

## Terms of Reference

### Support to Thailand to strengthen information systems for tracking social and environmental outcomes in the forest sector

**Position: National Consultant on Information Systems Assessment**

**Duty station: Home-based/Thailand**

**Anticipated duration: May 2021-August 2021**

**Due date for application: 11 May 2021**

#### 1. Background to the assignment

This assignment will support the implementation of one component of the **UN-REDD project 'Addressing Forest Crime through Improved Governance in the Lower Mekong Region'** (hereafter 'the LMR project'). The project is supported by the government of Norway, and aims to reduce the likelihood of forest crime by strengthening forest and land use governance, thus contributing to reduced emissions from the forest sector. Beginning in 2020, it will run for an initial period of two years, and will be implemented in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, with additional engagement with China for some activities.

This assignment will specifically support Output 3.3 of the LMR project in Thailand. This output involves working with participating countries to strengthen systems for tracking environmental and social impacts in the forest sector. Each country is determining which priority themes/areas it will focus on for activities under Output 3.3.; in the case of Thailand, which is the focus of this assignment, support is being provided related to the development of the country's Safeguards Information System (SIS).

There are a range of existing and emerging information systems and datasets in LMR countries that collect, analyse and share information that is relevant to social and environmental outcomes in the forest sector. These can include such varied systems and databases as: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) reporting systems; inventories / censuses in the agriculture and forestry sectors; biodiversity monitoring systems; REDD+ Safeguards Information Systems; and datasets on specific aspects such as land/forest tenure, community forestry, forest products trade, forest values/ecosystem services, etc. Although a range of social and environmental data already exists in countries in the region, these are seldom integrated and updated in order to provide the complete information required to assess environment and social impacts in the forest and related sectors over time. In addition to allowing improved monitoring of social and environmental impacts, strengthening data integration and accessibility offers co-benefits, such as supporting interdisciplinary research and utilisation of data by multiple sectors and institutions to inform decision-making.

#### 2. Overview of the assignment

This Terms of Reference (ToR) covers an assignment to **assess the potential integration and/or linkages between Thailand's future REDD+ Safeguards Information System (SIS) and its recently established National**

## Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) / Monitoring, measuring and verification (MMR).<sup>1</sup>

This support will focus on carrying out an assessment, based on the proposed design of the SIS and the features of the new NFMS/MMR, to determine whether/how the two systems could support each other or be linked. More information on the expected tasks and deliverables is provided in Section 3 below.

The assignment is home-based, in Thailand, with minimal domestic travel anticipated. The expected duration of the assignment is May 2021 – August 2021; a total of approximately 25-30 days over 3-4 months. The languages of the assignment are Thai and English.

The assignment is managed by **the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)**, which is coordinator for Output 3.3 of the LMR project. In addition, the consultant will report to UNEP-WCMC and liaise closely with:

- Key national partners for Output 3.3. activities in Thailand (to be determined at outset of assignment), including the National Focal Point (Department of Nature Protection, DNP) for the LMR Project
- The LMR Project National Coordinator in Thailand, who will coordinate logistics and dispersal of funds within country (for meetings, workshops, translations, etc) and provide liaison with NFMS/MMR if needed.
- International and regional partners relevant to project activities, including FAO and UNEP
- Other stakeholders in the country for the implementation of activities under Output 3.3 (to be determined at outset of assignment)

### 3. Key tasks and deliverables

Coordinating with key national partners working on SIS and NFMS/MMR in Thailand, the consultant will carry out the following tasks:

- a) Develop a workplan for the assignment, integrating feedback from national partners and SFT-LMR staff, and reflecting links to relevant ongoing activities on SIS design and NFMS/MMR;
- b) Develop a table template for the assessment and outline for the assessment report, taking into consideration guidance to be provided by UNEP-WCMC;
- c) Carry out the assessment, based on the agreed template, through methods such as desk-based review and interviews, examining the potential linkages, as well as any gaps/challenges, between the future SIS and the new NFMS/MMR, and considering how the future SIS can also provide relevant inputs to Thailand's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC<sup>2</sup>.
- d) Prepare a draft assessment table (in English) and concise report (in Thai and English), setting out parameters examined, proposed linkages, and any gaps and recommendations;
- e) Share draft assessment table and report with key partners and stakeholders for review and feedback, and integrate comments;
- f) Present draft assessment results in at least one meeting of key SIS and NFMS/MMR stakeholders, and attend other relevant meetings with partners and SFT-LMR staff as needed (likely a mix of online and in-person meetings);

<sup>1</sup> For more information on REDD+ safeguards and SIS: <https://unredd.net/knowledge/redd-plus-technical-issues/safeguards.html>; For more information on NFMS: <https://unredd.net/knowledge/redd-plus-technical-issues/nfms-rel.html>

<sup>2</sup> For more information on Thailand's first NDC: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/pages/Party.aspx?party=THA>

g) Finalise assessment table (in English) and report (in English and Thai), including an executive summary of key findings and recommendations.

*Deliverables: Workplan; Template and outline for assessment; draft assessment for review; one presentation/meeting inputs; final assessment table and concise report.*

#### 4. Indicative timeline

Workplan drafted, reviewed by UNEP-WCMC & partners, and agreed	Mid May 2021
Template/methods drafted, reviewed by UNEP-WCMC & partners, and agreed	Late May 2021
Draft table and report submitted for review	Late June 2021
Review period by partners & stakeholders	Early July 2021
Meeting/workshop to review draft assessment findings	July 2021
Final table and report	August 2021

#### 5. Consultant qualifications

The consultant will have the following sets of expertise:

Up-to-date knowledge of forestry, REDD+ and of broader climate change issues in Thailand
Experience in the development/application of environmental/social safeguards, standards, impact assessments, and/or monitoring and evaluation
Excellent written communication skills in Thai and English
Experience in social and environmental data collection and analysis, and/or establishing/operating information systems and database management
Minimum Bachelor's degree in natural resource management, information management or related field
Minimum of five years' working experience in related field

#### 6. Instructions for applications

Applicants shall submit the following documents to apply for this assignment in English:

- Cover letter introducing yourself and your interest in the assignment (no more than 1 page)
- Short technical proposal, describing your proposed approach to develop the assessment and the application, and providing a proposed workplan (including person days per task) (no more than 2 pages)
- Financial proposal, in an excel table, setting out your proposed number of person days per task and proposed fee per person day in USD
- Your CV (no more than 2 pages)

These documents shall be submitted in PDF form by email to [charlotte.hicks@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:charlotte.hicks@unep-wcmc.org) and [miriam.guth@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:miriam.guth@unep-wcmc.org) by **16:00 Bangkok/Hanoi time on Tuesday 11 May 2021**.

Any questions about the ToR can be sent to Miriam Guth ([miriam.guth@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:miriam.guth@unep-wcmc.org)) up until 7 May 2021.