**Annex III**

**DRAFT Terms of Reference for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment for the REDD+ Mechanism in Ghana**

1. **Introduction**

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a proposed global mechanism to mitigate climate change, while mobilizing financial resources for socio-economic development in forest countries. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), facilitated by the World Bank, brings together 50 donor and forest country participants with the aim of supporting the forest countries in the preparation and subsequent implementation of their REDD+ Strategies.

Ghana is a key participant country in the FCPF. The Government of Ghana is currently implementing its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) with regards to the REDD+ Readiness phase, and has requested a FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant to support the design of its REDD+ Strategy. This Strategy aims to control deforestation and degradation in order to reduce green house gas emissions into the atmosphere.

Strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) is a key component of Ghana’s Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). This component is essential for both avoiding negative impacts (“do no harm”) and enhancing positive or “additional” REDD benefits, especially in terms of social or livelihood benefits, governance and wider environmental or biodiversity benefits. The SESA is part of the phased approach of the FCPF Readiness Mechanism (preparation of the R-PP and subsequent Readiness Preparation for REDD+). The SESA is consistent with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) approach applied by Ghana’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

1. **Objectives**

The overall objective of these Terms of Reference (ToR) is to ensure that Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) can be applied to integrate environmental and social considerations into Ghana’s REDD+ readiness process in a manner consistent with Ghana’s environmental laws and regulations and the World Bank’s environmental and social safeguard policies.

In accordance with FCPF guidelines, special consideration should be given to livelihoods, rights, cultural heritage, gender, vulnerable groups, governance, capacity building and biodiversity.

1. **Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation**

In Ghana, the problem is essentially one of gradual degradation rather than deforestation, and is incremental rather than dramatic, with no single dominant driver. The underlying causes are those typical of forest degradation in the more heavily populated countries of the tropics, and involve a complex of demographic, economic and policy influences. The immediate drivers include: policy/market failures in the timber sector; burgeoning population in both rural and urban areas, which increases local demand for agricultural and wood products; high demand for wood and forest products on the international market; heavy dependence on charcoal and fuelwood for rural and urban energy; limited technology development in farming systems, and the continued reliance on cyclical “slash and burn” methods to maintain soil fertility. The prominence of one forest crop in the national economy (cocoa), and recent varietal changes (from shade to full-sun), have also exerted a major influence on trends in forest cover. Mining (industrial and artisanal/small scale) is a concern in some areas, as is the use of fire in livestock management. These drivers, which are fully discussed in the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and will be revisited during the preparation of the REDD+ strategy, are summarized below:

Policy drivers:

* 1. Imbalances of forest exploitation in favor of large scale timber industry
  2. Under-priced goods and services
  3. Weak regulatory mechanisms and resource rights
  4. Weak law enforcement

Demographic drivers:

* 1. Population growth and urban expansion
  2. Slash and burn agricultural practices
  3. Economic drivers
  4. High international demand for primary products
  5. Low prices for lumber on the domestic market

Natural forces:

* 1. Wild fires
  2. Floods
  3. Pests and diseases

1. **REDD+ strategy options**

Addressing deforestation and forest degradation presents a number of challenges in Ghana, though success in REDD+ policymaking would offer significant benefits for the society not only in the area of carbon emissions reductions but also in relation to biodiversity conservation, forest industry, agriculture and rural livelihoods. Below is a list of proposed strategy options for addressing the preliminary identified drivers, according to the R-PP:

* Improve participation of stakeholders in policy dialogue and decision making
* Clarify natural resource rights
* Improve forest law enforcement, governance and trade
* Rehabilitation of degraded forest reserves
* Forest plantation development
* Promoting REDD+ friendly cocoa
* Improve productivity of farmlands
* Strengthened decentralized management of natural resources
* Sustainable fuelwood production and improved efficiency of fuelwood use
* Supply wood legally to the domestic market

1. **Links between the SESA and the REDD+ Strategy Options**

The SESA contributes to the REDD+ Readiness process in Ghana in two main ways. First, it helps to refine the REDD+ strategy options by assessing how REDD+ strategy options address environmental and social priorities associated with current patterns of land use and forest management. Gaps identified through this assessment would lead to adjustments in the REDD+ strategy options to close the gaps. Second, the SESA would produce an Environmental and Social Management Framework that will outline the procedures to be followed for managing potential environmental and social impacts of specific policies, actions and projects during the implementation of the REDD+ strategy that is finally selected.

1. **Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment**

The SESA will integrate environmental and social considerations in the REDD+ strategy options and will provide a framework for managing potential environmental and social impacts associated with the implementation of these strategy options through the combination of analytical work, consultation and public participation. Appendix 1 provides the schematic diagram of SESA. The upper part of Appendix 1summarizes the Ghana’s approach for sectoral SEA that comprises five steps: preparation/screening, scoping, assessment, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting. Consistent with these steps, the SESA for the REDD+ readiness process is summarized in the middle and lower parts of Appendix 1. Monitoring and evaluation procedures (step 4 of the Ghana’s approach to sectoral SEA) are included in the preparation of the ESMF.

These ToR specify the activities the Consultant should undertake for the SESA in line with the Ghanaian approach for sectoral SEA.

* 1. **Scoping** 
     1. **Consultation and Participation Activities**

During the preparation of the R-PP, extensive stakeholder analysis was carried out to identify key stakeholders. Notwithstanding, the Consultant at the start of the assignment shall conduct a stakeholder gap analysis to identify any relevant stakeholders that might not have been considered during the R-PP development phase. Important among them are community level representatives, Chiefs and land owners, local, regional and national organizations, and women’s organizations. The consultant shall then prepare a comprehensive set of consultation and participation activities for the SESA based on these ToR, a review of the consultation and participation plan prepared during the development of the R-PP, a review of the consultation and participation experience of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)[[1]](#footnote-1) and other experiences and literature which may be relevant for the Ghana context. In carrying out this activity, the consultant shall ensure that these activities are in line with the Consultation and Participation Master Plan (and Framework) of the REDD+ Readiness process. The Consultant shall coordinate as needed with other teams assisting the government of Ghana in the implementation of the Master Plan.

National Validation Workshop

The Consultant will prepare a SESA work plan, which will include the consultation and participation activities of SESA. The SESA work plan shall be subjected to broad stakeholder validation in a national workshop. The validation workshop is crucial in defining the legitimacy of all subsequent stakeholder consultation and participation processes. Existing platforms and all key stakeholder groups related to forest management in Ghana should therefore be considered. Ample notice shall be given to stakeholder groups and platforms who, as much as possible, shall nominate their own representatives.

The workshop should be held at a place which is more readily accessible to the stakeholder groups coming from different parts of the country. The format and facilitation of the workshop should also ensure that all stakeholders feel comfortable to voice their concerns and that all voices are heard and all inputs considered. Among the issues to be discussed should be included legitimacy and representativeness of stakeholder groups as well as mechanisms for feedback in the SESA process. Criteria for including new stakeholders in future consultation and participation activities would be also agreed as well as the rules to be followed to reach agreements along the SESA process. Views, comments and agreements from the validation workshop should be used by the consultants to finalize the SESA work plan. The plan and any other outcomes of the workshop shall then be publicly disclosed via the websites of the Forestry Commission, the EPA and Lingo websites. For reaching out local communities a plan summary will be communicated by radio in a culturally sensitive format.

* + 1. **Identification of key environmental and social issues**

The Consultant will identify key environmental and social issues associated with deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana to inform the selection of environmental and social priorities. This proposed identification of key issues should be based on analytical work using spatial analysis, case studies and participatory rural appraisal methods. Spatial analysis will be applied in mapping and for overlaying different sets of information to identify critical areas of concentration of environmental and social issues. Case studies will be used to show opportunity costs of different land uses including environmental and ecosystems valuation. Case studies will also help to dig deeper into key issues, inter-sectoral linkages, and potential policy trade-offs in key areas. Participatory rural appraisal would be the main vehicle for identifying key environmental and social issues at the community level. For scoping key environmental issues the following steps will be followed:

1.- Construction of a base map (first layer), using information on forest cover, river basins, water bodies, and salient biodiversity characteristics, including biodiversity hotspots and protected areas.

2.- Mapping of main economic activities in forest areas and surroundings including but not limited to logging, farming, agriculture, mining and tourism. The mapping will include information on geological provinces and main production projects under implementation or likely to be implemented in the following five years (second layer).

3.- Mapping of existing infrastructure and identification of proposed road, rail, and power projects under investigation or implementation (third layer).

4.- Superimposition of these three layers of information, together with layers dealing with social issues, to define critical areas under potential environmental stress in forest areas.

5.- Examination of specific environmental issues by using participatory rural appraisal methods and case studies agreed with the Forestry Commission in selected areas of interest.

Likewise, the following steps will be followed to scope key social issues:

1.- Construction of a base map (first layer) of communities in and around forest areas, including key demographic indicators such as number of inhabitants, gender and age structure, and ethnicity of the populations.

2.- Poverty and vulnerability map including income levels of the population (second layer).

3.- Mapping of access and land tenure rights that shall include concessions or other existing titling rights for natural resources or extractive industries such as mining (third layer).

4.- Superimposition of these three layers of information, together with layers dealing with environmental issues, to define critical social issues in forest areas.

5.- Examination of specific social issues by using rural appraisal methods and case studies to document critical interactions and synergy of these different social factors affecting sustainable forest management in Ghana.

Building on the evidence and results of these analyses, the consultant will produce a scoping report of key environmental and social issues in forests areas in Ghana. The report will:

1. identify environmental and social hotspots and discuss their main characteristics;
2. discuss in a sample of key forest areas land use trade-offs by analyzing the opportunity cost of conserving forests versus developing these areas into alternative land uses such as mining or agriculture; and,
3. analyze critical institutional, legal, regulatory, policy and capacity gaps underlying the key environmental and social issues identified.

The scoping report will inform the public consultations to be undertaken with key stakeholders for the selection of environmental and social priorities.

* + 1. **Selection of environmental and social priorities**

In line with the consultation and participation plan of the SESA, the key environmental and social issues resulting from the mapping and analytical work shall be reviewed and prioritized by a representative sample of communities in the critical areas identified from the mapping exercise. Stakeholder engagement at this level shall be in the most widely spoken national dialect of the area. The prioritization will then be validated at the regional level by community representatives, and the District Forest Forums.

In parallel, institutional stakeholders identified in the SESA work plan such as research and academia, Environmental Protection Agency, Lands Commission, Forestry Commission, Minerals Commission, National Coalition on Mining and other Civil Society Coalitions on environment and natural resources management and the private sector will review and prioritize environmental and social issues through consultations that are culturally sensitive like focus groups. A national workshop will be convened to discuss the results of the prioritization undertaken by the institutional stakeholders to reach a common set of priorities agreed by all institutional stakeholders at the national level (including the National REDD Technical Working Group and the National Forest Forum). The selected environmental and social priorities of institutional stakeholders and those of the forest communities will be reported either separately, if they are different from each other, or integrated into one set of priorities for the communities and institutional stakeholders, if they are similar or identical.

The Consultant will prepare a report on the selection of priorities by the SESA stakeholders. The report shall then be publicly disclosed via the websites of the Forestry Commission and the EPA. It should also be published at the Lingo website and the infoshops of Forestry Commission as well as in the Talking Drum (www.thetalkingdrum.com).

* 1. **Assessment**

The Consultant will assess environmental and social sustainability of the REDD+ strategy options as follows:

* + 1. **Assessing candidate REDD+ strategy options vis-à-vis previously defined priorities**

The Consultant will assess the extent to which candidate REDD+ Strategy options address the previously defined environmental and social priorities and take into account in their formulation the opportunity cost of forests. When the REDD+ strategy options address partially or do not address some of the priorities and/or are unresponsive to forest opportunity costs, the gaps will be identified and specific recommendations will be made to refine the REDD+ strategy options to close these gaps. In this way, priority environmental and social considerations and to some extent forest valuation will be integrated into the preparation of the REDD+ strategy. The expected output is revised REDD+ strategy options.

The revised REDD+ strategy options shall be assessed against the environmental and social impacts that they may induce or create during their implementation. These environmental and social impacts will be identified vis-a-vis the World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies. For example, one of the REDD+ strategy options may induce involuntary resettlement of forest communities and farmers located in a specific region of Ghana which will trigger World Bank O.P. 4.12. In such a situation, the Consultant shall provide recommendations to refine further the REDD+ strategy options in order to eliminate or minimize this risk. If some residual risk still remains, it will be dealt with in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared to manage risks during implementation of the REDD+ strategy.

* + 1. **Validation of the assessment**

In coordination with the team in charge of preparing the REDD+ strategy, the refined REDD+ strategy options shall then be subjected to a national validation workshop. Participants from all key stakeholders should be invited to this workshop including those whose work/livelihoods are likely to impact on or be impacted upon by the strategy options. Care should be taken to include women, migrant farmers and small scale practitioners and any otherwise marginalized groups in line with the consultation and participation plan of the SESA. The validation workshop should be organized in such a way that there will be parallel validation by the different key stakeholders, before a plenary session. This will empower “weaker” stakeholders by ensuring they have a chance to freely express and promote their views. Where necessary, a local dialect should be used in the stakeholder specific session, to allow for proper articulation of concerns by all key stakeholders.

* 1. **Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)**

The Consultant will prepare an initial draft ESMF suitable for disclosure and public consultations that would involve the following minimum tasks:

1. A description of the **indicative REDD-plus strategy option(s)**, its main social and environmental considerations, and the various risks involved in its implementation.
2. An outline of the **legislative, regulatory, and policy regime** (in relation to forest resources management, land use, community customary rights, etc.) that the strategy will be implemented within, drawing from the information available from the Draft REDD+ Strategy to be provided by the REDD+ Technical Working Group.
3. A description of the **potential future impacts**, both positive and negative, deriving from the project(s), activity(-ies), or policy(-ies)/regulation(s) associated with the implementation of the REDD+ strategy options, and the geographic/spatial distribution of these impacts.
4. A description of the arrangements for implementing the specific project(s), activity(-ies), or policy(-ies)/regulation(s) with a focus on the procedures for (i) screening and assessment of site-specific environmental and social impacts; (ii) the preparation of time-bound action plans for reducing, mitigating, and/or offsetting any adverse impacts; (iii) the monitoring of the implementation of the action plans, including arrangements for public participation in such monitoring.
5. An analysis of the particular institutional needs within the REDD+ implementation framework for application of the ESMF. This should include a review of the authority and capability of institutions at different administrative levels (e.g. local, district, provincial/regional, and national), and their capacity to manage and monitor ESMF implementation. The analysis should draw mainly from the REDD+ implementation framework of the Draft REDD+ Strategy.
6. An outline of recommended capacity building actions for the entities responsible for implementing the ESMF.
7. Requirements for technical assistance to public- and private-sector institutions, communities, and service providers to support implementation of the ESMF.
8. An outline of the budget for implementing the ESMF.

The final draft ESMF suitable for inclusion in the R-Package will contain specific sections addressing the requirements of applicable World Bank safeguard policies, including as relevant:

1. Environmental Management Framework (EMF) to address any potential environmental impacts, including cumulative and/or indirect impacts of multiple activities;
2. Involuntary resettlement and/or restriction of access to natural resources having adverse livelihood impacts (e.g. Process Framework);
3. Stakeholder engagement and dispute resolution framework; and
4. Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) to address any effects on Indigenous Peoples.
   * 1. **Consultation on and disclosure of the ESMF**

The generation of a draft ESMF needs to be preceded by the preparation of the ESMF ToR for which inputs are solicited through their public disclosure. In putting together the draft ESMF, extensive stakeholder consultation shall be done, particularly in the critical areas as identified through the prioritization and mapping exercise. The draft document should also be subject to broad stakeholder consultations and inputs. Eventually, a representative sample of communities in the critical areas should be enabled to participate in a public hearing on the ESMF which should be held in a readily accessible community or district capital. Community-based organizations and NGOs operating in these areas should participate in the public hearing, which should also be held in the local dialect widely spoken in the specific area. Special efforts should be made to engage the House of Chiefs separately.

Consultation and participation for the SESA will include consultations of the ESMF which should involve community and institutional stakeholders in a manner consistent with Ghanaian Law and the World Bank safeguard and disclosure policies. Copies of the document should be made available to the public through the websites of the EPA and the Forestry Commission, World Bank, Lingo and the Talking Drum; hard copies should also be available at EPA offices and the District Assemblies of the identified critical areas. Copies should also be sent to relevant public sector institutions, civil society and the private sector to solicit inputs and comments.

1. **Schedule and Deliverables**

Table 1 below summarizes the main activities, deliverables and schedule for the implementation of the SESA process. Key intersection points with other activities of the REDD+ readiness package are also included.

**Table 1: SESA Road Map**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Code** | **Activities** | **Institution / Organization Responsible** | **Time** | **Result Indicator (Deliverable)** | **Key intersections and comments** | |
| **1** | **Preparation/Screening** |  |  |  |  | |
| **1.1** | Refinement of ToR | SESA sub-working group (coordination with the NRTWG) | Month 1 | Final ToR |  | |
|  | | | | | | |
| **1.2** | **Hiring of Consultants** |  |  |  | A consortium of local and international consultants is recommended | |
| **1.2.1** | Request for Proposals | FC – MLNR **(**coordination with the NRTWG) | Month 1 | Public bid issued | Ensure consistency of timing and deliverables with the RFP for the REDD+ readiness package | |
| **1.2.2** | Short listing and bid evaluation | MLNR, SESA Sub-WG | Month 5 | Evaluation report |  | |
| **1.2.3** | Awarding of contract | MLNR/Public Procurement Board | Month 6 | Signed consultancy contract |  | |
|  | | | | | | |
| **2** | **Scoping** |  |  |  |  | |
| **2.1** | Gap assessment of R-PP stakeholder analysis | Consultant | Month 7 | Progress/inception report submitted to EPA | SESA C&P activities should be compatible with existing C&P master plan and coordinated with consultation plan for the REDD+ strategy | |
| **2.2** | Refinement of SESA consultation & participation (C&P) activities and formulation of SESA Work Plan |
| **2.3** | **Validation of SESA Work Plan** |  |  |  |  | |
| **2.3.1** | Organization of National Workshop | SESA sub-WG through the consultants | Months 8 and 9 | Invitation and agenda issued | - Includes participation of representatives of forest communities, districts and relevant institutional stakeholders  - Inclusion of forest forums and CREMAs should be considered | |
| **2.3.2** | National workshop and reporting | Workshop report |
| **2.3.3** | Finalization of SESA Work Plan | Consultant | Final SESA Work Plan that includes C&P SESA activities |
| **2.3.4** | Disclosure of SESA Work Plan | FC/EPA | - Plan published in FC and EPA websites  - Radio announcement of Plan summary | Communication of the Plan at the local level will be coordinated with the C&P Working Group | |
| **2.4** | **Scoping of Key E&S issues** |  |  |  |  | |
| **2.4.1** | Gathering and technical validation of available spatial data on  - environment and,  - social issues | Consultant / FC/ EPA | Months 10 -16 | Progress report |  | |
| **2.4.2** | Spatial mapping, including community based participatory mapping, of  - forest, biodiversity hotspots, river basins, main infrastructure projects  - forest dependent communities, activities undertaken in forest areas, use and access rights to forest and land | A GIS data base and progress report that includes maps, case studies and key environmental and social issues | - Key intersection point with preparation of reference scenario  - Draw on the update of forest cover and inventory undertaken with Japanese (JICA) support | |
| **2.4.3** | Case and valuation studies in selected forest areas | Case studies reports |  | |
| **2.4.4** | Report on key environmental and social issues | Report submitted |  | |
| **2.5** | **Prioritization of E&S issues** |  |  |  |  | |
| **2.5.1** | Review and prioritization by selected communities in critical areas | Consultant / FC/EPA | Months17 – 19 | Community consultation report |  | - Key intersection point to coordinate consultations with the REDD+ strategy options |
| **2.5.2** | Regional validation by community representatives | Month 20 | Regional validation report | Likely to be workshops |
| **2.5.3** | Review and prioritization by institutional stakeholders | Months 21-22 | Institutional consultation report | Likely to be focus groups |
| **2.5.4** | Institutional stakeholders workshop | Institutional prioritization report |  |
| **2.5.5** | Report on E&S priorities | Consultant | Month 23 | Prioritization report |  |
|  | | | | | | |
| **3** | **Assessment** |  |  |  |  | |
| **3.1** | Analysis of REDD+ candidate strategy options vis-à-vis E&S priorities | Consultant / FC/EPA | Months 24 and 25 | Progress report |  | |
| **3.2** | Refinement of REDD+ candidate strategy options | SESA consultants coordinate with REDD+ strategy consultants | |
| **3.3** | Assessment of other E&S risks associated with refined candidate strategy options |  | |
| **3.4** | Report on candidate REDD+ strategy options | Consultant of REDD+ Strategy | Month 26 – 27 | REDD+ Strategy options | - Report and consultation to be carried out by REDD+ strategy consultants | |
| **3.5** | Stakeholder validation of REDD+ strategy options |
|  | | | | | | |
| **4** | **Reporting** |  |  |  |  | |
| **4.1** | WB Safeguards Policies Triggered R-PP level | WB | Month 0 | Updated Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet (ISDS) |  | |
| **4.2** | Preparation and disclosure of ToR for Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) | EPA – FC | Month 16 -19 | ToR |  | |
| **4.3** | **ESMF** |  |  |  |  | |
| **4.2.1** | Draft ESMF | Consultant | Months 20-26 |  |  | |
| **4.2.2** | Consultation of Initial Draft ESMF | Consultant | Months 27-29 | Draft ESMF report and consultation report | - Coordinate with consultations to validate final REDD+ Strategy  - Includes consultation with selected local forests communities and at the regional and national levels | |
| **4.3** | Final Draft ESMF | Consultant | Month 31 | Final draft ESMF | - Input to REDD+ Readiness Package | |
| **4.3.1** | SESA report | Consultant | Months 32 -33 | SESA Report | - Integrates all previous reports including Final Draft ESMF | |
| **4.3.2** | Disclosure of ESMF | EPA / Bank (Infoshop) | Month 33 | Publication in relevant websites and FC and WB infoshops | Executive summaries sent to District Assemblies | |

1. **Composition of SESA Team**

The SESA process will be undertaken by a consortium made up of members of an international consulting company and of a Ghanaian consulting company or local NGO. The international company members should lead the SESA’s analytical work, have proven experience in applying World Bank safeguard policies and be responsible for the quality control of the whole SESA process. The local company members are expected to lead the consultation and public participation process and contribute to SESA’s analytical work.

The minimal technical expertise required for the SESA will include the following:

1. **Team leader** should have proven experience in leading sector or national reviews or assessments of public policies or development strategies. At least 15 years experience, of which 10 years are relevant experience in developing countries, is required. This expert should have at least 2 years of experience in Western African countries. Experience in Ghana is desirable. S/he must have academic training in natural resources management, environmental or social sciences. Experience in SEA or SESA is desirable.
2. **Natural resource/forestry specialist** should have at least 10 years of experience in forest management, including timber and non timber projects. At least two years of experience in forestry projects in Ghana is required. Knowledge on the legal, regulatory and institutional framework of natural resources in Ghana including mining and agriculture is desirable.
3. **Social development specialist** should haveat least ten years of experience on forest communities and indigenous peoples. Familiarity with participatory rural appraisal and social issues associated with forests in Africa and the World Bank social safeguard policies is required. At least three years of experience in Western Africa is required; experience in Ghana is desirable.
4. **Stakeholder engagement specialist** should have at least five years of experiencein Ghana. Proven knowledge of stakeholders at the national, regional and local level on forest and land use in Ghana is required. S/he may know at least one local language or dialect widely spoken by rural communities in Ghana.
5. **Environmental Specialist** should be able to cover all environmental issues of the project. S/he may have at least 10 years of experience in environmental assessment in developing countries. Familiarity with environmental issues associated with forests in Africa and the World Bank environmental safeguard policies is required. Experience in environmental valuation is desirable. Priority will be given first to experience in Ghana and then in developing countries.
6. **Mapping specialist** should be able to cover all mapping requirements of the SESA. Experience of at least 5 years and proven experience on mapping and GIS techniques is required.

All members of the team should be fluent in English. Specific technical inputs on legal, infrastructure development projects, gender and environmental and natural resources valuation should be provided by the Consultant as needed.

1. **Institutional reporting**

The team of Consultants shall work closely with the SESA sub-working group and shall report through the National REDD Steering Committee to the Natural Resources and Environmental Advisory Council (ENRAC), a high level inter-Ministerial and sectoral body composed of the Ministers of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), Environment, Science and Technology, and Finance, with potential contributions from the Ministers of Agriculture and Local Government.

**Some Useful References for SESA Analytical Work**

* Amanor, K.S. & Brown, D. (2006). Informing the Policy Process: Decentralisation and Environmental Democracy in Ghana. Overseas Development Institute and University of Ghana Report to the DFID Natural Resource Systems Programme, HTSPE, UK.
* Birikorang G, Hansen CP and T Treue (2007) Review of the current taxation relevant to the forest sector in Ghana. *VLTP Background Paper* No.1, Forestry Commission, Accra.
* Forestry Commission. (2009). Brief assessment of land use and forest policies and governance in the forest area in Ghana. R-PP Background Paper. Forestry Commission of Ghana, Accra
* Forest Watch Ghana (2000*) Forest Governance in Ghana: An NGO Perspective*, FERN. Oxford and Brussels.
* Hansen, C. P. & Treue, T. (2008) Assessing Illegal Logging in Ghana. *The International Forestry Review* 10 (4): 573-580.
* Katoomba Group (2009). REDD Opportunities Scoping Exercise for Ghana. Katoomba Group & Nature Conservation Research Centre. Washington, D.C. & Accra
* Mayers, J., Birikorang, G., Danso, E., Nketiah, K. & Richards, M. (2008). Assessing the Potential Impacts of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement in Ghana with the EC on Forest Governance. Final Report. IIED, London.
* NCRC (2008). Towards sustainable charcoal production in Ghana. Accra.
* Shepherd, G. & Nyame, S.K. (Forthcoming). Forests-Poverty Toolkit - National Level Analysis and Action Manual. IUCN, Ghana
* Tropenbos (2004). Chainsaw lumber: A necessary evil? Ghana Workshop Proceedings. Accra and Wageningen.
* Ghana’s REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) 2010.

**Appendix 1: SESA of REDD+ Readiness Ghana and the Ghana SEA Approach**

**“Ghana approach” for Sectoral SEA**

* Broad definition of environment (includes social issues)
* Focus on the process (stakeholder involvement) and capacity building
* EPA plays a central role

**Scoping**

- Stakeholders: Gap review & SESA work plan

- Key environmental issues: mapping and analysis of main forest and deforestation areas, river basin, biodiversity hotspots and infrastructure projects in forest areas

- Key social issues: mapping and analysis of main forest dependent communities, activities affecting forests, land rights owners

- Institutional, legal, regulatory, policy and capacity gap analysis

- Identification of priority E&S issues in consultation with stakeholders

**Reporting**

- Refined strategy options included in REDD+ strategy

- ESMF for implementation of REDD+ strategy which includes

* WB safeguard policies triggered,
* Preparation of ToR,
* Preparation of frameworks
* Requirements for capacity building and
* Monitoring and evaluation plan
* Public consultation and disclosure

**Assessment**

- Do candidate REDD+ strategy options address priority E&S issues? Do they create significant additional E&S risks?

- Refinement of REDD+ strategy options

- Stakeholders validation

**Preparation/screening**

- RPP & Assessment Note formulation

- Refinement of ToR

- Hiring of consultants

**“SESA approach” for REDD+ Readiness**

* Includes environmental and social issues
* Focus on the process (stakeholder involvement)
* Consistency with World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies

**Appendix 2: Stakeholders to Be Consulted during the SESA Process**

**Key Stakeholders**

Issues relating to REDD-plus affect a wide range of stakeholders and are particularly relevant within Ghana where over 70% of the population is directly dependant on natural resources for their livelihoods.

Stakeholder groups identified for engagement within consultation included:

* Government – State level and statutory level with a focus on cross-sectoral linkages
* Private Sector – including timber industry, agricultural and financial institutions.
* Civil Society – including local and international NGOs, community based organisations across all relevant thematic areas, National House of Chiefs and Forest Forums
* Development Partners

**Table 2: List of stakeholders identified during R-PP development**

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| **Government**   * Office of President / Office of Vice President * Ministry of Land & Natural Resources * Ministry of Foreign Affairs * Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning * Ministry of Food & Agriculture * Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology * Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development * Ministry of Education * Ministry of Energy * Forest Commission * Lands Commission * Water Resources Commission * Energy Commission * Internal Revenue Service * National Development Planning Commission * Environmental Protection Agency * Savannah Accelerated Development Authority * Ghana National Fire Service * Customs Excise & Preventive Services * Immigration Service * The Judiciary * Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands * Ghana Investment Promotion Centre * Cocoa Board * Meteorology Service * National Disaster Management Organisation * National Commission on Civic Education * Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs | **Private Sector**   * AGI: Association of Ghana Industries * Wood Industry- GTMO, DOLTA, GTA, GATEX, FOWAG, Small scale carpenters * Mining Industry – Chamber of Mines, galamsey * Fuel wood & charcoal Burners Associations (producers, transporters, consumers) * NTFP gatherers (Hunters, Fishers, Fuel wood collectors * Farmers Large & small scale * Services - Investors/Buyers, technical experts – consultants     **Civil Society**   * CBOs (e.g. Fire volunteers, economic groups) * Community Resource Management Committees, Forest Forums * National & International NGOs * Traditional Authorities – Chiefs, etc. * Professional Associations – Ghana Institute of Foresters, * Trade Unions’ Associations, FOSSA, Students’ Unions, * Research & Academic organisations * Religious bodies * Associations of People Living with Disabilities * Forest Forums (District, Regional, National)   **Development Partners** –bilateral and multilateral donors |

1. The Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) started with a communication strategy that was prepared with advice from professional journalists. Forest Watch Ghana, an NGO coalition was provided with resources to bring together a so-called contact group in a workshop at which presentations on the different elements of the VPA were made, followed by discussions and inputs by the participants. This contact group was made up of representatives of different CSO groups, including trade associations, Forest Forums, community heads, landowners, people with disability, Trade Union Congress, research and academia among others. These people were subsequently resourced to engage with their respective constituencies. Some NGOs were also resourced to consult with communities from different parts of the country. Separate stakeholder-specific consultations were also held with the National House of Chiefs, the timber industry, and in some cases, with school and university students. There were also radio and TV discussions. Brochures were also prepared in three of the major languages in Ghana for distribution to stakeholders. The consultation and public participation of the VPA process in Ghana was supported by the VPA secretariat, DFID and the IUCN. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)