

## Terms of Reference for Consultant for Thailand

### UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS

***Project title: “Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration” (GEF ID 9861; IUCN ID P02749)***

#### Background

Forests cover 33% of the earth’s land area and provide multiple social, economic and environmental benefits to humankind through its significant contribution to poverty eradication, climate change mitigation and adaptation, maintaining of biodiversity, clean air, water quality, weather stability, etc. However, forests, especially natural forests, are still disappearing in an alarming rate. From 2010 to 2015, 32.5 million hectares of natural forests were lost globally (FAO-FRA 2015). With acknowledgement of the importance of forests, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015 squarely address the need for forests and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in its Goal 15. In addition, forests and SFM also contribute to the achievement of most of the other SDGs through their multiple functions. In January 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted the first ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests (2017-2030) (UNSPF), which provides a global framework for actions to sustainably manage of forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation in a holistic and coherent manner.

A major constraint to achieving the forest-related SDGs and UNSPF, is the lack of funding for forests and SFM, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, mainly due to other pressing priorities such as employment, health and education, and general lack of resources and poverty. Furthermore, despite significant resources being available from existing international funding mechanisms (especially climate financing), the actual financial flows to developing countries and countries with economies in transition have been limited by a number of disbursement constraints. In fact, poor access to international (multilateral and bilateral) funding often presents additional challenges to the sheer availability of financial resources for SFM. Conclusions drawn from working experiences of the UNFFS show that limited access to international forest financing is due to many factors that include, among others:

- Lack of capacities to develop effective strategic plan to leverage forest financing
- Weak country capacities to prepare bankable/fundable projects

It is in this context that the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, at the request of the Government of Thailand, is implementing the joint CPF project “*Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration*” (GEF ID 9861; IUCN ID P02749) that is designed to contribute to building the capacity of countries to mobilize funding for sustainable forest management including forest landscape restoration.

The specific project support aims to build the capacity of Thailand to develop (i) a national forest financing strategy and (ii) a successful project/programme proposal that can attract funding from existing international funding mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund. In this regard, the UNFF Secretariat seeks the

services of **an international consultant** who has knowledge of, and experience in, the development and formulation of national forest action plans and project proposals.

### **Work Assignment**

The specific objective of this consultancy is to provide technical support to Thailand in developing a national forest financing strategy for mobilizing financing from all sources and in project proposal development for accessing funds for implementing sustainable forest management from multilateral funding sources. The specific responsibilities/tasks of **the international consultant** are to:

1. Assist UNFFS in conducting the national forest financing strategy and project validation workshop to be held in Bangkok Thailand. The validation workshop will be conducted virtually if the current conditions, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, still continue; and
2. Produce and submit the final national forest financing strategy after incorporating feedback from the validation workshop.
3. Produce, in partnership with IUCN (the accredited entity) and the Royal Forestry Department, and submit the final project concept note after incorporating feedback from the validation workshop.
4. Produce and submit an end-of-assignment summary report (Not exceeding 10 pages) focusing on the process and methodology followed, key outputs, lessons learned and recommendations by 31 July 2021.

### **Contract Duration**

The **international consultant** will be engaged for 10 working days from 15 March 2021 to 31 July 2021.

### **Duty Station**

The **international consultant** will work remotely for the duration of the contract and remain available for regular supervisory and review teleconferences.

### **Travel**

The **international consultant** will undertake two trips to Thailand totaling 7 days, if conditions permit. Travel costs will be obligated separately upon approval of each trip.

- The first trip is to conduct stakeholder consultation within Thailand. This will focus on collecting views and inputs from key stakeholders on the proposed project components and activities to be prioritized in the project concept note by carrying out consultative meetings with the Forestry authorities, key stakeholders with emphasis on private sector engagement.
- The second trip will be to participate in the project concept note and NFFS validation workshop where the second drafts of the concept and national forest financing strategy will be shared with a wider range of stakeholders to discuss and validate the project concept and national forest financing strategy. The expected achievement is to collect a series of comments from these stakeholders to finalize the project concept and annexes prior to submission to the donor.

## **Expected Outputs and Delivery Dates**

The **international consultant** shall work along the following deadlines:

1. Final National forest financing strategy incorporating comments from UNFFS by 31 July 2021
2. Final project concept note and prefeasibility study report incorporating comments from UNFFS and validation workshop by 30 June 2021
3. End-of-assignment report (Not exceeding 10 pages) focusing on the process and methodology followed, key outputs, lessons learned and recommendations by 31 July 2021.

All written outputs will be delivered electronically, via email to UNFFS, Mr. Peter Gondo at [gondop@un.org](mailto:gondop@un.org).

NOTE: All deliverables are considered the sole property of the United Nations.

## **Fee and Payment schedule**

The consultant will be paid a total of \$4,000 payable as a lump sum upon successful completion and submission of all outputs by 31 July 2021.

## **Performance Indicators**

1. Quality and comprehensive national forest financing strategy based on the country's national priorities.
2. Quality concept note that is accepted by the accredited agency, Government of Thailand and the targeted funding agency
3. Successful execution of the validation workshop

## **Competencies and Qualifications**

The consultant shall have the following competencies and qualifications:

1. At least 10 years' experience in natural resources management, forest financing and forest policy
2. Proven experience in development and formulation of medium to full size projects for submission to the multilateral fund for financing;
3. Have demonstrated technical/scientific expertise relating to forest management, international cooperation, biodiversity conservation the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, community-based forest management, forest financing, payment for environmental services, emerging carbon markets/emissions trading systems including REDD+;
4. Excellent policy analytical, technical, managerial and drafting/writing skills;
5. Possess thorough knowledge on the Rio Conventions and protocols, and knowledge of the UN Forest Instrument;
6. Have an advanced university degree in forest management, economics, social, environmental studies, natural sciences, development studies, or any related discipline;
7. Ability to prepare and present reports in English.
8. Be free from any interest that might cause him/her to act in other than an impartial and non-discriminatory manner.

## **Supervision**

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of Mr. Peter Gondo, Inter-Regional Adviser, under the overall guidance of the Officer-in-Charge, Alexander Trepelkov and Chief of Section, Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi.

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