

Fixed-term consultancy: Regional Technical Advisor Forest and Markets – Asia Pacific

Location: Home-based (South East Asia time zone)

Context: WCMC works in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on UN-REDD Programme support to nationally led REDD+ processes, promoting the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in REDD+ implementation. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) was agreed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to create financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. The UN-REDD programme supports nationally led REDD+ processes to curb deforestation and forest degradation, which accounts for approximately 17% of carbon emissions, more than the entire global transportation sector and second only to the energy sector. It is now clear that stabilizing global average temperature rise within two degrees Celsius will be impossible to achieve without reducing emissions from the forest sector.

Given the challenge that Asia Pacific countries are facing with respect to deforestation, forestry and other land-use practices in order to meet climate and biodiversity targets, and the need to scale up sustainable public and private finance and investment to make this a reality, WCMC is seeking an experienced consultant to actively support a number of activities aiming to facilitate access to markets and finance for REDD+ activities in Asia Pacific countries, in direct collaboration with UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and the UN-REDD team.

Qualifications / special skills or knowledge:

ACADEMIC

The consultant should have an advanced academic degree (Master's or Ph.D.) in environmental management, finance, economics, social sciences, or closely related fields. Additional work experience will be accepted in lieu of master's degree.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

At least seven (7) years of professional experience working on forest and climate change, with an emphasis on access to markets (including, but not limited to, carbon markets) and land use finance.

Previous experience working in the Asia-Pacific region, including advising governments, engaging with stakeholders at the country level and partnering with private companies and financial institutions, is strongly desired.

Strong track record in project development, implementation and/or management is also required.

In addition, he/she should be self-motivated and computer literate in standard software applications; have excellent written, presentation and communication skills; good analytical skills, particularly as related to finance and access to markets; and have good interpersonal skills. Although, he or she will work in a small team, it is essential that the chosen candidate can work in an independent manner to complete the given assignments.

Language:

For this consulting position, excellent knowledge of the English language is required.

Duration and fee

The consultant will work for 12 months, over the period September 2022-September 2023. The consultant will be home-based within the South East Asia time zone, ideally in Bangkok.

The maximum total cost for this consultancy is USD 87,000, depending on skills and experience, with the selected candidate being paid based on monthly assignment reports, documenting deliverables and progress against the workplan and key targets.

Workplan:

Under the supervision of WCMC, as part of its (WCMC's) collaboration with the UNEP Regional Team in Asia Pacific, including the Regional Team Leader – Forest & Climate Change – Asia Pacific, the consultant will act as focal point for a number of activities that aim to facilitate access to markets and finance for REDD+ activities, sustainable forest and landscape restoration.

In particular, s/he will coordinate and support:

1. The delivery of UN-REDD Technical Assistance in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and Nepal; and
2. The implementation of UNEP activities in the Central Highlands REDD+ jurisdictional project (Vietnam).

The day-to-day responsibilities of the consultant will include the following:

- Providing high-quality technical and policy advisory services to national and sub-national counterparts on forest and climate change.
 - Ensure coordination with other UN-REDD partner organizations, such as FAO and UNDP;
 - Stay abreast of global and regional developments related to climate and forests, with an emphasis on access to markets (including carbon markets) and private finance; and
 - Advise the UN-REDD team on trends and issues in the countries served and provide any additional assistance requested.
- As part of WCMC's collaboration with the UNEP regional work in Asia Pacific, coordinating the implementation of UNEP activities in selected projects (UN-REDD Technical Assistance & Viet Nam Central Highlands jurisdictional project).
 - Provide high-quality implementation support and oversight to support the successful implementation of activities at country and sub-national levels;
 - Provide quality assurance for relevant projects and initiatives;
 - Ensure mainstreaming of gender considerations in all key documents and processes;
 - Maintain workplans, portfolio and corporate information systems; and
 - Ensure the timely preparation of annual and progress reports, final reports and other monitoring, reporting and oversight documentation as necessary.
- Supporting the development, formulation and review of programmes and projects, with the associated resource mobilization when needed.
 - Work with countries and partners to develop and formulate proposals in-line with requirements of donors and sources of funds;
 - Coordinate the submission and approval of proposals in accordance with relevant operating procedures;
 - Provide guidance in the process of preparation, design, submission and approval of programme/project concepts and full-fledged proposals for financing;
 - Support the development of proposals for REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBPs) and other sources of innovative finance, as needed; and
 - Provide regular inputs for quarterly, semi-annual and annual reporting.

- Sharing knowledge and communicating results.
 - Support the UN's convening role by organizing and contributing to international events, such as policy dialogues and South-South exchanges;
 - Share knowledge with other members of the UN-REDD team and build mechanisms for transfer of experience, lessons learnt and best practices;
 - Contribute to the development of knowledge products (including guidelines, articles, briefing notes etc.); and
 - Contribute lessons, experiences and stories for the WCMC, UN-REDD and UNEP websites.

Deliverables: Monthly assignment reports detailing progress and achievements with regards to engagement with private sector/finance partners, government agencies and relevant UNEP projects. This will include key results/achievements and outputs, substantiated with evidence.

Reporting lines: The consultant will report to WCMC, as part of its (WCMC's) collaboration with the UNEP Regional Team in Asia Pacific, and the UNEP Regional Team Leader – Forest & Climate Change – Asia Pacific, and work in close coordination with the UNEP Climate Finance Unit. All deliverables will need to be approved by WCMC and the UNEP Regional Team Leader – Forest & Climate Change – Asia Pacific.

How to apply: Please send a cover letter indicating your relevant experience, as well as a CV, by 31st August 2022.