### Annex II: Terms of Reference (for the UN-REDD part)

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| **Programme:** | UN-REDD Programme Regional Initiative: Revealing Obstacles to Greater Integration of gender equality and women’s perspectives in REDD+ Policies and Measures |
| **Contract Type:** | Research organization |
| **Duration:** | Nine months between January and October 2013 |
| **Location:** | Bangkok and selected countries in Southeast/South Asia |

**Background**

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is as an expected international mechanism to reward developing countries for reducing their rates of deforestation and forest degradation, and for conserving, sustainably managing and enhancing forest carbon stocks.

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on REDD+, launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide assistance to developing countries in building necessary capacities to engage in REDD+.

The Decision adopted at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC in 2010 establishes the scope of REDD+ activities and sets out seven REDD+ safeguards, including the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, which are aimed at minimizing social and environmental risks and maximizing co-benefits through REDD+ activities. In this context, the UN-REDD Programme considers women’s inclusion in REDD+ a priority as the interests of women are often neglected in designing forest policies and interventions, and women’s contributions and participation in forest management would enhance the efficiency, efficacy and sustainability of REDD+.

On the basis of this argument, the Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (WOCAN), Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests (LEAF) of the USAID, and UN-REDD Programme have established a joint initiative to further examine specific challenges and barriers that prevent the integration of gender perspectives in REDD+ in Asia-Pacific and identify practical entry points and solutions through multi-sectoral and -stakeholder dialogues, evidence collection and knowledge sharing for replication of successful outcomes. This initiative aims to help enhance the overall effectiveness of REDD+ and status of women through greater integration of gender and women’s perspectives in all relevant policies and practices.

In this partnership, the UN-REDD Programme in particular will attempt to gather evidence at national and local levels to recognize specific capacity and policy gaps as well as good practices for women’s inclusion in forest and other land-use sectors in order to seek workable solutions for addressing systemic, institutional and individual challenges facing the full and effective participation of men and women in REDD+, with a special focus on a couple of selected countries in Asia-Pacific.

**Assignment Objectives**

The UN-REDD Programme in Asia-Pacific (UNDP) seeks to engage a research institution to carry out the regional study to identify practical entry points and actions for addressing systemic, institutional and individual barriers that hinder the full and effective inclusion of women in REDD+ initiatives in the region.

**Scope of Work**

**Activity One: Identification of existing good practices for women’s inclusion in REDD+ initiatives and other land-use sectors**

* Review and follow up on the outcomes of the Scoping Dialogue on "Exclusion & Inclusion of Women in the Forest Sector" organized by WOCAN and The Forest Dialogue Sep 2012;
* Review and identify good/transferable practices from relevant REDD+ and other land-use sector initiatives regionally and globally;
* Identify individuals and institutions that can champion women’s inclusion in REDD+ in the region;
* Conduct surveys with development partners in the region to gather unreported evidence and good practices; and
* Present the result of this initial regional assessment and recommend two countries for further research.

**Activity Two: Design of a common approach/methodology for the joint initiative for country-specific research**

* Design and propose a common approach/ methodology for conducting country-specific evidence searching based on the findings of Activity One.
* The approach/methodology should employ both qualitative and quantitative methods (e.g., literature review, interview, survey, etc.) to: i) identify good practices and enabling factors of women’s inclusion in REDD+ and other land-use sectors; and ii) identify and ground-truth policy and capacity gaps in a country-specific context.

**Activity Three: Conducting research (including interviews and surveys) in selected countries at national and sub-national levels and facilitating national dialogues**

* Conduct research based on the approved common approach/methodology in two selected countries;
* Analyze collected data to prepare a report covering three key sections: i) analysis of capacity gaps, and gaps in understanding needs among different stakeholder groups as well as good practices of women’s inclusion in REDD+ and country specific contexts; and ii) overview of the current status and effectiveness of policies and practices; and iii) recommendations based on identified policy and capacity gaps;
* Facilitate an expert dialogue at the national level in each country to identify practical entry points and actions to be taken through the national REDD+ Readiness process;
* Facilitate a national level workshop with key REDD+ institutions and actors in each country to discuss and agree on key actions for greater women’s inclusion in REDD+ and their forest sector (to be implemented through the national REDD+ policies and/or regular sectroal programs of work;
* Help disseminate the findings and lessons from this joint initiative at the regional knowledge sharing workshop organized by LEAF to promote the replication of the research and consultation process in other REDD+ countries and regions.

**Deliverables**

* Scoping study report outlining the existing good practices in the region and recommended countries for further research (Activity One)
* Common research approach/methodology – approved by the joint initiative partners (Activity Two)
* (2) country specific research reports including the analysis of good practices of women’s inclusion, overview of the current status and effectiveness of policies and practices, and recommendations based on identified policy and capacity gaps (Activity Three)
* (2) Strategic national action plans for women’s inclusion in REDD+ policies and programs/projects (Activity Three)
* A regional policy brief, summarizing the process, findings and outcomes, for external audience.

**Provision of Monitoring and Progress Control**

The selected organization will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the UN-REDD Regional Technical Advisor (UNDP) based in Bangkok, Thailand, while working closely with the other joint initiative partner, the LEAF USAID project.

**Expertise and Qualifications**

The organization should have relevant experience in research in areas concerning gender and women’s inclusion in natural resources management, particularly in sustainable forest management and REDD+, combined with experience in facilitating multi-stakeholder consultations at regional, national and local levels.

The contracted organization should have a lead expert with at least the following expertise and qualifications:

* PhD in Natural Resource Management, Agriculture, Geography, or related field;
* At least 10 years of research and project implementation experience in gender and women’s inclusion in natural resources management, sustainable forest management, and/or agricultural extension/training;
* Strong knowledge of REDD+, preferably in areas concerning stakeholder engagement and safeguards;
* Experience in stakeholder engagement and working with both government and non-government stakeholders at the national, provincial and local levels;
* Experience in working with international development partners;
* Professional experience in Southeast and South Asia is a strong asset;
* Advanced proficiency in both spoken and written English;
* Excellent communication and organisational skills.

**Fee Proposal**

The applicant is requested to provide a detailed work plan and fee proposal. The fee proposal should be inclusive of all anticipated costs of delivering the indicated deliverables.