

# UN-REDD Programme: Targeted Support to Nepal

## TOR for assessment of key policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Nepal, and linkages to national REDD+ process (REDD Cell, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation)

## Nepal National REDD+ Readiness Process

## Background

The REDD+ process in Nepal is advancing mainly under the leadership of the REDD Cell. The work is being carried out in three main areas primarily under the funding provided by the FCPF: 1) analytical work on reference levels and MRV; 2) analytical work on carbon rights; 3) Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA); and 4) political economy analysis. Most of this work is at an early stage but likely to progress significantly over the next year[[1]](#footnote-1). The REDD Cell is also coordinating inputs into the strategy process from pilot REDD+ activities and existing development partner activities that focus on forest sector development at the local and regional level (e.g. the Hariyo Ban Project). Over the next year the government is planning to try and draw these different aspects together in order to start to build the national REDD+ strategy.

A number of gaps in the current strategy development process have been identified by the REDD Cell and other stakeholders. One of these surrounds more detailed analytical work on identifying the drivers of deforestation and degradation, building on the initial analysis carried out as part of the R-PP development process. Such an analysis is likely to be important for Nepal in order for the country to develop effective policies and measures to address deforestation and degradation, and enable it to respond adequately to the UNFCCC agreements on REDD+. Addressing these drivers is also important for the country, as the conservation of forests and associated resources are an important part of national development objectives. Considerable work has been undertaken on the drivers of deforestation in Nepal, and at least one study is near completion that will feed into the REDD+ process.

This work will build from the existing knowledge on drivers of deforestation and degradation, to look in more detail at a number of policies and measures that could be implemented in the context of the REDD+ strategy process. At the same time it will analyse how effectively the current strategy development process is taking into account drivers in different regions of the country. This should provide recommendations in terms of the areas in which the strategy process can be strengthened to make it more effective in addressing drivers. It will also provide material that can feed into a more comprehensive outline within the future REDD+ strategy of the policies and measures that Nepal might implement to address drivers.

## Objective of consultancy

The Objective of this work is to:

* Evaluate in detail a number of policies and measures that can be implemented to address priority drivers of deforestation in Nepal, building from existing studies on the drivers for deforestation and degradation;
* Identify where and how gaps between the REDD+ policy process and strategies to address drivers can be addressed;
* Propose recommendations that can be used to elaborate the priority policies and measures as part of the REDD+ strategy process.

## Tasks to be performed

To achieve the stated Objective, the following indicative activities are anticipated:

* Carry out a desk review to take stock of any existing information and data on drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the Terai (and other regions as appropriate, tbd), covering all categories of forests;
* Building on recommendations from existing work on drivers, determine which drivers are a priority to be addressed and the potential responses being suggested (policies and measures);
* Evaluate the different policies and measures that may be implemented in order to address priority drivers (focusing on a 2-3 main policies and measures) from an effectiveness, efficiency and equity perspective (including, where possible a robust economic analysis that can feed into the strategy and which complements the finance/benefit sharing study). In addition to evaluating existing studies, the prioritization process should also draw on inputs from key stakeholders;
* Prepare a draft report that details the analysis and proposes short- to mid-term policy options for implementing policies and measures in the context of the REDD+ strategy;
* Conduct national consultation meetings at national and regional levels on the draft report to seek stakeholders’ inputs and support;
* Improve the draft report based on inputs received from the stakeholder consultation meetings;
* Participate in the national and regional validation meetings organized by the REDD Cell and UN-REDD Programme to ensure stakeholders’ buy-in and actions on assessment findings, policy options and recommendations; and
* Submit a final version of the report incorporating all inputs and pledged actions by stakeholders from the national and regional validation meetings.

## Outputs (payment proportion)

1. Work plan, outline including key issues to be covered, methodology and list of people/organisations to be interviewed (25%)
2. Assessment and first draft (25%)
3. Improved draft including consultation report annexes based on two consultations (national and local) (20%)
4. Participation in validation meeting and final draft incorporating meeting findings (30%)

## Duration and Indicative Timing

This work will require approximately 60 days, commencing in October 2012, and the overall timeframe of this work is six months. The first output will be due after 30 working days of commencement, and the second output after three months. The third output should be delivered within five months.

## Qualifications

The contracted organization should have a lead expert with at least an advanced degree in forestry, forestry governance or related field. The priority will be given to an entity with relevant experience in research in the area of forest governance, combined with experience in facilitating multi-stakeholder consultations at national and local levels. Demonstrated ability in assessing laws and policies related to economics, governance and social impacts of forest management is highly desirable.

1. In the main, TORs for these pieces of work have been produced but no actual work has been carried out [↑](#footnote-ref-1)