

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) to support the Lao National REDD+ Program, the REDD+ Taskforce, and the REDD+ Division**

#### **Governance, Forest Landscapes and Livelihoods (GFLL) - Northern Laos**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

The Emissions Reduction (ER) Programme of Lao PDR embodies the Government of Lao PDR's (GoL) commitment to reforming land use, enhancing forest restoration and protection. The GoL embraces REDD+ as the opportunity for transforming rural land use, from opportunistic revenue generation at the cost of natural resources, to strategic and efficient land use delivered through participatory and integrated planning design. The ER Programme (ER-P) launches the implementation phase of the National REDD+ Programme and is designed as a strategic and scalable foundation for addressing the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions beyond business as usual. Key direct drivers interplay with a set of complex underlying drivers. The direct drivers include permanent agriculture expansion, shifting cultivation, illegal and unsustainable timber harvesting and infrastructure development. The interventions of the ER Programme correspond to each of the four main drivers.

The GoL has participated in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) since May 2008. The FCPF manages two different multi-donor funds - the Fund for REDD+ Readiness Preparation Support and the Carbon Fund. Lao PDR was provided with a REDD+ Readiness Preparation grant in November 2011, which supports analytical work including the development of the REDD+ strategy, relevant legal and regulatory frameworks, capacity development including training and workshops, stakeholder consultations, communication campaigns, and awareness-raising. The FCPF Readiness has contributed to developing Lao PDR's capacity to receive REDD+ investments. One such international investment for REDD+ is from the ER-P through results-based payments from the FCPF Carbon Fund.

The GoL has prepared Six Provincial REDD+ Action Plans (PRAPs) and an Emission Reductions Program Document (ER-PD). The ER-PD was approved by the FCPF Carbon Fund Participant Committee in June 2018, with conditional acceptance of the ER-PD into the portfolio of both Tranche A and Tranche B of the Carbon Fund. The ER-PD proposes a strategy for successfully implementing REDD+ and opportunities to receive results-based payments. The conditional acceptance of the ER-PD into the portfolio requires the GoL to address several key areas to fully comply with the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework. The Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) negotiations were completed in December 2020 and the Conditions of Effectiveness were met in December 2021.

The Department of Forestry (DoF) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is the Emission Reduction Program Entity, as approved by the World Bank's FCPF for the first sub-national emission reduction program in Lao PDR titled Governance, Forest Landscapes and Livelihoods – Northern Laos (GFLL).

The Program covers an area of 8.1 million hectares of six provinces located in northern Lao PDR, which includes Bokeo, Huaphan Luang Namtha, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, and Sayaburi. The Program stems from a strong analysis and understanding of the main direct and underlying drivers of forest loss. The area constitutes approximately one-third of both the country's geographical and forest area, with a population of 1.8 million people and where the dominant land use designation is

forest. Each province in the GFLL program area shares an international border with one of the surrounding countries of Thailand, Myanmar, China and Vietnam.

Northern Lao PDR is characterized by mountainous topography, remote accessibility and limited public and industrial infrastructure, unique ethnic minority communities, and a persistent prevalence of poverty – as well as extensive degradation and loss of forest. The area hosts important watersheds feeding major tributaries, including the Mekong River.

The Lao REDD+ program has made significant progress and has already endorsed its National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), developed its Reference Emission Level and Forest Reference Level (REL/FRL), continues to strengthen the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) through an approved roadmap, and has established its Safeguards Information System (SIS). In addition a Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) and a communication and outreach strategy has already been prepared.

The GFLL is now operational and is looking for a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) who would provide support to the Lao National REDD+ Program, The CTA would also develop a framework for 2023-2025; Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2023-2025; Annual Work Plan 2023-2025; and, a Procurement Plan 2023-2025.

## **2. OBJECTIVE OF ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of the assignment is to provide strategic advice on the operationalization of the GFLL and to develop a long-term framework, plans and a roadmap to ensure the readiness of the REDD+ Division to manage results-based payments and preparation of the First Emission Reduction Monitoring report to the Carbon Fund.

## **3. SCOPE OF WORK AND MAIN TASKS**

The duties and responsibilities of the CTA include the following:

- Review key documents, hold preliminary meetings with the REDD+ Division and prepare a work plan for the assignment.
- Review overall ERPA guidelines on requirements for receiving advanced and results-based payments for Measurement Reporting and Verification, safeguards, Benefit Sharing Plan, carbon and non-carbon benefits, and others.
- Lead and support the preparation of the annexures 1 to 3 of the ER Monitoring Report under ERPA requirements.
- Prepare annual and other reports that are requested by REDD+ Division and/or Department of Forestry;
- Undertake consultations with government ministries and agencies and key development partners.
- Lead and support the preparation of the WB Mission, including guiding other key consultants for the preparation of their presentation and topics for discussions;
- Prepare an main annual plan and budget throughout 2025 and a planning framework up to 2025.
- Prepare work plans for Measurement Reporting and Verification, safeguards, Benefit Sharing Plan, and other identified requirements.
- Develop a process in consultation with key development partners and prepare guidance, protocols, and framework for integration of Project Management Unit (PMUs) and work plans.

- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework with indicators.
- Identify technical assistance and staff requirements.
- [Develop key technical consultants' Terms of References and take part in the selection of certain consultant, if required.](#)
- Undertake other tasks as required to meet the objectives of the assignment.

#### **4. DELIVERABLES**

The CTA will provide the following deliverables:

- Strategy Paper on Approach to Planning and Readiness for the First ER Monitoring Report.
- Planning Framework 2023-2025 for the project.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2023-2025.
- Procurement Plan 2023-2025.
- Work Plan and Budget 2023-2025.
- ToRs for Technical Assistance.

#### **5. EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

The candidate for the position of CTA should have the following experience and qualifications:

- At least a Master's Degree in Environmental Economics, Climate Finance, Applied Social Science, Environment Science, Forestry Science or in another related field.
- Minimum of seven to ten years of experience in work related to senior/middle management and advisory/technical position in Lao PDR.
- Familiar with project design, management, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Knowledge of the Lao PDR Government system/institutions and familiarity with forestry sector institutions including the Department of Forestry/REDD+ Division.
- Familiarity with Lao PDR emission reduction project and with key development partners engaged with the emission reduction project.
- Excellent spoken and written skills in English.
- Intermediate knowledge of the Lao language.
- Flexibility and ability to work and deliver high-quality products in a timely manner.

*Presence in Vientiane, Lao PDR is an essential requirement for this assignment.*

#### **6. DUTY STATION AND DURATION**

The CTA will report to the National Project Coordinator, REDD+ Division of the Department of Forests (DoF) in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The duty station will be Vientiane. The duration of this assignment would be from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 (12 person-months) with possible annual contract extension base on work performance.