on national MRV and SIS development from a PFM perspective.
- Representing SNV at relevant local (e.g. Lam Dong REDD+ technical working group) and national fora (e.g. REDD+ Technical Sub-Working Group-MRV).
- Collaborating with PFM evaluation and lessons learnt LCB, providing information and insights to inform national and international policy dialogues.
- Liaising with local government, and non-government stakeholders involved in PFM activities in Vietnam.

4. **Expected outputs and deliverables:**
- Copies of all relevant papers and reports collected on PFM, MRV, SIS and related issues.
- Concise guidance notes to inform strategic and operational planning processes within the SNV REDD+ team.
- Iterative revisions of work plans for operationalizing PFM piloting during the first phase.
- Technical manuals and training materials, both in English and Vietnamese, for local actors implementing PFM.
- Contributions to technical papers and policy briefs produced by the project team and consultants.
5. Qualifications

The consultant should have demonstrated expertise in:

- Establishment, implementation, and operation of participatory/community-based forest monitoring programmes in Vietnam
- Potential MRV and SIS requirements and processes for REDD+
- Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Working with, and in support of, local authorities
- Facilitation and (verbal and written) communication skills
- Fluent English and Vietnamese language (speaking and writing)
- Previous work experience in the Central Highland region of Vietnam is an advantage.

Interested consultants or consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform these services to the highest professional standard. A consultant for this assignment will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out by SNV. Expressions of interest should be emailed to SNV Senior REDD+ Advisor, Steve Swan (sswan@snvworld.org) and should be clearly marked ‘Technical Oversight of PFM for REDD+ Applications, by no later than 29 July 2011.'