

TERMS OF REFERENCE: INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS IN THE CA MAU PROVINCIAL REDD+ ACTION PLAN

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, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), International Climate Initiative (ICI)

Abstract: Consulting services to assess potential environmental and social benefits and risks associated with policies and measures identified in the Ca Mau Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP) and development of appropriate benefit enhancement and risk mitigation measures through stakeholder engagement and participation.

Duration: Indicative 25 person-days over the period 2nd November, 2015 to 31st January, 2016

Station: Ca Mau with home-based preparation and report writing

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 provide multiple benefits for the global climate, tropical forest ecosystems and their associated biological diversity as well as for the rural poor communities that reside within or near to forests and that provide stewardship services. Some of these potential benefits may include poverty reduction, employment opportunities and improved forest tenure rights. However, it is also recognized that there are also a number of important potential negative social impacts and/or risks, particularly for vulnerable forest-dependent communities and indigenous groups.

In recognition of these potential risks and benefits, the UNFCCC requires countries to promote and support a set of environmental and social safeguards for REDD+ (known as the Cancun Safeguards). The UNFCCC also requires REDD+ countries to provide information on how these safeguards are 'addressed and respected' during implementation through a Safeguards Information System (SIS).

At the national level, Vietnam has developed the National REDD+ Action Programme (NRAP) in compliance with the UNFCCC and with express recognition of the importance of environmental and social safeguard issues associated with REDD+. The NRAP is to be operationalised through individual Provincial REDD Action Plans (PRAPs). These PRAPs are aimed at setting out 10-year plans detailing the objectives and interventions to be conducted to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, in addition to the potential and barriers to that potential of 'plus activities'¹, in each province.

¹ Conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (which includes afforestation, reforestation and forest landscape restoration activities)

The MB-REDD project is currently working with DARD and the UN-REDD programme in providing support to Ca Mau in the development of a PRAP through a process of consultation with key stakeholders in the province. In particular, MB-REDD is leading on the key issue of integrating environmental and social safeguards in the Ca Mau PRAP. This work includes the assessment of potential environmental and social benefits and risks, the design and facilitation of participatory and multi-stakeholder consultation processes and the preparation of all relevant sections of the PRAP relating to environmental and social safeguards analysis, implementation and monitoring frameworks.

The project is now seeking a qualified national consultant to investigate options for the delivery of multiple benefits through REDD+ as a contribution to the PRAP in Ca Mau. In particular, this consultancy will look to provide examples of models that could be used to incentivise greater multiple benefits as both *ex-ante* enabling conditions and *ex-post* outcomes (results) of candidate REDD+ policies and measures that could be considered in any future PRAP for the province.

2. Objective:

To provide high quality technical support to the process of developing the Ca Mau Provincial REDD+ Action Plan in ensuring that associated policies and measures are geared towards achieving multiple benefits, whilst minimising and mitigating any potential risks related to REDD+ implementation.

3. Tasks:

Working together with and under the guidance of the International REDD+ Safeguards Adviser:

- (1) Desk review (1 day): Conduct a desk review of relevant literature to understand the background context relevant to causes and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Ca Mau province as well as environmental/social impact assessment and stakeholder engagement approaches and other nationally and internationally appropriate best practice to inform background understanding of the assignment's tasks and deliverables
- (2) Design approach (3 days): Develop/refine an approach for consulting relevant stakeholders on potential environmental and social benefits and risks associated with REDD+ interventions in Ca Mau province
- (3) Assessment of impacts (through workshops and fieldwork): Assess the likely positive benefits and negative environmental and social impacts/risks of policies and measures developed through consultation in the PRAP development process and develop and verify appropriate benefit enhancement and risk mitigation measures based on stakeholder consultation and engagement
- (4) Workshops (7 days): Prepare materials and lead the organisation and facilitation of consultation meetings and workshops in Ca Mau City
- (5) Field consultation (7 days): Conduct site visits and participatory environmental and social impact assessment in consultation with local stakeholders at priority field sites
- (6) Monitoring framework (2 days): Develop, propose and verify an appropriate framework for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of environmental and social safeguards, covering the implementation of specific safeguards measures proposed

- (7) Document preparation (5 days): Prepare key sections of the Ca Mau PRAP related to environmental and social safeguards (including key summary text for the main document as well as relevant annexes as required e.g. documenting consultation and participation; Environmental and Social Management Plan, Ethnic Minority Development Plan etc.)

4. Deliverables:

- (1) Initial work plan for the assignment, with milestone interim outputs, developed in consultation with MB-REDD Vietnam Project Manager/International REDD+ Safeguards Adviser
- (2) Presentations and other materials to guide consultation meetings and workshops on potential environmental and social benefits and risks of REDD+ interventions in Ca Mau
- (3) Brief summaries (in Vietnamese) and translations (into English) of key workshop outputs
- (4) Summary text to be inserted into the Ca Mau PRAP as an appropriate section covering consultation and participation and environmental and social benefits and risks
- (5) Relevant annexes. To be determined but may include documentation of Consultation and Participation (meetings held, participant lists, summary of key points raised), Environmental and Social Management Plan (or similar, including monitoring indicators and arrangements), Ethnic Minority Development Plan (or similar) and other safeguard related materials as may be deemed necessary e.g. additional/supporting analyses, guidance on gender, Grievance Redress Mechanisms etc.
- (6) Bibliography and soft/hard copies of all documentation consulted during execution of the assignment.

5. Requirements:

- Second degree in the fields of environmental science, forestry, rural development/development studies, or natural resource management
- Minimum seven years of proven track record in environmental/social impact assessment and/or
- Strong knowledge of REDD+, payment for ecosystem services (PES) and other performance-based forestry financing mechanisms
- Specific knowledge of the environmental (ecosystems, species and habitats and other environmental issues) and social (livelihoods and vulnerability) context in Cam Mau province will be a distinct advantage
- Knowledge of, and experience working with, existing forest and land-use planning processes in Vietnam a distinct advantage

Application:

Please send your application letter and CV, together with an indication of your expected fee rates, to Nguyen Thi Hong Hanh at HNquyenThiHong@snvworld.org by 30th October, 2015.