

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(Issue Date: 21 April 2011)

<b>Organization</b>	<b>UNEP/UN-REDD</b>
<b>Duty Station</b>	<b>Kinshasa, DRC</b>
<b>Functional Title</b>	<b>Social and Environmental Expert</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>6 Months (Renewable up to 24 months)</b>
<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>9 May 2011</b>

### Introduction

The Democratic Republic of Congo has fully embarked on a process towards REDD+ readiness with financial and technical support from the UN-REDD Programme and the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. A key pillar for the REDD+ readiness process is the due consideration of social and environmental dimensions, both in terms of managing risks (safeguards) and of integrating benefits (multiple benefits of REDD+, beyond carbon management and climate mitigation). The importance of social and environmental dimensions of REDD+ was further solidified by the Decision 1/CP.16 taken at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's meeting in Cancun, Mexico in the section C. 69. This paragraph notes that the implementation of activities for REDD+ should be carried out in accordance with Annex 1 to that Decision, and that safeguards in paragraph 2 in Annex 1 should be promoted and supported.

Since 2009, the DRC REDD+ readiness process has made efforts through the active role of representatives from civil society, forest peoples and non-governmental stakeholders to bring to the fore, issues relating to social and environmental safeguards and benefits. A number of activities are on-going in the DRC which have relevance to the development of a coherent framework for addressing social and environmental issues which will arise as a result of the application of REDD+ strategies.

At the global level a process of formulating a set of principles and criteria on social and environmental aspects will provide the UN-REDD Programme with a framework to ensure activities do promote social and environmental benefits and reduce risks from REDD+ and assist reviewers of national programmes to evaluate potential impacts and support countries in operationalising the Cancun Agreements' guidance and safeguards for REDD+.



## **Conceptual basis**

The rationale and requirements to limit negative consequences of human actions in terms of their social and environmental risks and benefits and to enhance potential benefits is well documented and have been brought up early in the evolution of the REDD+ mechanism. These have been described in scholarly articles, practical implementation guides and through the development of various standards where methodologies include criteria and indicators for safeguards for REDD+ such as those developed by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) (<http://www.climatestandards.org/redd+/index.html>) and the Climate and Land Use Alliance through the Voluntary Carbon Standards (<http://www.vcs.org>). Operational safeguards (principles, criteria, etc.) are required by multilateral agencies funding REDD+ readiness such as the World Bank through its Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the African Development Bank and the Interim REDD+ Partnership.

## **UN-REDD Programme in the DRC**

The DRC REDD+ Programme has established a National Coordination (CN-REDD) to implement a coordinated action plan, with a consolidated budget for the realization of REDD+. The country's REDD+ Readiness Plan (R-PP) document describes the readiness plan for REDD+. Activities are structured around four components; the first three cover the preparation phase and the fourth component initiates the investment phase. The national process for REDD+ is progressing rapidly, with the involvement of national partners from government, civil society, academia and the private sector. Funded activities are vetted by the partners, implemented based on jointly defined terms of references, and submitted to testing and evaluation by national REDD+ authorities. As part of the preparation phase, a social and environmental expert with good technical depth is deemed indispensable.

## **Social and Environmental Expert**

The national REDD+ strategy is expected to be available by end of 2012. Numerous processes are underway, and intermediary outputs are being delivered, to feed into the elaboration of this strategy. UNEP's UN-REDD team has been contributing most notably in the areas of multiple benefits and risks (i.e. environmental values of REDD+ beyond carbon), as well as on the thinking around cross-sectoral transformations (i.e. using REDD+ as an opportunity for fundamental policy and institutional reforms to transit towards a green economy for the forest and related land sectors).

The social and environmental expert will lead a structured and high quality process of consultation, whilst keeping pace with progress in other REDD+ components such as the REDD+ strategy, pilot studies and institutional support. This expert is to be based in Kinshasa, DRC, and within the office of the National Coordination REDD (CN-REDD), in order to optimize the potential for capacity building and the quality of stakeholder engagement and participation.

The expert will ensure a high level of coherence among the different ongoing efforts such as the strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA), the social and environmental standards that are being developed, the approval process for REDD+ projects and the development of the monitoring framework to ensure that these benefits and risks will be clearly and meaningfully

incorporated into the national REDD+ strategy, and into a wider, transformative vision for the country.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **1. Building knowledge and stakeholder engagement in social and environmental dimensions for REDD+**

- 1.1. To provide technical leadership and a coherent vision on environmental and social standards and safeguards for REDD+ in the DRC, at the different levels (REDD+ strategy, REDD+ investment programmes, preliminary social and environmental standards, REDD+ projects and initiatives).
- 1.2. To raise awareness and provide training on social and environmental dimensions of REDD+ to key stakeholders.
- 1.3. To ensure stakeholder engagement and dialogue when building the social and environmental framework.

### **2. Managing social and environmental risks and multiple benefits of REDD+ in the DRC**

- 2.1. Infuse the REDD+ strategy development process, which is to be intensively built in 2011-2012, and finalized by the end of 2012; (and the 'sub-strategies' being developed for the investment phase – e.g. FIP) with environmental and social aspects, including the management of risks and the integration of multiple benefits. This includes addressing respect for rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and significant social and biodiversity benefits, ecosystem services and biodiversity are maintained and enhanced.
- 2.2. Ensure a coordinated, coherent and pragmatic approach to the development of the environmental and social standards specific to REDD+ activities in DRC. These will evaluate programmes of policies and measures across broader landscapes as well as site based projects.
- 2.3. Manage the design and set up of an integrated management system to monitor, report and verify the risks management and multiple benefits related to the implementation of the future REDD+ strategy in the social, governance, environment and economic fields. This includes building on all components produced above and other relevant inputs<sup>1</sup>, and coordinate the work of stakeholders in a highly participative manner in order to develop a comprehensive system with control panels, labelled indicators, analytical tools and reporting system. (A 'light', adaptive, flexible and participatory institutional setting is preferred).

### **3. Building the case for cross-sectoral transformation**

- 3.1. Document and communicate the multiple environmental, social, economic and institutional benefits associated to REDD+ in order to build the case for transformation.
- 3.2 Support the CN-REDD, working in liaison with the UN-REDD agencies (notably UNEP's experts) to advance the work begun by the CN-REDD for a shared approach and strong political commitment towards a wider, transformative vision for the forest sector.
- 3.3 Provide support to the senior consultant and the 'Groupes de Coordination Thématiques' (GCT) engaged to work on the thematic areas of transformation.

## **Outputs**

- Comments are provided on preliminary drafts of the REDD+ Strategy, REDD+ Pilot projects, and the REDD+ registry with respect to the appropriate integration of social and environmental issues;
- Synopsis of training or capacity building needs and gaps to identify vulnerability and areas prone to risk where REDD has the potential to change. This should focus on where people lack key livelihood assets, have low levels of education and health and lack power and opportunities to be heard;
- Two training/capacity building workshops are held in 2011 for key stakeholders (e.g., CN-REDD staff, GCTs, Comité National REDD) for REDD+ on social and environmental issues in REDD+;
- With support of the CN-REDD produce a draft proposal and pilot a system for the design and set up of an integrated management system to monitor, report and verify the risks management and multiple benefits of REDD+;
- Provide periodic updates to the UNEP and CN-REDD on findings and reports produced by the Woods Hole Research Institute, RRN, Interns, Comité de Suivi ;and
- Outputs relevant to wider, transformative vision for the forest sector to be defined.

## **Outcomes**

- Adoption and institutionalization of the preliminary standards for environmental and social standards within the REDD+ processes and policies.
- Forest based livelihoods and the poverty reduction potential of the central role of forests in rural livelihoods in the DR Congo are acknowledged, identified and integrated into the REDD+ implementation strategy.
- Benefits of implementation of the REDD+ strategy are optimised while risks are minimised.

## **Reporting**

This is a UNEP-funded position within the UN-REDD Programme for DRC. Overall supervision will be provided by the Coordinator of the DRC's CN-REDD. Technical supervision will be assured by the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of the UN-REDD Programme in DRC and UNEP's focal point for the DRC (UN-REDD programme). Work plan of the consultant and key activities must be undertaken with due consultation and approval of the CN-REDD and UNEP's Focal Point.

## **Time Frame:**

6 months renewable up to 24 months. The incumbent will start as soon as possible. The terms of the contract will be renewable depending on needs and performance.

## **Type of Engagement**

National consultant hired by UNEP.

## **Competencies and expertise**

The candidate needs to fulfill the following conditions:

- University degree at Masters Level in environmental science, rural sociology, public policy, management of natural resources or other relevant discipline;
- Minimum of five years of professional experience ;
- Experience in social and environmental assessment of projects;
- Excellent capacity to synthesize information and think strategically;
- Good writing skills to develop conceptual notes and other operational tools;
- Capacity to interact at the political level with national partners in DRC ;
- Knowledge of the international negotiations with respect to the REDD+ mechanism
- Fluency in French ; and
- Working knowledge of English would be an advantage.

## **Selection criteria**

The candidate will be selected in relation to the following criteria:

- Thorough knowledge of forest and development issues in the DRC as well as stakeholders active in rural development and forests;
- Knowledge and practical experiences with respect to the fields of sustainable development, socio-economic aspects of REDD+, poverty and forest resources, land tenure regimes, causes of deforestation and payments for environmental services and biodiversity ;
- Leadership aptitude, project management skills and professionalism;
- Ability to work in multicultural teams and in within a complex context ;
- Ability to communicate – both written and oral.

1 These activities include the first phase of the social and environmental strategic assessment, WCMC work on spatial analysis, the development of social and environmental standards for REDD+, the research being undertaken by Woods Hole Research Institute, the strategy development, as well as work conducted by FAO (MRV) and UNDP (social principles and risk management tool) and other partners (e.g., Moabi initiative)