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**Concept note for Targeted Support on 1) REDD+ Safeguards, and 2) Development of Bhutan’s National Forest Monitoring System**

1. **Introduction/ background**

The UN-REDD Programme‘s ‘Support to National Actions - Global Programme Framework Document 2011-2015’ defines targeted support as “All UN-REDD Programme partner countries are eligible to receive targeted support, depending upon availability of funds and capacity of the three agencies. In practical terms, targeted support means specific technical advice and other capacity strengthening support that a country may request on a critical REDD+ readiness aspect it has identified, which is not covered through other multilateral or bilateral initiatives and where the UN-REDD Programme has a comparative advantage to provide such support.  Targeted support is intended to be small-scale, demand-driven, and technical or advisory in nature, and is provided to countries by the participating UN agencies in response to country needs. It can be provided in the form of backstopping of National Programmes, or other specific technical support under the Global Programme on a critical aspect of REDD+ readiness in a country, which is not available through National Programmes or through other initiatives.”

**Type(s) of Targeted Support - Please select as appropriate**

 Funding for REDD + activities implemented at the national level in support of existing UN-REDD National Programmes

 Funding for REDD+ activities complementary to other nationally-defined REDD+ activities (national strategies, RPP and/or bilaterally funded REDD+ activities)

* Funding to support national counterparts in REDD+ partner countries to participate in capacity building that will benefit the implementation of national REDD+ activities

**Objective**

This proposal seeks to achieve two objectives:

1. “***To ensure that the National REDD+ Strategy addresses Cancun social and environmental safeguards.***”
2. ***“To support the development and implementation of a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system to monitor and report on REDD+ activities, to measure, report and verify GHG emissions and removals resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities, and to provide information on safeguards.”***

**Broad Criteria for Targeted Support: briefly describe:**

1. How is this targeted support consistent with the objectives of the UN-REDD Programme?

***Objective 1***

The UN-REDD Programme’s strategy (2012-2015) incorporates various elements designed to address REDD+ safeguards as specified in the “Cancun Agreements”. These include the following:

* “*Building a solid governance structure is fundamental for REDD+, the success of which depends on the country’s capacity to coordinate and collaborate with different governmental and non-governmental bodies, channel important amounts of funds, fight corruption* [etc.].”
* “*It will be important to fully take into account the social and environmental costs and benefits of retaining and restoring forests, and to ensure that the these benefits continue to accrue to local communities and Indigenous Peoples dependent on them for their livelihoods and well-being*”
* “*Stakeholder participation and engagement is critical to developing viable REDD+ strategies and implementation frameworks, and should begin as early as possible when a country begins considering participation in REDD+*.”
* *“Focus has specifically been put on incentivizing the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and on enhancing other social and environmental benefits*.”

Corresponding to these statements of vision, a number of indicators of success are identified, including:

* *“Number of national REDD+ strategies that include anti-corruption measures, such as a code of conduct, conflict of interest prohibitions, links to existing anti-corruption frameworks, protection for whistle-blowers [etc.]”*
* *“Number of REDD+ countries with benefit sharing systems designed”*
* *“Number of countries implementing an approach to REDD+ stakeholder engagement that is harmonized across UN-REDD, FCPF and FIP and Number of countries that seek FPIC”*
* *“Number of countries adopting safeguard standards for ecosystem services and livelihood benefits”*

These targets are reflected in the ‘Support to National REDD+ Actions: Global programme Framework Document” (and/or). For example:

* Output 3.2 relates specifically to transparent, equitable and accountable benefit distribution systems.
* Output 3.3 relates specifically to identifying and mitigating corruption risks in REDD+ and support the development of systems and capacities to do so.
* Output 4.2 covers principles, guidelines and procedures for stakeholder engagement in national and international REDD+ processes
* Output 5.1: deals with environmental and social principles, criteria and approaches to safeguard the multiple benefits of forests under REDD+

UN-REDD’s most recent adjustment to its Support to National Actions under the Global Programme, the “Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme Framework 2011-2015 Workplan and Budget Revision 2014”, approved at PB-11, reflects an increasing emphasis on these issues through the following statements:

* “*UN-REDD Programme [will] broaden its support to countries to effectively implement and demonstrate how safeguards are being addressed … [s]upport will be based on the recently consolidated UN-REDD Programme’s approach to safeguards which consists of the following steps: (i) definition of goals of the safeguards approach, including interpretation of UNFCCC decisions from the country perspective and consideration of specific social and environmental risks as well as benefits that might be associated with REDD+ in the country; (ii) development of policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) relevant to REDD+ safeguards; and (iii) development of a SIS*”
* “*Given increasing demand for support stakeholder engagement … the UN-REDD Programme seeks to provide the opportunity to catalyze stakeholder engagement with a special focus on: (a) partner countries that do not currently receive support through UN-REDD National Programmes … or have potential to serve as successful pilots or early movers in stakeholder engagement*;”

***Objective 2***

Achieving sustainable and time-bound reductions in forest-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals, and meeting other REDD+ objectives, will require fully functional and sustainable national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) – which include a measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) function. How to reliably account for the amount of forest carbon, including changes over time is a key challenge in REDD+, well defined in GHG reporting standards and IPCC guidelines. Methodological guidance from UNFCCC calls on countries to use the most recent IPCC guidelines as a basis for estimating forest-related GHG emissions, and to use a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory for obtaining the estimates.

While existing national forest assessments in developing countries are designed to provide data for multiple purposes, there is often limited capacity to generate estimates of carbon stock changes, especially at a scale and with a degree of accuracy needed for REDD+. Many REDD+ countries are therefore in need of support to not only design their data collection procedures but also to analyse and share this data in a transparent manner. In the UN-REDD Programme, FAO supports countries on NFMS through support relating to capacity building, guidelines, technical assistance, experience sharing and methodological design and integration for timely and cost-efficient MRV and monitoring for REDD+.

Following initial capacity building and development activities on NFMS for REDD+ delivered as a result of Bhutan’s first Targeted Support request, a follow-up request has been received from WMD. This second request focuses on the need to develop a NFMS Action Plan, deliver further capacity building and to support the assessment of forest carbon stocks as part of the national forest inventory process.

**Background to Targeted Support for Bhutan**

In April 2010, Bhutan became a partner country of the UN REDD Programme. Since 2010, the UN-REDD Programme has provided support to Bhutan in a number of ways. In April 2012, UN-REDD provided technical support from all three UN Agencies to a national workshop in REDD+ readiness at Thimphu. In early 2012, the RGOB submitted a request for Targeted Support from all three Agencies. As part of the UNDP component of the TS, UNDP (jointly with FAO) provided support to the development and submission of Bhutan’s R-PP to the FCPF.

Subsequently, in January 2014, a follow-up request for TS has been received from the Watershed Management Division (WMD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF). The new TS request envisages contributions from all three UN-REDD Agencies, and is complementary to activities anticipated to be funded under the FCPF. For example, the R-PP contains relatively little information and assigns only a modest budget for the development of a nationally appropriate system of social and environmental safeguards.

1. **What is the expected contribution of this targeted support to national REDD+ efforts?**

***Objective 1***

In the context of REDD+ readiness, the focus for WMD during 2014 is the finalization of proposals to ensure that REDD+ safeguards are respected, as elements of the National REDD+ Strategy. This includes work on anti-corruption measures, benefit distribution options measures for the full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, and measures to address environmental safeguards.

***Objective 2***

The focus of NFMS-related activities in 2014 is the development of a NFMS Action Plan, delivery of associated capacity building to stakeholders and support to the execution of carbon stock assessments as part of the national forest inventory. The development of a NFMS Action Plan will mark an important first step in the development and implementation of Bhutan’s REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, as it will be the first document to set out Bhutan’s current NFMS status, a comprehensive capacity assessment, a programme of outputs and detailed activities, a work plan and a budget. Once approved by government, this Action Plan will be the reference document for all NFMS-related activities in the country. In addition, support to the assessment of forest carbon stocks will mark a significant step towards assessing Bhutan’s forest carbon stocks and forest-related GHG emissions and removals, as per UNFCCC NFMS guidance (Decision 4/CP.15). Providing information on safeguards, through a Safeguards Information System, will also be addressed through work on the NFMS.

1. **How is it aligned with the agencies’ programming priorities for the relevant work areas?**

***Objective 1***

UNDP, the lead agency on governance, anti-corruption and stakeholder engagement, as per the “Support to National REDD+ Actions: Global programme Framework Document”, has delineated a number of outputs and activities that are in line with the activities suggested in this proposal. These include:

* Guidance on identifying and prioritizing corruption risks in national contexts
* Guidance to Anti-Corruption Commissions or units for engagement in REDD+
* Guidance and support to legal and regulatory frameworks and instruments to combat corruption in REDD+
* Guidance on institutional frameworks for benefits distribution systems (BDS)
* Technical and policy support to countries
* Information on other existing transaction systems in the land-based sector to create synergies with REDD+ payments
* Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent
* Legal companion to FPIC guidelines
* Joint UN-REDD/FCPF stakeholder engagement guidelines

UNEP, the lead agency on environmental and social principles, criteria and approaches to safeguard the multiple benefits of forests as per the “Support to National REDD+ Actions: Global programme Framework Document”, has …

***Objective 2***

FAO, the lead agency on NFMS (forest monitoring and MRV) as per the “Support to National REDD+ Actions: Global programme Framework Document”, has delineated a number of outputs and activities that are in line with the activities suggested in this proposal. These include:

* Integration of lessons learned in REDD+ pilot countries implementing REDD+ monitoring and MRV systems
* Incorporating REDD+ monitoring requirements with broader monitoring needs for sustainable development
* Technical advice to support institutional arrangements for national monitoring systems
* Development of methodologies for national forest inventories and monitoring of forest REDD+ activities
* Development of tools to support the compilation of National Communications and National GHG Inventories
* National-level institutional capacity development and training
* National-level methodology development
* Training courses in forest and natural resources monitoring
1. **Activities and Workplan**

**Note: Activities in support of environmental and social safeguards are presented separately for budgeting purposes but will be delivered in an integrated fashion**

| **Result** | **Activity** | **Output and timeframe** | **UN Agency** | **Responsible party** | **Indicator(s) of success/impact** | **Funds – from UN-REDD)** | **Co- financing (amount and source)** | **Budget breakdown** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Amount** |
|  | ***Objective 1*** |
| Measures to address environmental safeguards are adopted by RGoB | Analysis of PLR and development of proposals to ensure environmental safeguards are respected | Action plan adopted by end October | UNEP | WMD | Action plan is endorsed by government with roles and responsibilities clearly agreed to | 35,000 | N/A | Personnel | 5,000 |
| Supplies etc. | 10,000 |
| Contracts | 20,000 |
| Other direct costs |  |
| Measures to address social safeguards are adopted by RGoB | Development of stakeholder participation plan/guideline based on existing legislations, FPIC and tailored to local contextsReview anti-corruption options developed under previous TS, draft an action plan and support its adoption | Guidelines adopted by end OctoberAnti-corruption Action plan adopted by end October | UNDP | WMD | Guidelines endorsed by government with roles and responsibilities clearly agreed toAction plan is endorsed by government and roles and responsibilities are clearly delineated and agreed to | 65,500 | N/A | Personnel | 7,500 |
| Supplies etc. | 53,000 |
| Contracts | 5,000 |
| Other direct costs |  |
| Regional best practices in social and environmental safeguards assessed in the context of national circumstances | Attendance of national and regional events, including study tours, on stakeholder engagement | Options paper incorporating regional best practices (June)Stakeholder feedback (August) | UNDP/ UNEP | WMD | Options paper endorsed through a multi-stakeholder consultation process | 39,000 | N/A | Personnel | 0 |
| Supplies etc. (UNDP) | 20,000 |
| Supplies etc. (UNEP) | 12,000 |
| Contracts (UNDP) | 4,000 |
| Contracts (UNEP) | 3,000 |
| Other direct costs | 0 |
| BDS action plan is adopted by RGOB (WMD) | Review BDS options developed under previous TS, draft an action plan and support its adoption | Action plan adopted by end October | UNDP | WMD | Action plan is endorsed by government with roles and responsibilities clearly agreed to | 5,500 | N/A | Personnel | 2,500 |
| Supplies etc. | 3,000 |
| Contracts | 0 |
| Other direct costs | 0 |
|  | **Objective 1 Sub-Total**  | 145,000 | - |  |

| **Result** | **Activity** | **Output and timeframe** | **UN Agency** | **Responsible party** | **Indicator(s) of success/impact** | **Funds – from UN-REDD)** | **Co- financing (amount and source)** | **Budget breakdown** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Amount** |
|  | ***Objective 2*** |
| Bhutan’s NFMS Action Plan developed and validated in consultation with stakeholders | Consultations on current status and capacities through meetings and a workshop, document drafting by a consultant, further consultations and validation | Action Plan validated by stakeholders by end December | FAO | WMD/FRMD | Action plan is validated by national stakeholders and passed to Cabinet/PM’s office for endorsement | 40,000 | N/A |  |  |
| Personnel | 20,000 |
| Supplies etc. | 20,000 |
| Contracts | 0 |
| Other direct costs | 0 |
| Government capacity to develop a GHG inventory and database is strengthened and a GHG inventory work plan is in place | Attendance of national and regional training events on GHG inventory development and implementation | GHG inventory work plan in place by end October | FAO | WMD | GHG inventory training delivered to government staff and GHG work plan endorsed by stakeholders | 20,000 | N/A | Personnel | 10,000 |
| Supplies etc. | 10,000 |
| Contracts | 0 |
| Other direct costs |  |
| Government is able to independently carry out forest carbon assessment as part of its national forest inventory | Attendance of forest carbon assessment training, including on the use of specialised equipment, and development of C assessment guidelines/methodology | C assessment methodology drafted by end SeptemberC assessment training delivered by end November;  | FAO | FRMD | Methodology endorsed by government and used to generate country-specific forest carbon stock data | 40,000 | N/A | Personnel | 10,000 |
| Supplies etc. | 30,000 |
| Contracts | 0 |
| Other direct costs | 0 |
|  | **Objective 2 Sub-Total**  | 100,000 | - |  |