

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



UN-REDD Programme: Targeted Support to Bhutan TOR for National Consultant on Development of Anti-corruption Measures (Watershed Management Division, MoAF) Bhutan National REDD+ Readiness Process

1. Background

Corruption hinders efforts to achieve the MDGs by reducing access to services and diverting resources away from investments in infrastructure, institutions and social services. Success in meeting the MDGs will therefore largely depend on the 'quality' of governance and the level of effectiveness, efficiency and equity in resource generation, allocation and management.

Under the UN framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest carbon stocks) is an international financial mechanism that will compensate developing countries for cutting carbon emissions from their forest sector, through the conservation of standing forests and more sustainable forest activities. REDD+ was first proposed as part of the UNFCCC Bali Action plan in 2007, and in December 2010 an agreement on a general REDD+ framework was reached by Parties to the UNFCCC in Cancun. Developing countries are getting ready for REDD+ with bilateral and multilateral support, including the UN-REDD Programme¹.

While REDD+ is attracting momentum and interest, concerns are also being raised because REDD+ countries often face a number of governance challenges, inside and outside the forestry sector. The overall risks of corruption in REDD+, and possible mitigation measures for these risks, were examined during a workshop organized by UNDP with GTZ (now GIZ) at the 14th International Anti-corruption Conference in Bangkok in November 2010. These risks and strategies were also detailed in a UNDP-commissioned report² in November 2010, and addressed in Transparency International's Global Report on Corruption in Climate Change, among other reports. In 2011 the UN-REDD Programme, UNDP's Global Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness (PACDE) and the Asia Pacific Regional Centre organized two regional workshops in Nepal and Thailand, targeting anti corruption and

¹ The UN-REDD Programme is a partnership of FAO, UNDP and UNEP, established in 2008. See www.un-redd.org

² « Staying on Track : Tackling Corruption Risks in Climate Change », UNDP, 2010. Available at http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=3790&Itemid=53

REDD+ practitioners, to raise awareness on the risks of corruption specifically associated with REDD+ in Asia and the Pacific countries and on tools and approaches to counter these risks.

The UN-REDD Programme has integrated activities on anti-corruption as a core element of its five-year Programme Strategy³, supported by its Global programme Framework Document 2011-2015⁴, with UNDP the lead agency. These activities are implemented together with PACDE . They include guidance on institutional frameworks for equitable, transparent and accountable benefit distribution systems in REDD+; strengthening the integrity of fiduciary systems for receiving and disbursement of funds, coordinating anti-corruption activities at the national, regional and international level; and supporting the capacity of multiple stakeholders to jointly mitigate corruption risks.

The UN-REDD Programme is supporting Bhutan through a package of Targeted Support activities to be completed in 2012. Under the UNDP component of these activities, the focus is on the development of anti-corruption measures. This will build on activities and analyses already undertaken by the UN-REDD Programme in Asia-Pacific on this issue. Since one of the objectives of the UN-REDD Programme is to learn lessons that may be more widely applicable, activities undertaken in Bhutan will be coordinated with similar activities in other countries in South Asia.

2. Objective of consultancy

The Objective of the consultancy is to develop proposals that will ensure that the initial National REDD+ Strategy in Bhutan incorporates effective measures to address REDD+ corruption risks that fully reflect national and international requirements.

3. Tasks to be performed

In order to achieve the stated Objective, the following indicative activities are anticipated:

1. Work with the UN-REDD Regional Advisor, UNDP Regional Anti-Corruption Specialist and UNDP Global Specialist on anti-corruption and REDD+ to ensure coordination and methodological consistency of the activities undertaken in Bhutan with those undertaken in Bangladesh and Nepal so as to allow for comparative data and generate lessons from analyses undertaken in Bhutan;
2. Develop a contextualized corruption risk assessment methodology building on existing frameworks/tools including UN REDD programmes, TI's Forest Governance Integrity Risk Assessment manual, etc. in consultation with national UN REDD and the Bhutan Anti-Corruption Commission.

³ Five Year Strategy, UN-REDD Programme, 2011-2015. Available at http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4598&Itemid=53

⁴ « Support to National REDD+ Action : Global Programme Framework Document – 2011-2015 », UN-REDD Programme, 2011, Available at http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=5534&Itemid=53

3. Plan and undertake an assessment of corruption risks for REDD+ in Bhutan, with inputs from key forestry, REDD+ and anti-corruption practitioners in the country, including local communities living in forest areas;
4. Prepare an initial report on corruption risks, including initial proposals for measures to mitigate those risks;
5. Design and implement wide stakeholder consultation process, including a number of sub-national workshops (nominally three), leading to a national consultation workshop, to review and validate the results of the initial assessment (this may be combined with parallel work being undertaken by UNDP/UNREDD on benefit distribution in Bhutan);
6. Based on results from the consultation, prepare a final report (for circulation to all stakeholders) that includes: a prioritized list of corruption risks in REDD+ in Bhutan; proposed measures to mitigate the risks that have been identified as most likely and most detrimental in the short, medium and long term; a preliminary budget and identified responsibilities for implementation of those measures; and extracting lessons that may be applicable in other countries.

4. Output

The outputs will consist of:

- a) A preliminary report (under activity 3, above) to be used as the basis for broad consultation
- b) A final report, incorporating feedback generated through the consultation process, describing corruption risks, proposed measures to mitigate those risks; a preliminary budget for implementation of those measures; and extracting lessons that may be applicable in other countries.

5. Duration and timing

The national consultant will contribute 60 working days to this work, commencing in July, 2012. The first output will be due after 35 working days, and the second output after 55 working days, with an additional 5 days for final revisions and other activities.

6. Qualification

The consultant requires an advanced degree in social science field and a degree or extensive experience in natural resources management is highly desirable. The priority will be given to a consultant with relevant experience in practice or research in the area of participatory management of forests or other natural resources. Demonstrated ability in conducting and managing risk assessments preferably related to corruption, integrity, etc. in the environment sector is an asset.