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UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



MALAWI REDD+ PROGRAM REQUEST FOR TARGETED SUPPORT UNDER THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME

MALAWI REDD+ SECRETARIAT, MALAWI DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Executive Summary

This document presents the Malawi REDD+ Program's (MRP) request for Targeted Support to the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD). This proposal is the Government of Malawi's first formal application for Targeted Support since the Malawi joined UN-REDD as a partner country in March, 2014. The MRP seeks to address critical, outstanding components of its 2013-2014 work plan by soliciting technical expertise and financial support from UN-REDD. The MRP seeks to strengthen Malawi's capacity to implement REDD+ under the framework of a cohesive national strategy. It is the hope of the MRP that through partnership and engagement with UN-REDD and its constituent institutions further progress will be made Malawi's efforts to develop and implement a successful national REDD+ program. Targeted Support is requested in three thematic domains: Institutional, Governance, and Technical, all of which pertain to specific goals collaboratively developed by the Malawi REDD+ community.

Through the UN-REDD Targeted Support mechanism the Malawi REDD+ Program hopes to complete the following outputs:

- 1) An Institutional Context Analysis that will inform the development of a stakeholder engagement and participation strategy by delivering an informed, unbiased view of current institutions and by providing recommendations to strengthen collaboration.
- 2) A Corruption Risk Assessment to support improved forest governance and inform the design and modification of REDD+ elements related to accountability and transparency policies.
- 3) An analysis of Malawi's resource tenure regimes that will inform further analysis of Malawi's natural resource management policy arena, links to sustainable land management, and better elucidate tenure practices across geographies and populations.
- 4) A roadmap that will identify and prioritize key next steps in the design, implementation, and management of a National Forest Monitoring System.
- 5) Host two in-country, high-profile events marking the inception and completion of Targeted Support activities.

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Acronyms

CRA	Corruption Risk Assessment
DoF	Department of Forestry
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FREL	Forest Reference Emissions Level
FRIM	Forest Research Institute of Malawi
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GoM	Government of Malawi
GPTWG	Governance and Policy Technical Working Group
ICA	Institutional Context Analysis
MRP	Malawi REDD+ Program
MRRP	Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PERFORM	Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi
PES	Payment to Ecosystem Services
PROFOR	World Bank's Program on Forests
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
RExG	REDD+ Expert Group
SoW	Statement of Work
STWG	Science and Technical Working Group
TS	Targeted Support
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFS/IP	United States Forest Service – International Programs
VCS	Verified Carbon Standard

Background

The Government of Malawi (GoM) joined the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) in March 2014. As a UN-REDD partner country, the GoM may solicit Targeted Support (TS) from UN-REDD in the interest of contributing to and advancing its pursuit of REDD+ readiness. TS is a UN-REDD mechanism available to partner countries by which financial assistance and technical expertise are provided through a suite of thematic domains that reflect the major elements of a national REDD+ program. Malawi, through the Malawi REDD+ Program (MRP), and UN-REDD have been in consultation since Malawi's attainment of partnership status to discuss the potential for TS engagement. This proposal reflects the content and spirit of those correspondences and is submitted to UN-REDD as a formal request for TS.

Purpose

Since its inception in August 2012, the Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program (MRRP) – a joint effort of the GoM, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) - has served as the primary means of support for the MRP. With the support of the MRRP, the MRP has made considerable strides, including the development and implementation of a national REDD+ governance framework, REDD+ study tours to Zambia and Tanzania and an in-country study tour of REDD+ initiatives, the drafting and implementation of a comprehensive REDD+ work plan for 2013 and 2014, and the attainment of partnership status with UN-REDD. The MRP is now at a stage in which it can advance beyond the bilateral support provided by the MRRP through the solicitation of technical expertise from UN-REDD. Through the TS mechanism, the MRP hopes to address outstanding, high priority action items from its work plan, enhance its relationship with UN-REDD, diversify its development partner engagements, sustain and augment the program's momentum, and identify and prioritize areas of need that are critical to Malawi's pursuit of REDD+ readiness.

The MRP seeks TS under the Institutional, Governance, and Technical domains. The thematic content of these domains aligns with a number of work plan action items that are critical inputs into a strong and growing national REDD+ program. For example, outputs from TS will include a stakeholder engagement and participation strategy and an action plan for the design, implementation, and management of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), two fundamental pieces in a country's pursuit of REDD+ readiness. These activities will be defined by genuine collaboration with stakeholders from the Malawi REDD+ program, thus adhering to the MRP's stated principles of Malawian ownership, coordination, inclusiveness and capacity building¹.

¹ The MRP Workplan includes a suite of principles including Malawian Ownership ("The Malawi REDD+ Program should be owned by the Malawi REDD+ community (including the Government of Malawi) to the extent that program partners contribute to a well-designed REDD+ program rather than steer the REDD+ process."), Coordinate with Other Programs and Strategies to Maximize Complementarities and Avoid Redundancy and Duplication of Effort ("The Malawi REDD+ Program should commit to coordinating all REDD+ efforts to ensure that they adhere to stated principles, priorities, standards, and protocols; contribute to articulated vision and targets; and are additional (or, not redundant) and/or complimentary. Further, the Malawi REDD+ program should coordinate with the Government of Malawi and other parties (e.g., bilateral or multilateral partners, development partners, civil society, private sector, etc.) to leverage complementarities between projects and programs and protect against conflicting actions (especially with programs and/or activities from other sectors).

TS will enrich and diversify the MRP on numerous fronts. First, through UN-REDD, the TS experience will provide most welcome expertise and fresh perspectives to a program that, from the development side, has been largely defined by engagements by USAID and USFS. Second, in a similar vein, the analyses and new perspectives brought by UN-REDD will illuminate new needs and gaps and propose actions to address these gaps, thus supporting the MRP's steady growth and maturation.

Expected Outputs

Output 1: Completion of an Institutional Context Analysis that will inform the development of a stakeholder engagement and participation strategy.

Under the Institutional domain of TS, the MRP seeks an analysis of institutional context and stakeholder mapping as a means to:

- Identify and inventory all relevant REDD+ stakeholders for the MRP,
- Provide the MPR with the political and institutional context in which it operates
- Assess the relative power and interest of each stakeholder within the REDD+ context,
- Assess the potential for overlap and conflicts between parties,
- Provide guidance and recommendations to address such conflict,
- Identify entry points and risks as well as potential for change and areas to be prioritized/attended

The MRP formally requests assistance to conduct an Institutional Context Analysis (ICA) to meet these objectives. The main purpose of an institutional and context analysis is to enhance development results and manage programming risks based on an understanding of what is realistic for an external actor like the MRP to accomplish with limited resources. In this case, the ICA will provide a preparatory analysis that will:

- Inform the Corruption Risk Assessment (in terms of institutional set-up and informalities)
- Enable the MRP to formulate the stakeholder engagement strategy based on a political economy analysis, engagement scenarios and risks identified

The need for a broader stakeholder mapping initiative was articulated in the MRP's 2013-2014 workplan and ranked as a high priority action item. The Malawi REDD+ Governance and Policy Technical Working Group drafted and approved a statement of work (SoW) for a technical expert to implement such a mapping exercise (appendix 1). The SoW for this exercise centers on the identification and classification of stakeholders according to their interests and stakes in REDD+. The process by which such interests and stakes would be determined is left to the technical expert to develop alongside representatives from the MRP. The ICA offers an ideal means to tackle this high

Finally, the Malawi REDD+ Program should align with Malawi's Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS)", Stakeholder Inclusion and Gender Equity ("The Malawi REDD+ Program should commit to an inclusive REDD+ process defined by genuine efforts to engage stakeholders of any scale (e.g., national, regional, district, community), gender, socioeconomic background, and/or sector (e.g., civil society, private sector, academia, Government of Malawi, etc."), and Capacity Development ("The Malawi REDD+ Program should commit to leveraging REDD+ as a means for in-country capacity building across all sectors across all relevant focus areas (e.g., governance, science and technical, communications, etc.").

priority action item – the ICA is an established process defined by a sound and tested methodology that goes beyond a basic inventory and categorization of stakeholders to provide a more comprehensive analysis and insights into stakeholder engagement, and information identifying stakeholders relative interest levels in REDD+ as well as their relative power to influence relations, incentives and processes within the Malawi REDD+ arena.

The MRP requests that a key output from the ICA be a report, which informs the stakeholder engagement, and participation strategy that details the following:

- An exhaustive inventory of stakeholders that includes the following attributes:
 - o Sector (e.g., Government of Malawi, civil society, academia, media, private, faith-based, development community, etc.),
 - o Scale of work (e.g., international, national, regional, district, community),
 - o Extent of engagement in MRP to-date,
 - o Classification according to tiers of engagement (e.g., monitor, keep informed, keep satisfied, manage closely) with attendant rationale,
 - o Nature of engagement highlighting topics such as potential REDD+ enablers, as well as potential conflicts of interest, and incentives to participate in the REDD+ mechanism
 - o Possible approaches and means for stakeholder engagement,
 - o Area of focus and mandate,
 - o Contact information and website,
 - o Primary and secondary focal points for the MRP (as necessary)
- Recommendations on the sectoral and institutional composition of the following bodies and use of existing bodies in the Malawi Sector Working Group structure:
 - o REDD+ Expert Group
 - o Governance and Policy Technical Working Group
 - o Communications and Awareness Raising Technical Working Group
 - o Science and Technical Working Group
 - o Malawi REDD+ Strategy Development Working Group²
 - o Malawi REDD+ Negotiation Team (to the UNFCCC)
- Guidance on addressing conflicts that arise from overlaps in power and interest in regards to REDD+ in order to understand the political and institutional context in which it operates.

A key procedural element of the ICA should be the inclusion of stakeholders from the MRP in the design and implementation of the ICA workplan. Such an inclusive and participatory approach is necessary to ensure that the process is informed by Malawian perspectives and defined by genuine in-country ownership and the cultivation of in-country capacities in ICA methodologies.

Proposed Work Plan

² This group does not yet exist, but is seen as a high priority grouping given the ambitions of the MRP.

Timeline: The ICA should begin in December 2014 and take 40-45 workdays to complete. The ideal date of completion for the ICA is within the first quarter of 2015 (given the potential for delays incurred by the winter holidays and rainy season)

Proposed Work plan Phases

- **Phase 1:** Inception Report and Preparation
 - o Objectives:
 - To recruit and secure in-country experts and reference group with whom the ICA will be implemented
 - In collaboration with in-country partners (reference group), draft an inception report that details the objectives of the ICA, methodological approach (including interview technique and design of questionnaire), anticipated outputs, and role within the MRP
 - Through an inception workshop, share the inception report with the MRP for appraisal in order to better inform stakeholders what the ICA approach entails (including potential sensitivities), and gain further understanding of the nature of work and expected outputs
 - To develop an ICA work plan in collaboration with representatives of the MRP
 - Conduct an inception meeting with in-country stakeholders
 - o Timeline: 10 days
- **Phase 2:** Research
 - o Objectives:
 - To conduct exhaustive research of in-country stakeholders across multiple scales and sectors through a variety of means (e.g., consultations and interviews, analysis of literature)
 - To classify stakeholders according to power and interest matrix and propose stakeholder engagement strategies, risks and scenarios
 - o Timeline: 20 days
- **Phase 3:** Dissemination
 - o Objectives:
 - To share findings with the Department of Forestry through an in-house dissemination session (an in-country partner to lead the session alongside the implementing partner)
 - To share the findings of the ICA with the Malawi REDD+ community through a dissemination session (an in-country partner to lead the session)
 - o Timeline: 2 days
- **Phase 4:** Final Report & Strategy
 - o Objectives:
 - Draft an ICA report for further consideration to develop the stakeholder engagement and participation strategy
 - To finalize the report and distribute it to the MRP
 - o Timeline: 14 days

Output 2: Completion of a corruption risk assessment to support improved forest governance and inform the design of REDD+ elements.

A core principle of the MRP is “no regrets REDD+”. Under this approach, the potential for carbon financing is an ancillary end of the pursuit REDD+. In other words, the prospect of securing funds through forest carbon transactions is not the sole impetus for Malawi’s investment in REDD+. Rather, for Malawi, the primary benefits of the pursuit of REDD+ include a range of potential enhancements to institutional, governance, and technical capacities, including scientifically sound monitoring of forest and land use, clarified resource tenure, reform and streamlining of the natural resource policy arena, and improved forest governance. Good forest governance is fundamental to achieving positive and sustained development outcomes, including those gained from REDD+ readiness. Under the Governance domain of TS, the MRP seeks a REDD+ corruption risk assessment within Malawi as a means to:

- Analyze the degree of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness of key forest governance processes and institutions and the extent to which corruption in the forestry sector acts as a driver of deforestation and forest degradation,
- Forecast and prepare for potential corruption under REDD+, and provide recommendations and tools to inform the design of constituent REDD+ elements that should address corruption and enhance and sustain good practices, namely
 - o Policies within the forestry and natural resource management (NRM) sectors,
 - o Safeguards,
 - o A safeguards information system (SIS), and
 - o A national REDD+ strategy.

The MRP therefore formally requests the implementation of a REDD+ forest governance assessment and corruption risk assessment (CRA) to meet these objectives.

The GoM is pursuing REDD+ in earnest and has made genuine investments in the attainment of REDD+ readiness. Such investments may be compromised by the existence of corruption within the forestry and NRM sectors and the perpetuation of these practices under REDD+. Moreover, REDD+ may augment extant corruption and introduce new corrupt practices, particularly given the prospect of carbon financing, a novel and untested mechanism within Malawi’s forestry and NRM sectors. A corruption risk assessment will recognize and highlight existing strengths within Malawi’s forestry sector and propose means by which to sustain and enhance these attributes. An assessment of this nature is of particular value at this early stage in Malawi’s REDD+ process – Phase 1 – given the pliable nature of the MRP and its ability to respond to recommendations and reforms more quickly than it likely would at a later stage.

The MRP proposes that the methodology of the CRA to be applied in Malawi follow a similar approach as the one observed in Kenya, although tailored as necessary to better reflect the Malawian condition and its relative position along the REDD+ readiness trajectory. Although not exhaustive, the following are recommended as components of the framework:

- Introduction
 - o Objectives and purpose of the CRA

- Methods of research
 - Range of methodologies
 - Limitations
- Trends in deforestation and forest degradation in Malawi
- Status of REDD+ in Malawi
- Context
 - Historical role of corruption in Malawi’s forestry sector
 - Key developments in forest governance since independence
- Corruption contributing to deforestation and forest degradation in Malawi
 - Management of Plantation Forests
 - Management of Forests in and around Protected Areas
 - Department of Forestry
 - Forest Reserves
 - Department of National Parks and Wildlife
 - National Parks
 - Game Reserves
 - Decentralization, Participatory Forest Management and Community Natural Resource Management Committees
 - Charcoal and Fuelwood
 - Illegal Logging and Forest Crimes
 - Forest Land Tenure, Excisions and Evictions
- Potential for and Perceptions of Corruption Risks in REDD+ in Malawi
 - Malawi REDD+ Governance Framework
 - Benefit Distribution
 - Land Use Planning and Clarification of Resource Tenure
 - Role and Integrity of Civil Society and Private Sector
- Comparison of actions undertaken or planned by countries with similar REDD+ forest governance and corruption risks, and their relevance for Malawi
- Implications for REDD+ and Recommendations
 - Policy-making and Policies
 - REDD+ Safeguards and SIS
 - REDD+ Strategy

While these components are recommended for inclusion in the CRA framework, the ultimate content and methodology of the CRA should be determined through a consultative process between UN-REDD and stakeholders from the Malawi REDD+ community. Further, the approach should be fluid or “living” so that the CRA can respond to issues or concerns that arise throughout the CRA process. Several completed, ongoing, and soon-to-be-implemented initiatives will also influence the timing and the content of the CRA. First, the MRP has also requested an ICA through TS. The ICA will produce valuable inputs for the CRA and the CRA should not begin until the ICA has been completed. Second, two MRP work plan activities will be implemented concomitantly with the CRA:

- An analysis of direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (Action Item 2.3.A), and
- A review of resource tenure regimes in Malawi (Action Item 1.6.1.A) and gap assessment of the natural resource management policy arena under the REDD+ context (Action Item 1.6.2.A).

Both of these activities will overlap with some components of the CRA and coordination between the implementers of the CRA and these two activities will be critical to ensuring comparable, coherent, and complementary results. A quality, competent consultant will be recruited for implementation of this activity in accordance with the due procedures for recruitment of UNDP. The Malawi REDD+ Secretariat will ensure that the contact information for all parties involved in these efforts are shared.

Finally, the rationale for the CRA must go to considerable lengths to emphasize that the assessment of forest governance and corruption is not a critique or an indictment for the sake of a critique or indictment; rather, the purpose is to recognize gaps and propose solutions in the interest of strengthening forest governance, highlight and enhance good practices, and better prepare Malawi for its engagement in REDD+.

Proposed Work plan

Timeline: The CRA should begin immediately following the completion of the ICA in early 2015.

Proposed Work Plan Phases

- **Phase 1:** Inception and Stakeholder Participation and Planning
 - o Objectives:
 - To recruit and secure a team of consultants with whom the CRA will be implemented
 - In collaboration with in-country partners, draft an inception report that details the objectives of the CRA, anticipated outputs, and role within the MRP and share with the MRP through an inception workshop
 - To develop an CRA work plan in collaboration with representatives of the MRP
 - To draft an inception report for the CRA analysis that can be shared with stakeholders within the Malawi REDD+ community
 - To form a body composed of the UNDP implementers and stakeholders – Government of Malawi, civil society, academia, media, and private sector – from the Malawi REDD+ community that will decide upon the content and methodology of the CRA
 - o Timeline: 1 month
- **Phase 2:** Research
 - o Objectives:
 - To conduct all necessary research to inform the CRA, including interviews, surveys, and analysis of existing literature and analyses
 - o Timeline: 2 months
- **Phase 3:** Dissemination
 - o Objectives:
 - To share findings with the Department of Forestry through an in-house dissemination session (an in-country partner to lead the session)
 - To share the findings of the CRA with the Malawi REDD+ community through a dissemination session (an in-country partner to lead the session)
 - o Timeline: 2 days
- **Phase 4:** Final Report
 - o Objectives:
 - To draft a report and submit it to the MRP for comments, inputs

- To finalize the report and distribute to the MRP, and broader community engaged throughout the implementation of the CRA
- Timeline: 1.5 months

Output 3: An analysis of Malawi’s resource tenure regimes that will inform further analysis of Malawi’s natural resource management policy arena, links to sustainable land management, and better elucidate tenure practices across geographies and populations

The Government of Malawi (GoM) seeks to conduct an in-depth review of the various resource tenure systems within Malawi’s natural resource sectors that will impact the development and implementation of a successful REDD+ program in Malawi and provide recommendations and opportunities for tenure reforms that can support the Government of Malawi in effectively implementing REDD+.

Specifically, the project will:

- Engage with key government and non-governmental stakeholders across natural resource sectors and undertake a thorough desk study to:
 - analyze land and natural resource tenure and management policies, laws, regulations, institutional issues, and customary practices relevant to REDD+ in order to map tenure regimes across geographical and cultural “regions” in Malawi;
 - identify policy, legal and institutional gaps, and develop realistic recommendations that are locally relevant;
 - Conduct an in-depth review of similar analyses of tenure and benefit sharing regimes (including relevant Payment for Environmental Services (PES) initiatives) that have been conducted in other REDD+ countries, with particular interest on those that demonstrate socio-ecological attributes similar to Malawi;-
- Conduct an in-depth case study on Kulera, a well-developed Malawian carbon-finance project, and review the documentation on other relevant (but less well-developed) projects to capture lessons learned related to the challenges and opportunities for such projects operating under the current tenure regimes and how tenure reforms might better support how they are approaching benefit sharing;
- Identify lessons and potentially scalable approaches to implementing REDD+ from existing carbon financing projects in other REDD+ countries with socio-ecological attributes similar to Malawi; and
- Facilitate a high-level policy dialogue and develop an accompanying policy brief to engage with key decision-makers and make recommendations to inform policy development on resource tenure and REDD+ in Malawi.

Successful implementation of REDD+ in Malawi will require harmonized and supportive legal, policy, and institutional frameworks. Among the key governance-related drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Malawi are insufficient enforcement of existing legal requirements, inconsistencies among formal and customary land and resource tenure regimes, insecurity of land and resource tenure, and lack of effective coordination among the relevant sectors impacting REDD+. These issues exacerbate other critical drivers, including agricultural expansion, fuelwood and charcoal production driven by poverty, food insecurity and rapid population growth. This activity will facilitate Malawi’s

REDD+ readiness by undertaking a consultative process and analyzing both formal and customary land and natural resource tenure and management regimes, ongoing carbon financing initiatives, and REDD+ frameworks from other countries that have socio-ecological similarities to Malawi and are far enough along in their development of REDD+ governance systems to enable the identification of realistic options and approaches for improving land and resource tenure regulation.

The activity will accomplish these ends by undertaking comprehensive research and analysis of existing resource tenure regimes, including policies, laws, regulations, customary practices and institutional arrangements, across REDD+-relevant sectors, with an emphasis on forestry, land, water, environment, and agriculture. This component proposes a six-month plan of work encompassing research and analysis, stakeholder engagement, case studies, and policy dialogue.

The project team will coordinate closely with the FAO office in Malawi and other activities under this TS and also seek to work closely with the program team for the recently implemented, USAID-supported REDD+ implementation vehicle, Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi (PERFORM), ensure that the work of the project is mainstreamed into and supports program goals. Moreover, throughout the project, the REDD+ Focal Point will provide guidance and ensure that the Government of Malawi is fully engaged and that the recommendations made are policy relevant.

The details of this plan are described below.

Proposed Work Plan

Timeline:

Proposed Work Plan Phases

- **Phase 1: Inception Phase**
 - o Objectives:
 - To conduct preliminary interviews with key stakeholders.
 - To conduct a comprehensive desk study of relevant tenure-related policies, laws, regulations and project documents in the context of REDD+.
 - To review and learn from REDD+ governance systems and legal preparedness from other similar REDD+ countries.
 - To raise awareness on key issues and vet initial findings, proposed case studies, and proposed focal areas and methodology through an inception workshop.
 - To finalize the Inception Report based on the results of the consultative workshop.
 - o Timeline: 1 month

- **Phase 2: Research and Analysis**
 - o Objectives:
 - To conduct more in-depth research and analysis on the land tenure regime in Malawi (including laws, policies, plans, institutional frameworks, and mechanisms and status of implementation and enforcement).
 - To increase understanding on the potential options for tenure reforms and benefit sharing in the Malawian context.
 - To apply the Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forestry Governance (FAO and PROFOR) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible

- Governance of Tenure to identify gaps and opportunities for improved coordination, compliance, and enforcement.
 - To engage with key policy- and decision-makers to ensure that the recommendations of the project are policy relevant and can be integrated into ongoing and proposed reform processes.
 - To identify innovations and opportunities to bring to scale solutions of issues related to the tensions between formal and customary tenure
 - To identify and analyze the differences among customary regimes and implementation and enforcement of formal forest and land use regulations in different regions of Malawi.
 - To target key areas in which findings can be taken up into ongoing or proposed legal or institutional reform efforts through half-day sessions with decision-makers.
 - Timeline: 4 months
- **Phase 3: Final Report and Workshop**
 - Objectives:
 - To conduct a final workshop based on a final draft report to share the findings with a broad range of stakeholders and solicit feedback.
 - To make recommendations on next steps and complete the final report and policy brief.
 - Timeline: 1 month

Output 4: Development of a roadmap that will identify and prioritize key next steps in the design, implementation, and management of a National Forest Monitoring System

The Malawi REDD+ Program seeks technical assistance in the development of a roadmap for the establishment of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) in Malawi. The primary objective of the roadmap will be to provide direction to the Malawi REDD+ Program for the lengthy, involved process of cultivating capacities to realize and support a NFMS for the purposes of REDD+ and GHG inventories. In providing such direction, the roadmap should, at minimum, identify and prioritize key next steps in the design, implementation, and management of the NFMS.

The roadmap is not a strategy or an action plan; rather, it should serve as the skeletal framework around which these more comprehensive products will eventually come to fruition.

Direction and consensus of direction are the greatest needs for Malawi at this early stage in the development of technological and scientific capacities for REDD+ and GHG inventories. A number of recent efforts have invested in the cultivation of various technical aspects of these mechanisms. These include formal investigations into Malawi's technical and institutional capacity to conduct GIS and Remote Sensing, complete a National Forest Inventory, and measure above and below ground carbon pools at a national scale. Based on sound methodology provided by U.S. Forest Service technical details, the Malawi REDD Readiness Program has drafted proposed national Land Use Land Cover standards.

These investments have in many ways though been disjointed and unaligned with an overarching vision and framework. As a result, a considerable amount of outputs (e.g., data, reports, etc.) have been created, although further work is required to stitch these outputs together into a cohesive product that informs and advances the REDD+ and GHG initiatives in any meaningful way. Absent a roadmap – and the direction it affords – this trend of disparate efforts will continue, creating a patchwork of products.

The following are proposed as the major components of the roadmap:

- Inventory and gap assessment of completed and ongoing efforts to develop data and capacities that contribute to the NFMS (e.g., LULC mapping efforts, forest inventories and databases, GHG accounting and capacity building initiatives, etc.),
- Preliminary design, implementation and management arrangements of the NFMS Pillars
 - o Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (M&MRV)
 - Monitoring of Policies and Measures (including a SIS)
 - Monitoring of Activity Data (via Satellite Land Monitoring System)
 - o GHG Inventories
 - o National Forest Inventory (NFI)
- Trajectory (including milestones and estimated budget) for the attainment of Tier 2 and 3 status,
- Management and custodial responsibilities
 - o Clarification of institutional roles and mandates for various aspects of a NFMS (e.g., LULC mapping, collection of GHG inventory data, management and oversight of data for various NFMS components, etc.),
 - o Recommendations on the simplification or streamlining of NFMS roles and responsibilities across various parties,
 - o Drafting of a ToR for in-country NFMS custodial institution(s)
- Country comparisons
 - o NFMS roadmap
 - o NFMS design
 - o NFMS management and oversight

The NFMS roadmap initiative should take into account completed, ongoing, and planned activities – especially those derived from the MRP work plan – to ensure that the findings and recommendations are coherent, comparable, and complementary.

A number of work plan action items that are relevant to the NFMS roadmap are in-progress or are soon to be implemented” (figure 1). While these action items are not components of the NFMS roadmap development process to be overseen by FAO, they are included here to note potentially completed and concurrent activities that will inform the NFMS roadmap development effort. These activities – and their stage of completion – must be taken into account in the roadmap design process.

Action Item 2.1.2.1.A: Enlist a technical expert to (1) inventory all relevant REDD+ data (spatial and non-spatial) in Malawi, (2) conduct a gap assessment of these data to assess quality and adherence to standards, formats, and protocols, and (3) develop and maintain a master list of data needs for REDD+.

- Status: To be tackled by LTS International as part of a joint initiative that includes this action item and the drivers inventory (Action Item 2.3.A). LTS' work should begin in September/October 2014.

Action Item 2.1.2.3.1.A: Enlist a technical expert to (1) work with relevant stakeholders to develop and advance draft national standards and formats for spatial data and (2) develop a "best practices" manual for spatial data standards and formats.

- Status: Item in progress and nearly completed through the World Bank's Shire River Basin Management Programme.

Action Item 2.1.2.4.1.A: Enlist a technical expert to (1) codify official land use and land cover categories for Malawi that comply with IPCC guidance and, by default, (2) establish official definitions of forest, deforestation, and forest degradation in Malawi.

- Status: Item in progress through a technical detail from the USFS. Due to be completed by mid-August 2014.

Action Item 2.2.A: Conduct assessment of NFI capacity and craft follow-on recommendations and workplan for NFI implementation.

- Status: Part 1 completed by USFS technical detail in July/August 2013 and Part 2 in-progress (as of October 2014) through USFS technical detail engagement.

Action Item 2.2.B: Enlist technical expert to (1) develop NFI workplan, (2) develop "best practices" guideline and manual for NFI, and (3) develop guidelines for the design, implementation, and management arrangements of a forest carbon stock inventory database for all inventories conducted.

- Status: To be partially addressed by two USFS technical details that will be held in September 2014. One technical detail will focus on above-ground biomass and the other will focus on remaining carbon pools, namely belowground biomass and soil organic matter.

Figure 1. On-going or soon-to-be-implemented action items from the 2013-2014 workplan that are relevant to the NFMS roadmap.

As with the other activities requested under TS, this activity should be designed and implemented alongside in-country partners. The inclusion of in-country partners in the design and implementation of the work plan for this activity is critical for the attainment of the following objectives: the securing of local ownership and buy-in, the inclusion of Malawian perspectives, and the cultivation of capacities needed to not only design a roadmap that reflects the Malawian condition, but to also ensure that it is carried forward into a fully realized action plan.

Proposed Work Plan

Timeline: The NFMS roadmap should begin in November 2014 and take five to six months to complete. While five months should suffice to develop the roadmap, a total of six months should be budgeted given the potential for delays that may be incurred during the holiday season.

Proposed Work Plan Phases

- **Phase 1: Inception and Partnerships**
 - o Objectives:
 - To draft and disseminate an inception report that details objectives, methodology, and expectations for the initiative,
 - To develop a work plan alongside Malawian partners,
 - To confirm those in-country partners with whom the initiative will be implemented and agree upon ToR for these partners
 - o Timeline: 3 weeks
- **Phase 2: Research and Gap Assessment**
 - o Objectives:
 - To conduct exhaustive research and gap assessment of the following:
 - Completed, ongoing, and planned projects and programs that may inform the NFMS design,
 - Available data (e.g., LULC maps, forest inventories, allometric equations, etc.),
 - Meet with and assess capacities of relevant partners and actors relevant to NFMS in Malawi;
 - To highlight the major gaps in data, capacities, and institutions required to develop a NFMS
 - To recommend clear, actionable next steps to address observed gaps.
 - o Timeline: 3 months
- **Phase 3: Dissemination**
 - o Objectives:
 - To share findings with the Department of Forestry through an in-house dissemination session (an in-country partner to lead the session)
 - To share the findings of the NFMS roadmap with the Malawi REDD+ community through a dissemination session (an in-country partner to lead the session)
 - o Timeline: 1 day
- **Phase 4: Final Report**
 - o Objectives:
 - To draft a report and submit it to the MRP for comments, inputs
 - To finalize the report and distribute to the MRP
 - o Timeline: 1.5 months

Output 5: Host two in-country, high-profile events for multi-stakeholder sensitization and fostering sub-regional exchange to consolidate national REDD+ process

While Malawi has advanced its start-up phase of national REDD+ process with support of MNRP/USAID, it has become evident that further sensitization effort is required to inform and nurture high-level political commitment, and to enhance understanding among wide range of stakeholders of national engagement in REDD+; including the range of opportunities and benefits Malawi could potentially tap on from REDD+, as well as to identify elements of REDD+ readiness Malawi requires further elaboration to be compliant with international provisions for REDD+. For these reasons, two multi-stakeholder exchange events are proposed in the TS. The two events are mutually reinforcing, tapping on different level of stakeholders/audience.

The MRP had originally envisioned one, three-day, in-country event (appendix 3). The two events requested through TS would feature similar objectives as this initially proposed event, although the agenda and time investment would be much less.

The first event, which is planned to be organized at the onset of the Targeted Support, invites wide range of in-country stakeholders, with an aim to raise awareness and understanding of REDD+ by providing detailed induction to both the concept itself, the objectives of different work streams under the proposed TS (either the NFMS roadmap or the ICA and to revisit the progress made to date and next steps.

The second event will be planned towards the second half of the Targeted Support timeline, with a focus on organizing a sub-regional south-south exchange to invite early movers of UN-REDD in the sub-region (Zambia, [Tanzania], Kenya, [Uganda?]). The exchange invites respective invited countries to share lessons and approaches to address the similar gaps, needs, and challenges highlighted by the TS initiatives in Malawi. Through interactive exchange among countries, the event also explores possible ways forward and next steps. While the agenda will be further detailed, participating countries receiving the National Programme support are also invited to share the steps/approaches taken to design national REDD+ strategy, and to demonstrate how the strategy serves as the anchor to the REDD+ process.

In both events, participants will be carefully identified and selected in view of achieving inclusiveness and meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement in national REDD+ process – covering different ministry counterparts, NGOs, CSOs/IPs, academia, private sector at both technical and high level [while respecting gender balance]. Both engagement of high-level governmental officials and technical officers are anticipated.

Proposed Work Plan

Timeline: The first event should be held in December, or soon after the proposed Targeted Support is approved and completes budget allocation to enable undertaking of the TS. The inception workshop of the first TS initiative will also be launched coinciding the event (Project Appraisal Committee meeting to be organized by UNDP as the inception workshop). The second event should be held early in the second quarter of 2014 (e.g., late March 2015 or early April 2015), coinciding with the close-out workshop of the CRA and NFMS roadmap.

Management Arrangements

The Malawi REDD+ Secretariat will lead the implementation and provide strategic guidance for this project, in close coordination with its fellow MRP institutions (including REDD+ Expert Group and other technical working groups), Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program (including USAID and USFS), UNDP Malawi, the UNDP/UN-REDD Global Advisors and Africa regional team. The key members of the REDD+ Secretariat include Ms. Stella Gama (*Malawi REDD+ Focal Point and Assistant Director of Forestry – Climate Change and Ecosystem Services*) and Mr. Harold Chisale (*MRRP Counterpart and Forestry Officer*).

The Malawi Department of Forestry, the REDD+ focal institution for Malawi and the home of the REDD+ Secretariat, will be thoroughly engaged in each activity. Included in the DoF is the **Forest Research Institute of Malawi** (FRIM), the institution that will take a leading role in the development of a NFMS roadmap in collaboration with FAO.

The Malawi REDD+ Advisory team, consisting of Mr. Yoel Kirschner (*Malawi REDD+ Advisor, USFS*), Mr. Alinafe Chibwana (*Malawi REDD+ Associate, USFS*), and Mr. John Kerkering (*Malawi Coordinator, USFS*) will backstop the Malawi REDD+ Focal Point, the MRRP Counterpart, the DoF and FRIM, and, as necessary, facilitate communication between all parties engaged.

The Malawi REDD+ Governance and Policy Technical Working Group (GPTWG), a multi-stakeholder body that provides guidance to the REDD+ Secretariat and MRP partners (e.g., consultants, development partners) on all national matters related to governance and policy, will play a key role in the provision of expert input for each activity and ensure that engagement in Targeted Support extends beyond the DoF to other key stakeholders, including civil society and academia.

The Malawi REDD+ Science and Technical Working Group (STWG), a multi-stakeholder body that provides guidance to the REDD+ Secretariat and MRP partners (e.g., consultants, development partners) on all national matters related to the scientific and technological aspects of REDD+, will play a key role in the provision of expert input for the NFMS roadmap and ensure that engagement in Targeted Support extends beyond the DoF to other key stakeholders, including academia, civil society, and other GoM institutions (e.g., Department of Surveys, Land Resources Conservation Department).

The Malawi REDD+ Expert Group will provide an ideal platform for sensitization and dissemination across a broad array of MRP representatives from the Government of Malawi, civil society, academia, media, and private sector. Representatives from the REDD+ Expert Group will define the composition of inception and closing events for Targeted Support.

UNDP Malawi Office will be responsible for overseeing the project implementation, along with the Malawi REDD+ Focal Point, and will ensure the procurement of quality national and international consultancies to implement activity components.

FAO Malawi Office will be responsible for overseeing the financial management and project implementation, along with the Malawi REDD+ Focal Point, and will ensure the procurement of quality national and international consultancies to implement activity components.

The UN-REDD Team, both the global thematic advisors and the Africa regional unit (Nairobi), will provide technical expertise and qualitative assurance to the implementation and deliverables of the project.

Monitoring and Reporting

Over the course of the implementation of Targeted Support, technical advice, assistance and monitoring of results will be provided by the Malawi REDD+ Secretariat and, as necessary, the UN-REDD Secretariat and/or regional office (Nairobi). In this capacity, the Malawi REDD+ Secretariat will liaise with partner MRP institutions (e.g., GPTWG, STWG) and other parties (e.g, UN-REDD Secretariat and regional office) as needed to seek guidance and expert input.

The formal reports for each activity will be undertaken and completed by the appropriate implementing party and, as necessary, partner institutions. The follow-on sharing of results with the Government of Malawi and the MRP will be undertaken by the appropriate technical working group. The sharing of results from the ICA, CRA, and tenure analysis will be handled by the GPTWG in collaboration with the REDD+ Secretariat. Likewise, the sharing of result from the NFMS roadmap will be tackled by the STWG in collaboration with the REDD+ Secretariat.

The REDD+ Secretariat will also work with ongoing development vehicles, such as the MRRP and PERFORM, to secure necessary support for follow-through and implementation of recommendations and next-steps identified through the ICA, CRA, tenure analysis, and NFMS roadmap. In the event that such support is not attainable through existing development partnerships, the REDD+ Secretariat will work with the Government of Malawi to solicit and secure appropriate support.

The REDD+ Secretariat will work with the UN-REDD Secretariat and regional office to ensure that the results of all TS activities are shared at the first UN-REDD Policy Board session on which they are available and ready for distribution.

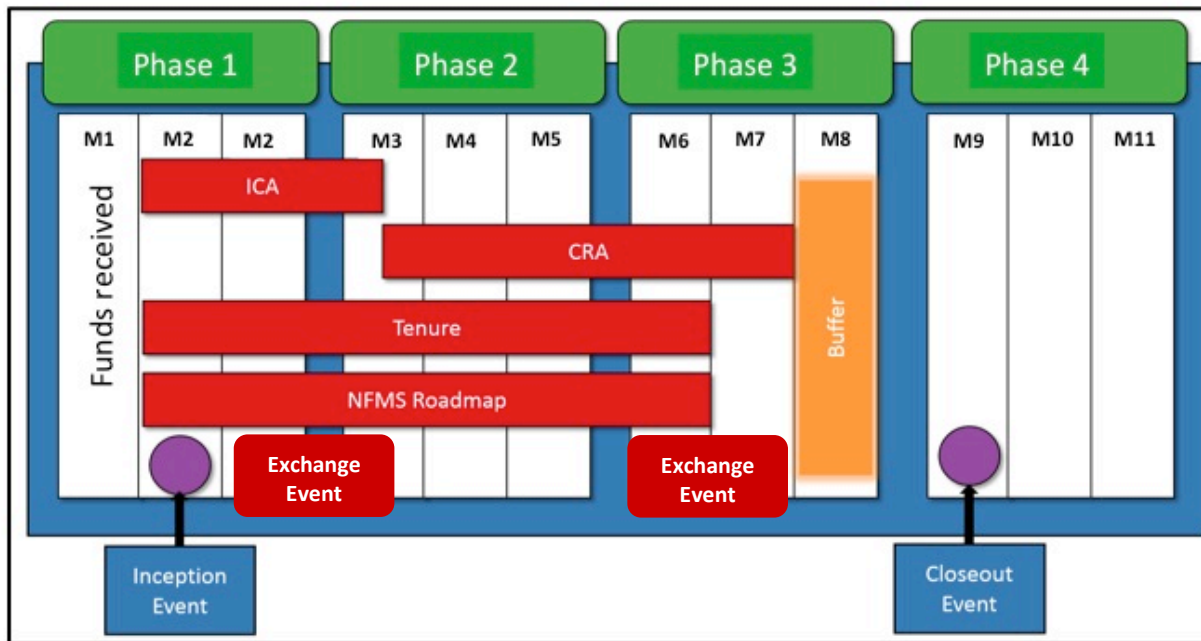
Annual Work Plan

Expected Outputs (with baseline, indicators and targets)	Planned Activities (activity results and associated actions)	TIMEFRAME				Responsible Party	Funding Source	Planned Budget	
		M 1-3	M4-6	M7-9	M9-11			Budget Description (expenditure accounts)	Amount (USD)
<p>Output1: Institutional Context Analysis and Stakeholder engagement and participation strategy</p> <p>Baseline: ICA and SEPS not available</p> <p>Indicator: ICA and SEPS report completed</p> <p>Target: 1 ICA and 1 SEPS completed</p> <p>Related CP outcome:</p>	<p>Conduct ICA and inter alia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory all of MRP stakeholders - Assess relative power and interest of each stakeholder - Assess potential overlap and conflicts between parties - Draft conflict resolution mechanisms - Draft stakeholder engagement and participation strategy for MRP 					DoF with UNDP	UN-REDD SNA # 2,1	<p>[71300] USD 16,000 (National consultant, 40 days by \$400)</p> <p>[75700] USD 10,000 (Meetings - Inception & Validation)</p> <p>[72500] USD 2,500 (Report/printing)</p>	USD 28,500
<p>Output 2: Corruption Risk Assessment</p> <p>Baseline: CRA not available</p> <p>Indicator: CRA report completed</p> <p>Target: 1 CRA completed</p> <p>Related CP outcome:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze the degree of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness of key forest governance processes and institutions and the extent to which corruption in the forestry sector acts as a driver of deforestation and forest degradation, - Forecast and prepare for potential corruption under REDD+ including tools and recommendations to address corruption and enhance and sustain good practices 					DoF with UNDP	UN-REDD SNA# 2.6	<p>[71200] USD 17,500 (international consultant)</p> <p>[71300] USD 10,000 (National consultant)</p> <p>[75700] USD 17,500 (Meetings – Validation, 4 x focus group discussions)</p> <p>[72500] USD 5,000 (Report/printing)</p>	USD 42,500

<p>Output 3: Review of Legal and Policy Environment</p> <p>Baseline: No REDD specific review of legal and policy environment available</p> <p>Indicator: Review of Legal and Policy Environment conducted</p> <p>Target: Review of Legal and Policy Environment completed</p> <p>Related CP Outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze land and natural resource tenure and management policies, laws, regulations, institutional issues, and customary practices relevant to REDD+ - Conduct an in-depth review of similar analyses of tenure and benefit sharing regimes (including PES) that have been conducted in other REDD+ countries - Conduct an in-depth case study on a local carbon-finance project, and capture lessons learned related land and NR tenure regimes and benefit sharing; - Identify lessons and potentially scalable approaches to implementing REDD+ from existing carbon financing projects in other REDD+ countries with socio-ecological attributes similar to Malawi - Prepare policy brief and facilitate high level dialogue on resource tenure and REDD+ 					DoF with FAO		<p>USD 56,206 (International consultants)</p> <p>USD \$14,750 (National consultants)</p> <p>USD \$4,040 (International travel)</p> <p>USD \$3,930 (Domestic travel)</p> <p>USD \$18,000 (Meetings and workshops)</p> <p>USD \$3,030 (Miscellaneous)</p>	USD 99,956
<p>Output 4: NFMS Roadmap</p> <p>Baseline: NFMS roadmap not available</p> <p>Indicator: NFMS Roadmap completed/prepared</p> <p>Target: 1 NFMS Roadmap prepared</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory and gap assessment of completed and ongoing efforts to develop data and capacities that contribute to a NFMS - Preliminary design, implementation and management arrangements of the NFMS Pillars (1) Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting 					DoF with FAO	UN-REDD SNA# X	FAO	USD 50,000

Related CP outcome	<p>and Verification (M&MRV) (2) GHG Inventories and (3) National Forest Inventory (NFI) including management and custodial responsibilities for each pillar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trajectory for attainment of tier 2 and 3 status - Country comparisons 								
<p>Output 5: Knowledge Sharing and Awareness Raising</p> <p>Baseline: No knowledge sharing and awareness raising events held</p> <p>Indicator: Knowledge sharing and awareness raising REDD+ events held</p> <p>Target: 2 knowledge sharing and awareness raising events held, and Malawi learns from early movers of REDD+ in the sub-region, and clarifies approaches to address existing challenges and gains inputs to the possible next steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosting of two national exchange events - 1) REDD+ national sensitization event - 2) sub-regional south-south exchange with early movers of REDD+ - 					DoF with UNDP	UN-REDD SNA# X?	<p>Event 1: national stakeholder sensitization event USD 10,000 (meeting)</p> <p>Event 2: sub-regional exchange USD 20,000 (meeting) USD 10,000 (International Travel) *Zambia/Kenya/Tanzania *Lilongwe DSA *TE USD 10,000</p>	USD 30,000
								Sub Total (UNDP)	\$101,000
								Sub Total (FAO)	\$149,956
								Grand Total	\$250,956

Timeline



Appendix 1 - Statement of Work for the Institutional Context Analysis (ICA) to inform the Development of a Participation Strategy for the Malawi REDD+ Program

Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program

The Malawi REDD+ Program (MRP) seeks a short-term technical expert to develop a stakeholder engagement and participation strategy (SEPS). For preparation purposes, the SEPS will be supported by an Institutional Context Analysis (ICA) to inform and facilitate the formulation of the strategy. In order to provide the Implementing Partner with the technical expertise required and conduct the analysis through a neutral and impartial person, it is envisaged to engage a short-term technical expert. Therefore this Statement of Work outlines activities and objectives for a short-term expert (hereafter, SEPS/ICA Short-Term Expert) proficient in the mechanism, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), to develop a SEPS on behalf of the MRP.

Background:

The MRP has made considerable strides over the past two years. Chief among these is the development of a national governance framework to oversee and coordinate Malawi's pursuit of REDD+ readiness and eventual implementation of REDD+. This framework includes a Governance and Policy Technical Working Group (GPTWG) that has been tasked with providing expert guidance to the REDD+ Secretariat and the REDD+ Expert Group on all matters related to governance and policy components of Malawi's pursuit of REDD+ readiness (e.g., crafting of safeguards, vision development, policy review, etc.).

Through this governance structure, the Malawi REDD+ community developed and approved a workplan that details high priority action items that are critical to the program's growth. The workplan features seven sections comprised of thematically similar action items. The REDD+ Governance section is one of these seven and includes thirteen distinct action items. One such action item (1.5.A) is the development of a SEPS.

During the first meeting of the REDD+ Expert Group in December 2012, initial steps were taken by the Malawi REDD+ program to develop certain inputs that will inform the SEPS. The most significant of these steps was an initial effort at inventorying all potential stakeholders who should be engaged in the MRP. At the time, participants understood that this stakeholder inventory process was an initial and incomplete approach and that a more thorough investment would be required to develop a detailed and comprehensive body of work befitting of an inclusive national REDD+ program.

Therefore, the methodology of an Institutional Context Analysis (ICA) has been chosen to provide the necessary information and analysis to inform stakeholder engagement efforts and built on a comprehensive analysis. The term 'institutional and context analysis' refers to analysis that focus on political and institutional factors, as well as processes concerning the use of national and external resources in a given setting and how these have an impact on the implementation of the REDD+ programmes and policy advice. The core of ICA is a focus on how a society's actors, who face varying

incentives and constraints, shape the likelihood of (REDD+) programme success.

Justification:

REDD+'s initial scope as an effort focused solely on forests is obsolete. The concept and mechanism of REDD+ has spread into the larger landscape into which forests are an integral part. The composition of this landscape is not just ecological, but political, social, and economic as well. As REDD+ has evolved to assume considerations of livelihoods and the larger ecosystems of which forests are a part, it has also evolved to demand consultation with the parties that work within these larger landscapes. The success of REDD+ depends, in part, on the genuine engagement of parties from a suite of sectors, including agriculture, wildlife, soils, and more. Therefore the scope of the ICA is considered to be broader and not limited to indigenous people and forest depending communities.

The MRP must make a concerted effort to genuinely engage with and include a judicious sampling of stakeholders as early in the REDD+ readiness phase as possible in the interest of securing buy-in, commitment, and a range of opinions and input that reflect the diverse landscape over which REDD+ will eventually be implemented.

In order to respond to a dynamic process and expanding MRP, it is important to engage with all relevant parties and stakeholders at the very beginning. The MRP needs **(1)** to understand the political and institutional context in which it operates (i.e. distribution of resources, incentives, power-relations) **(2)** an in depth analysis to identify entry points and risks as well as potential for change and areas to be prioritized/attended **(3)** an exhaustive and "living" inventory of those stakeholders that should be engaged by the MRP including a ranking methodology by which stakeholders are ordered according to participation and engagement priority (e.g., those that should be engaged throughout and those that should only be consulted), and **(3)** identification of focal points from these stakeholders that can serve as representatives to the MRP (e.g., to participate in REDD+ Expert Group sessions).

Qualifications of the national expert

The SEPS/ICA Short-Term Technical Expert should have the following skills and experience:

- Proficient in REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC and, in particular, the demands and expectations for comprehensive stakeholder engagement,
- Knowledge of trends from REDD+ literature and leading REDD+ parties (e.g., World Bank FCPF, UN-REDD) concerning stakeholder engagement and participation,
- Familiarity with the sectors and constituent parties involved in Malawi's natural resource management sector,
- Track record in applied political economy analysis, stakeholder engagement, data collection methods (interview, group discussion, questionnaire design)
- Well established network in the Malawi Forest Governance sector and knowledge about the political context in the country;
- Ability to set-up and facilitate meetings and workshops.
- Demonstrated ability to compose clear, accessible reports in a timely manner,

- Experience in stakeholder analysis, and stakeholder engagement strategies (grouping etc.)

Duties and Responsibilities/Objectives

Responsibilities of the SEPS Short-Term Technical Expert are expected to include but will not be limited to the following:

- Liaise with the Malawi REDD+ Advisor to develop a source of action for the tenure of the consultancy,
- Consult extensively with parties engaged in MRP to harvest, share, and verify information on stakeholders (outreach),
- Research trends in REDD+ literature and guidance from leading REDD+ institutions (e.g., World Bank FCPF, UN-REDD, REDD+ Partnership) concerning stakeholder engagement and participation,
- Research attempts by other REDD+ countries to develop stakeholder engagement and participation strategies
- Develop methodologies for data collection in collaboration with stakeholders and MRP
- Draft the analytical report with support from UNREDD+ regional and global team

Expected Deliverables:

Deliverables expected of the SEPS/ICA Short-Term Technical Expert include but may not be limited to the following:

- Stakeholder engagement meetings and consultations with partners are conducted in line with the overall framework of the TS, these will be supported and agreed with the MRP office, UNDP CO, and UNREDD + teams at regional and global level
- Data collection methodology and timeline developed and approved by the Malawi REDD+ advisor, MPR team and other key actors from the reference group.
- Data collected accordingly and provided as an attachment to the report (group discussion interview reports, individual interview reports etc.)
- A final ICA report that includes:
 - o An exhaustive inventory of relevant stakeholders to engage and participate in the MRP extracted from the following sectors:
 - Government of Malawi
 - Civil Society (international, national, regional, district, community)
 - Private Sector (national and international)
 - Media (national)
 - Academia (national)
 - Faith-Based Community (national)
 - Indigenous groups and forest depending communities (IPSO, IPCA)
 - o Ranking of identified stakeholders and a thorough explanation and rationale behind the methodology (i.e., how it works and why it was applied),

- Internal analysis considering incentives, political economy and motivations of stakeholders and/or groups of stakeholders to take part in the REDD+ mechanism. This includes informal institutions as well.
 - Scenario for a stakeholder engagement strategy, risks and determining factors
 - Potential for development/further expansion and recommendation for immediate response/action
 - A detailed plan to update the stakeholder inventory and ranking on a regular basis
- Presentation of findings to the Malawi REDD+ Governance and Policy Technical Working Group followed by a presentation to the REDD+ Expert Group.

Period of Performance

The SEPS Short-Term Expert will be expected to finalize the SEPS/ICA work within 40 days over a period of 4 months.

Position and Location

Position to be based out of Lilongwe or Blantyre with the possibility of travel between these two locations and other areas, including Mzuzu and Zomba.

Communications and Reporting

A Governance Assessment Specialist from the global UNREDD+ Assessments team will support the SEPS/ICA Short-Term Technical Expert. While on assignment, both will be overseen by the Malawi REDD+ Advisor.

Appendix 2-1 - Terms of Reference for International Expert/Consultant [Corruption Risk Assessment]

Term of reference

International Consultant to Conduct Study on Accountability, Transparency and Corruption Risks in the Malawi Forest Governance Sector

Background

The Government of Malawi (GoM) joined the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) in March 2014. As a UN-REDD partner country, the GoM is receiving Targeted Support (TS) from UN-REDD in the interest of contributing to and advancing its pursuit of REDD+ readiness. TS is a UN-REDD mechanism available to partner countries by which financial assistance and technical expertise are provided through a suite of thematic domains that reflect the major elements of a national REDD+ program.

Since its inception in August 2012, the Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program – a joint effort of the GoM, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) - has served as the primary means of support for the MRP. With the support of the MRRP, the MRP has made considerable strides, including the development and implementation of a national REDD+ governance framework, REDD+ study tours to Zambia and Tanzania and an in-country study tour of REDD+ initiatives, the drafting and implementation of a comprehensive REDD+ workplan for 2013 and 2014, and the attainment of partnership status with UN-REDD.

The MRP seeks TS under the Institutional, Governance, and Technical domains. The thematic content of these domains aligns with a number of workplan action items that are critical inputs into a strong and growing national REDD+ program.

A core principle of the MRP is “no regrets REDD+”. Under this approach, the potential for carbon financing is an ancillary end of the pursuit REDD+. In other words, the prospect of securing funds through forest carbon transactions is not the sole impetus for Malawi’s investment in REDD+. Rather, for Malawi, the primary benefits of the pursuit of REDD+ include a range of potential enhancements to institutional, governance, and technical capacities, including scientifically sound monitoring of forest and land use, clarified resource tenure, reform and streamlining of the natural resource policy arena, and improved forest governance. Good forest governance is fundamental to achieving positive and sustained development outcomes, including those gained from REDD+ readiness.

Objective

Guided by the MRP, the international consultant will lead the participatory development of the Malawi REDD+ corruption risk assessment (CRA) as a means to:

- Analyze the degree of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness of key forest governance processes and institutions and the extent to which corruption in the forestry sector acts as a driver of deforestation and forest degradation
- Forecast and prepare for potential corruption under REDD+, and provide recommendations and tools to inform the design of constituent REDD+ elements that should address corruption and enhance and sustain good practices, namely
 - o Policies within the forestry and natural resource management (NRM) sectors,
 - o Safeguards,
 - o A safeguards information system (SIS), and
 - o A national REDD+ strategy.

The Malawi CRA must emphasize that the assessment of forest governance and corruption is not a critique or an indictment for the sake of a critique or indictment; rather, the purpose is to recognize gaps and propose solutions in the interest of strengthening forest governance, highlight and enhance good practices, and better prepare Malawi for its engagement in REDD+.

Scope

Although not exhaustive, the recommended sections for the Malawi CRA are as below:

- 1) Introduction
 - o Objectives and purpose of the CRA
 - o Methods of research
 - Range of methodologies
 - Limitations
 - o Trends in deforestation and forest degradation in Malawi
 - o Status of REDD+ in Malawi
- 2) Context
 - o Historical role of corruption in Malawi's forestry sector
 - o Key developments in forest governance since independence
- 3) Corruption contributing to deforestation and forest degradation in Malawi
 - o Management of Plantation Forests
 - o Management of Forests in and around Protected Areas
 - Department of Forestry
 - Forest Reserves
 - Department of National Parks and Wildlife
 - National Parks
 - Game Reserves
 - Decentralization, Participatory Forest Management and Community Natural Resource Management Committees
 - o Charcoal and Fuelwood
 - o Illegal Logging and Forest Crimes
 - o Forest Land Tenure, Excisions and Evictions

- 4) Potential for and Perceptions of Corruption Risks in REDD+ in Malawi
 - Malawi REDD+ Governance Framework
 - Benefit Distribution
 - Land Use Planning and Clarification of Resource Tenure
 - Role and Integrity of Civil Society and Private Sector
- 5) Actions undertaken or planned by countries with similar REDD+ forest governance and corruption risks, and their relevance for Malawi.
- 6) Implications for REDD+ and Recommendations
 - Policy-making and Policies
 - REDD+ Safeguards and SIS
 - REDD+ Strategy-making, and strategic considerations for policies and measures

Data Collection

The consultant will use the findings of an institutional context analysis developed prior to his/her assignment. In addition, two MRP workplan activities will be implemented concomitantly with and inform the CRA, namely an analysis of direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and a review of resource tenure regimes in Malawi and gap assessment of the natural resource management policy arena under the REDD+ context.

The CRA will use a participatory approach and include consultations as required. Desk review, interviews, workshops and Focus discussion groups will be used. An online survey tool will be made available if deemed by the consultant useful for anonymous data collection at various stages of the data collection process.

Reporting

The consultant will be aided by a national consultant (see TORs below) and received guidance from a Advisory body drawn from the MRP, UNDP Malawi country office's environment and democratic governance team, civil society, academia, media, and private sector from the Malawi REDD+ community that will decide upon the content and methodology of the CRA.

A global UN-REDD Anti-Corruption advisor and Regional UN-REDD Technical advisor will also advise the overall process. Because of the potentially sensitive issues to be raised, a senior person at the UNDP country office will be kept informed and updated.

Tasks and Deliverables

- Provide oversight and direction to the national consultant
- Hold an inception workshop and produce an inception report
- Inputs into the list of key informants for interviews and focus group compositions developed by the national consultant
- Draft interview questionnaires and guidelines for focus group discussions, and finalize it in consultation with Advisory Body
- Lead the conduct of interviews and focus group discussions with the national consultant
- Produce one page summaries of the key findings of the focus group discussions

- Draft a report, as per the draft outline above (with proposed modifications as needed) that will be presented to the working group
- An Executive summary document for communication with wider stakeholders

Duration and Timeline

The assignment is expected to last a total of 50 working days over 4.5 months (18 weeks) - starting in October 2014

Key tasks and deliverables	Tasks to be completed by the end of :
Consultations with MRP	Week 1
Develop draft questionnaires and guidelines for FDGs	Week 2
Inception report	Week 3
Conduct Inception workshop with Advisory Body	week 3
Conduct interviews and FDGs	Week 11
One pager on FGD	Week 11
Draft report	Week 14
Share, disseminate and consult bilaterally with MRP	Week 14
Validation meeting	Week 16
Final report	Week 18

Competencies

- Display cultural, gender, race, and age sensitivity;
- Demonstrate integrity by modeling the United Nations values and ethical standards;
- Display comfort working in politically sensitive situations;
- Have strong oral and written skills;
- Demonstrate research, analysis and report-writing skills;
- Have a good grasp of ICA/political economy analyses;
- Have excellent communication and inter-personal skills, particularly for facilitating discussions on sensitive topics

- Ability to lead the formulation and implementation of projects;
- Fluency in English

Required Skills and Experiences

- PhD or Masters in a relevant discipline, such as Political Science, Development Studies, or Sociology;
- Knowledge of climate change issues and REDD+
- Knowledge about governance and anti-corruption issues, preferably applied to the natural resources sector
 - Knowledge and experience researching and investigating issues of transparency, accountability and integrity in REDD+
 - Knowledge and experience of working in Malawi or the Africa region is preferred
 - Understanding of the work of the UN-REDD Programme and the UN-REDD CRA methodology

Appendix 2-2 - Terms of Reference for National Expert/Consultant [Corruption Risk Assessment]

**Term of reference: National Consultant to Support Study on Governance, Transparency and
Corruption Risks in Malawi**

Background

The Government of Malawi (GoM) joined the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) in March 2014. As a UN-REDD partner country, the GoM is receiving Targeted Support (TS) from UN-REDD in the interest of contributing to and advancing its pursuit of REDD+ readiness. TS is a UN-REDD mechanism available to partner countries by which financial assistance and technical expertise are provided through a suite of thematic domains that reflect the major elements of a national REDD+ program.

Since its inception in August 2012, the Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program – a joint effort of the GoM, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) - has served as the primary means of support for the MRP. With the support of the MRRP, the MRP has made considerable strides, including the development and implementation of a national REDD+ governance framework, REDD+ study tours to Zambia and Tanzania and an in-country study tour of REDD+ initiatives, the drafting and implementation of a comprehensive REDD+ workplan for 2013 and 2014, and the attainment of partnership status with UN-REDD.

The MRP seeks TS under the Institutional, Governance, and Technical domains. The thematic content of these domains aligns with a number of workplan action items that are critical inputs into a strong and growing national REDD+ program.

A core principle of the MRP is “no regrets REDD+”. Under this approach, the potential for carbon financing is an ancillary end of the pursuit REDD+. In other words, the prospect of securing funds through forest carbon transactions is not the sole impetus for Malawi’s investment in REDD+. Rather, for Malawi, the primary benefits of the pursuit of REDD+ include a range of potential enhancements to institutional, governance, and technical capacities, including scientifically sound monitoring of forest and land use, clarified resource tenure, reform and streamlining of the natural resource policy arena, and improved forest governance. Good forest governance is fundamental to achieving positive and sustained development outcomes, including those gained from REDD+ readiness.

Objective

Guided by the MRP, the national consultant will support the international consultant in the participatory development of the Malawi REDD+ corruption risk assessment (CRA) as a means to:

- Analyze the degree of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness of key forest governance processes and institutions and the extent to which corruption in the forestry sector acts as a driver of deforestation and forest degradation
- Forecast and prepare for potential corruption under REDD+, and provide recommendations and tools to inform the design of constituent REDD+ elements that should address corruption and enhance and sustain good practices, namely
 - o Policies within the forestry and natural resource management (NRM) sectors,
 - o Safeguards,
 - o A safeguards information system (SIS), and
 - o A national REDD+ strategy.
 - o

The Malawi CRA must emphasize that the assessment of forest governance and corruption is not a critique or an indictment for the sake of a critique or indictment; rather, the purpose is to recognize gaps and propose solutions in the interest of strengthening forest governance, highlight and enhance good practices, and better prepare Malawi for its engagement in REDD+.

Scope

Although not exhaustive, the recommended sections for the Malawi CRA are as below:

- 7) Introduction
 - o Objectives and purpose of the CRA
 - o Methods of research
 - Range of methodologies
 - Limitations
 - o Trends in deforestation and forest degradation in Malawi
 - o Status of REDD+ in Malawi
- 8) Context
 - o Historical role of corruption in Malawi's forestry sector
 - o Key developments in forest governance since independence
- 9) Corruption contributing to deforestation and forest degradation in Malawi
 - o Management of Plantation Forests
 - o Management of Forests in and around Protected Areas
 - Department of Forestry
 - Forest Reserves
 - Department of National Parks and Wildlife
 - National Parks
 - Game Reserves
 - Decentralization, Participatory Forest Management and Community Natural Resource Management Committees
 - o Charcoal and Fuelwood
 - o Illegal Logging and Forest Crimes
 - o Forest Land Tenure, Excisions and Evictions
- 10) Potential for and Perceptions of Corruption Risks in REDD+ in Malawi
 - o Malawi REDD+ Governance Framework

- Benefit Distribution
 - Land Use Planning and Clarification of Resource Tenure
 - Role and Integrity of Civil Society and Private Sector
- 11) Actions undertaken or planned by countries with similar REDD+ forest governance and corruption risks, and their relevance for Malawi.
- 12) Implications for REDD+ and Recommendations
- Policy-making and Policies
 - REDD+ Safeguards and SIS
 - REDD+ Strategy-making, and strategic considerations for policies and measures

Reporting

The consultant will be form a team with an international consultant (see TORs above) and receive guidance from an Advisory body drawn from the MRP, UNDP Malawi country office’s environment and democratic governance team, civil society, academia, media, and private sector from the Malawi REDD+ community that will decide upon the content and methodology of the CRA.

A global UN-REDD Anti-Corruption advisor and Regional UN-REDD Technical advisor will also advise the overall process. Because of the potentially sensitive issues to be raised, a senior person at the UNDP country office will be kept informed and updated.

Tasks and Deliverables

- Provide local context and information to the international consultant
- Support the organization of the inception workshop and provide inputs into the inception report
- Develop a list of key informants for interviews and focus group compositions
- Support the smooth conduct of interviews and focus group discussions with the international consultant
- Provide substantive inputs into the summaries of FGDs
- Support the organization of the dissemination meetings and validation workshop
- Provide substantive inputs to the draft and final CRA reports

Duration and Timeline

The assignment is expected to last a total of 50 working days over 4.5 months (18 weeks) - starting in October 2014

Key tasks and deliverables	Tasks to be completed by the end of :
Consultations with MRP	Week 1

Develop draft questionnaires and guidelines for FDGs	Week 2
Inception report	Week 3
Support Inception workshop with Advisory Body	week 3
Support interviews and FDGs	Week 11
One pagers on FGD	Week 11
Contributions to draft report	Week 14
Share, disseminate and consult bilaterally with MRP	Week 14
Validation meeting	Week 16
Contributions to final report	Week 18

Competencies

- Display cultural, gender, race, and age sensitivity;
- Demonstrate integrity by modeling the United Nations values and ethical standards;
- Display comfort working in politically sensitive situations;
- Have good oral and written skills;
- Demonstrate research and analytical skills;
- Have a good grasp of ICA/political economy analyses;
- Have excellent communication and inter-personal skills, particularly for facilitating discussions on sensitive topics
- Ability to support the formulation and implementation of projects;
- Fluency in English

Required Skills and Experiences

- Studies in a relevant discipline, such as Political Science, Development Studies, or Sociology;
- Knowledge of climate change issues and REDD+
- Knowledge about governance and anti-corruption issues, preferably applied to the natural resources sector

- Knowledge and experience researching and investigating issues of transparency, accountability and integrity in REDD+
- Knowledge and experience of working in Malawi or the Africa region is preferred
- Understanding of the work of the UN-REDD Programme and the UN-REDD CRA methodology

Appendix 3 – Statement of Work for the Development of a Terms of Reference for the Malawi NFMS Custodial Institution

STATEMENT OF WORK

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Readiness Program Malawi Department of Forestry Lilongwe, Malawi

The US Forest Service, International Programs (USFS/IP), as a part of the work program of US Agency for International Development (USAID) Malawi, seeks a short-term technical expert to develop a terms of reference (ToR) for a custodial institutions for a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) on behalf of the Malawi REDD+ program and the Government of Malawi. This Statement of Work outlines activities and objectives for a short-term expert (hereafter, NFMS ToR) skilled in the technical aspects of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) to work out of the Malawi Department of Forestry.

Background

In the past year, there has been an extraordinary increase in requests, interest and investment in national forest inventories, forest monitoring, forest carbon estimations, forest resource assessments, and related efforts toward REDD+ readiness in Malawi. This increased interest reflects the important linkages between forest resources, economic development, food security and climate change in the region, where forests provide livelihoods and ecosystem services for millions of people.

Improved understanding and monitoring of forest resources for REDD+ can increase access to emerging financing mechanisms such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Forest Investment Program (FIP), and UN-REDD. In addition to the clear climate change mitigation benefits of REDD+ preparation activities, improved forest monitoring and management has clear adaptation benefits: increased resilience to natural disasters, and increased adaptive capacity to threats such as forest fires, flooding, drought and loss of biodiversity.

At the request of the Government of Malawi, a long-term REDD+ advisor has been provided to assist in launching a national REDD+ Readiness effort and the development of a draft national REDD+ strategy. The Government has also requested short-term technical experts to provide on-the-ground advising and training on select REDD+ components. A key area of need in Malawi’s pursuit of REDD+ Readiness is the designation of an institution (or, institutions) that can serve as a long-term custodian of Malawi’s national forest monitoring system (NFMS). A first step in this process is the development of a terms of reference (ToR) for this institution.

The design, implementation, and maintenance of an NFMS is a sizable undertaking requiring significant investments in time, resources, and skill. An NFMS is the most important piece of technical infrastructure

for a national REDD+ program; it is the mechanism through which all data are developed, analyzed, and managed over time. The NFMS will produce the data that will ultimately be submitted for verification under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), both in compliance with greenhouse gas emissions monitoring and for forest carbon emissions under REDD+. A considerable degree of responsibility is vested in the NFMS and, appropriately, the same amount of responsibility must be vested in the institution or institutions that manage the NFMS. A short list of expectations for the custodial institution of a NFMS might include overseeing the establishment of and adherence to data standards and formats; ensuring data coherence, comparability, and consistency over time; coordinating data development and analysis efforts across various parties; and observing robust data management procedures over the long-term.

As detailed in the Malawi REDD+ program workplan, a critical input for the Malawi REDD+ program (MRP) is a ToR that clearly articulates the roles and responsibilities of a NFMS custodial institution. Such a ToR is necessary as it will help the MRP to **(1)** identify candidate institutions within Malawi that may fit all or some of the qualifications, **(2)** focus development efforts on a particular institution, and **(3)** provide clear guidance by which the MRP and development partners can support, measure, and monitor the growth of an institution so that it can meet all required qualifications over time.

This technical detail will have two primary outputs: work with a suite of stakeholders in Malawi to (1) develop a ToR for a NFMS custodial institution in Malawi, (2) recommend an appropriate institution in Malawi to serve as the NFMS custodial institution, and (3) recommend an appropriate focal point within that institution to serve as the point-of-contact and representative on all matters related to Malawi's NFMS.

Qualifications

- I. The NFMS ToR Short-Term Technical Expert should have the following skills and experience:
 - A master's degree or equivalent experience in forestry, natural resource management, climate change studies/management, forest inventories, or a related field,
 - Expertise in the scientific and technical inputs of REDD+ and greenhouse gas inventories, including NFMS; measurement, reporting and verification (MRV); national forest inventories (NFI); forest reference emissions levels/forest reference levels (FREL/FRL),
 - Sound knowledge of the phased approach to REDD+ and the tiered gradation of NFMS capacity and the attributes that define each phase and tier,
 - Extensive experience and demonstrated expertise in one or more of the key technical skills that underpin REDD+ and greenhouse gas inventories, namely geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, and field sampling for forest inventories,
 - Demonstrated expertise in the design and implementation of protocols and standards related to data development, analysis, management and sharing,
 - Ability to effectively communicate technically-dense material to non-technical audiences,

Duties and Responsibilities/Objectives

Responsibilities of the NFMS ToR Short-Term Technical Expert are expected to include but will not be limited to the following.

- Review previous reports from USFS technical details (e.g., NFI and GIS/RS) and consult the respective detailers as necessary,
- Liaise with the Malawi REDD+ Advisor to develop a workplan for the detail that will focus on crafting a ToR for a NFMS custodial institution in consultation with a suite of stakeholders, including:
 - o **Government of Malawi:** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management (MECCM), Department of Forestry (DoF), Forest Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM), Department of Surveys (DoS), Land Resources Conservation Department (LRCD), National Statistics Office (NSO), Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), and Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)
 - o **Academia:** Mzuzu University, Chancellor College, Bunda College (LUANAR)
 - o **Civil Society:** Total Land Care (TLC), Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust (MMCT), Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA)
 - o **Private Sector:** Centre for Development Management (CDM),
- Work with the DoF and FRIM on a daily basis and other stakeholders as necessary,

Expected Deliverables

Deliverables expected of the SDS Short-Term Technical Expert include but may not be limited to the following.

- **Draft ToR** for a Malawian NFMS custodial institution that includes
 - o A graduated ToR scale specific to the three NFMS Tiers (i.e., the NFMS ToR is divided into three parts with each including the ToR capacities that define and are specific to each Tier)
 - o A recommended custodial institution for Malawi's NFMS, and
 - o A recommended NFMS focal point from this recommended institution,
- Within one week of completing technical detail, complete a **report** that includes the following:
 - o NFMS ToR with detailed rationale for inclusion of each component, including definitions (as necessary) with ToR components separated by NFMS Tier,
 - o Recommended NFMS custodial institution and attendant rationale
 - o Recommended NFMS focal point and attendant rationale and ToR for the focal point
 - o Details on consultation process observed to develop and finalize ToR and inform recommendations

Period of Performance

A continuous, two-session technical detail that lasts for four, uninterrupted weeks is desired in the interest of sustaining stakeholder engagement. The first session of the NFMS ToR technical detail will begin on Monday, 24 March, 2014 and continue for two full weeks to Friday, 4 April, 2014. The second session will ideally commence immediately thereafter and run through Friday, 18 April, 2014.

Position and Location

Position to be based out of Lilongwe, Malawi with potential for frequent travel to the field and to Zomba.

Communications and Reporting

The NFMS ToR Short-Term Technical Expert, while on assignment, will work closely with the Malawi REDD+ Advisor.

Interested candidates should send their CV to the program coordinator, Christa Anderson, and the REDD+ Advisor, John Kerkering before February 21, 2014.

Candidates should have their supervisor's approval to apply to the mission. It is anticipated that a final candidate will be selected by 28.

REDD+ Advisor, USFS-IP: Yoel Kirschner malawi.redd.advisor@gmail.com

East Africa Regional Advisor, USFS-IP: John Kerkering johnkerkering@fs.fed.us

IP Program Coordinator: Damian Rawoot damiannrawoot@fs.fed.us

Appendix 4 – Draft Terms of Reference for UN-REDD event in Malawi

Terms of Reference for Proposed UN-REDD Event in Malawi

DRAFT

30 April, 2014

Introduction

In December 2013, a delegation from the Malawi REDD+ Program (MRP) participated in the 11th Policy Board session of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) in Geneva, Switzerland. At this event, representatives of the MRP and UN-REDD discussed the possibility of holding UN-REDD event in Malawi in early 2014. Malawi was officially welcomed as a UN-REDD partner country on 17 March, 2014, thus allowing for formal discussions and planning for a possible, in-country UN-REDD event to proceed.

Justification

The MRP has made considerable strides over the past two years. Through the Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program (MRRP) and other efforts, the pursuit of REDD+ in Malawi has grown and evolved from a nascent, localized initiative to a national-scale program defined by a clear governance structure, workplan, and vision. Malawi is now a partner country of UN-REDD, a member of the REDD+ Partnership, has embarked on a number of regional REDD+ study tours, and has designated a National REDD+ Focal Point and an official REDD+ negotiation team to the UNFCCC. Further, the MRP has launched an ambitious effort to develop a zero-draft national REDD+ strategy by August 2014 which requires further elaboration reinforcing essential building blocks.

In-country awareness and understanding of REDD+ under the UNFCCC and its implications for Malawi have grown in kind with the progress of the MRP. Significant work remains in building proficiency in some of the finer details of the REDD+ mechanism and related concepts, primarily carbon financing and climate change. A concerted investment in the cultivation of such proficiencies – especially among a broader, in-country audience than the ones that have been targeted to date – is requisite for REDD+ to secure genuine, cross-sectoral traction and long-term viability in Malawi. A UN-REDD event would provide a touchstone moment for such an investment, offering an ideal platform to facilitate enhanced appreciation and knowledge of REDD+ across targeted audiences. The onus would then be on the MRP to build upon the gains of the event and carry them forward, recognizing that, over the long term, an intensive and concerted awareness-raising and education campaign is required. Further, the event would coincide with and inform the launch of a national-scale, REDD+ communication strategy.

Purpose

The purpose of the UN-REDD event will be to hold an in-country awareness-raising and education effort that features UN-REDD experts and representatives from seasoned REDD+ programs that (1) builds appreciation and understanding of REDD+ for a broader audience and (2), at the same time, sharpens the knowledge of certain technical and governance aspects of REDD+ for target audiences.

Proposed Agenda

The following are proposed as agenda items for the event:

General

Scheduled for the first day, presentations and discussions targeted toward political and media representatives who have little to no knowledge of or a passing familiarity with REDD+ and carbon financing.

- **Presentation: Introduction to the REDD+ Concept**
 - o The evolution, and status of REDD+ in the context of international negotiations focused on climate change and climate change mitigation.
 - Background on climate change and the launch and development of the UNFCCC.
 - The establishment and role of REDD+ institutions such as UN-REDD and the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.
 - A diagnosis of and prognosis for REDD+ that highlights the growth of country engagements, the role of multilateral and bilateral partners, the status of carbon financing, and the evolution of REDD+ into a broader, natural resource management mechanism.
 - The parallel development of “REDD+” within the voluntary carbon market and the distinctions, similarities, and complementarities between the various REDD+-related schemes (e.g., VCS, Plan Vivo, etc.) and REDD+ under the UNFCCC.
- **Presentation: Introduction to the role of REDD+ beyond carbon financing and forestry**
 - o The evolution of RED to REDD+ and the emphasis on an ecosystem/landscape-scale approach to natural resource management. An overview of ‘no regrets’ REDD+ that highlights the transformative and potentially catalyzing effects of REDD+.
- **Forum: Country perspectives on challenges and successes of building and sustaining a national REDD+ program**
 - o Representatives from established REDD+ countries – ideally from regional countries with similar socio-ecological conditions (e.g., Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya) – share takeaways, lessons learned, and recommendations on establishing and nurturing a national REDD+ program.

Targeted

Scheduled for the second two days, presentations and discussions targeted toward representatives of civil society, academia, private sector and the development community who have been engaged in the Malawi REDD+ process.

- **Challenges and Lessons Learned Associated with Intra-Government and Cross-Sectoral Collaboration**
 - o A presentation and forum that highlights the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation across government institutions and non-government sectors through country examples of successes and challenges. In the interest of broadening the appeal

of the material, the content will focus on multiple thematic areas within REDD+, including governance (i.e., policy overlaps, conflicting mandates), science and technical (i.e., access to data across institutions, harmonizing of standards), and communications.

- **The Role of Civil Society, Academia, and the Private Sector in REDD+**
 - o A presentation and forum that features representatives of civil society, academia, and the private sector from regional REDD+ countries, ideally Zambia and Tanzania, that highlight idealized and actual roles of these sectors in their respective country programs.
- **Design, Implementation, and Management of a National Forest Monitoring System**
 - o A presentation and forum that illustrates the composition of a NFMS; the processes required to construct, launch, and sustain a NFMS over time and scales; and provides examples of NFMS design from other countries.
- **REDD+ Implementation at the Community Level**
 - o Presentation and forum on approaches from the implementation of REDD+ at the community scale and the scaling up of “takeaways” and lessons learned to the national level, including the coverage of
 - Benefit sharing mechanisms,
 - Education and awareness raising of REDD+ and associated concepts (e.g., climate change, carbon financing, ecosystem services),
 - Marketing of REDD+ beyond carbon financing (i.e., promotion of ecosystem services and community-based natural resource management),
 - Inclusion of communities into technical endeavors (e.g., forest inventories), and
 - Challenges and successes associated with the decentralization of governance
- **REDD+ Strategy Design and Implementation**
 - o Presentation and forum on lessons learned from the drafting, modification, and implementation of a national REDD+ strategy that includes representatives from regional REDD+ countries and multilateral institutions.
 - o Strategies (and associated lessons learned) from REDD+ countries with
 - Low forest cover and high deforestation rates
 - Strong population pressures
 - Widespread reliance on charcoal/fuelwood for energy.

Objectives

The objectives of the event are as follows:

- To hold a three-day, UN-REDD event in Malawi where the first day’s agenda seeks to raise awareness and understanding of REDD+ among a target audience of Malawi’s higher political tier and media and the second and third days seek to cultivate proficiency in specific governance and scientific/technical aspects among a target audience of technical experts within academia, Government of Malawi, civil society, and the private sector,
 - To secure full-length articles on the Malawi REDD+ Program in *The Nation* and the *Daily Times*
- To hold presentations and forums that are moderated by leaders of the Malawi REDD+ program