FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Terms of Reference for Consultant

Vacancy Announcement No.:	**IRC2491**
Deadline for Applications:	13 April 2014
Job Title:	International Expert on National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in Africa
Division/Department:	FOM
Programme/Project Number:	UN-REDD Programme – UNJP/386/GLO/UNJ baby 02
Location:	Rome, Italy
Expected Start Date of Assignment: May 1, 2014	**Duration:** 6 months
Reports to: *Name:* Philippe Crête	*Title:* FAO UN-REDD Regional Advisor for Africa

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

Background

The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) is collaboration between FAO, UNDP and UNEP. It builds on the convening power of its participating UN agencies, their diverse expertise and vast networks, and "delivers as One UN". Within the partnership, FAO supports countries on technical issues related to forestry and the development of cost effective and reliable Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) processes and tools for emission reductions which may be helpful for the implementation of REDD+ activities. At the international level, the partnership fosters improved guidance on MRV approaches, including consensus on principles and guidelines for MRV and training programmes.

Negotiations about a future climate agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) include discussions on "Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries" (REDD+). The UNFCCC continues to discuss a possible financing mechanism for "results-based actions" or measured, reported and verified emission reductions from REDD+. At this stage, it has provided some guidance on the elements that countries should consider when undertaking REDD+ activities. Decision 1/CP.16 (paragraph 71), requests that countries implementing REDD+ activities develop:

- A REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan (which should include consideration of drivers of deforestation and degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations and the REDD+ safeguards and how they will be addressed in the context of a country's REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan;

- A national Reference Emission Level and/or Reference Level, or a sub-national REL/RL as an interim measure, including a description of the REDD+ activities that are considered;

- A robust and transparent National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) that allows for the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of REDD+ activities, including a description of institutional roles and responsibilities;

- A Safeguards Information System (SIS);

With these considerations in mind, FAO – as one of the three UN-REDD agencies - supports developing countries in planning and developing their National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+, as well as in the construction of Reference Emission Level/Reference Level(s). The support team working on NFMS and REL/RL(s) is located within the Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation division (FOM) of FAO's Forestry Department.

The UN-REDD Programme is growing rapidly, notably in the Africa region. Out of 49 partner UN-REDD countries, 19 countries are from Africa out of which five receive dedicated support through a UN-REDD National Programme. UN-REDD partner countries are also all eligible to receive Targeted Support. As such, requests for FAO's expertise and support on NFMS and REL/RL(s) are rapidly increasing and FAO needs to broaden its expertise and staff to answer country needs in an efficient and timely manner.

The role of the International Expert on NFMS for REDD+ in Africa will consist in providing support to different members of the Africa team in their

country support work. Particularly, the International Expert will perform the following tasks:

- Support countries in assessing relevant work on NFMS and REL/RL(s), and appraise needs as well as capacity building gaps;

- Support countries in identifying possible needs that the UN REDD Programme can support, including (once the subject of support is identified) the elaboration of activities, workplans, budgets and monitoring framework for Targeted Support;

- Help selected countries in developing their Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-P)) and/or National Programme Documents, providing technical inputs on NFMS and REL/RL(s) and support for stakeholders consultation;

- Assist the FOM UN-REDD Africa team in developing funding proposals, as relevant;

- Support the monitoring activities and budget of Targeted Support activities in selected countries;

- Deliver presentations and capacity building in supported countries on NFMS and REL/RL(s);

- Help organize meetings and capacity building events on NFMS and REL/RL(s);

- Contribute to the development of training material, presentations, publications, country briefs, success stories on the NFMS and REL/RL(s) work undertaken in Africa, as relevant.

Given the increasing number of countries supported by the Programme, the evolving environment in which the Programme operates and the wide range of country needs, the International Expert is expected to demonstrate flexibility with respects to the tasks to be performed. Also, the selected candidate will be expected to travel regularly to provide country support.

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

Minimum requirements

- Graduate university degree in Forestry, Natural Resource Management or related discipline. Academic background or field experience in forest inventories, remote-sensing or GHG inventories for the forestry sector is an advantage;

- Five to eight years of relevant professional experience;

- High level of understanding of REDD+ and previous work experience in the field of MRV and climate change issues;

- Previous work experience in Africa, ideally in a development, aid or research context;

- Demonstrated experience in working with and advising national governments on forestry/environmental issues;

- Demonstrated experience in delivering capacity building, preferably in a developing country context;

- Excellent organizational, inter-personal and communication skills;

- Demonstrated ability to work under limited supervision and to take initiatives;

- Previous working experience for the UN or another relevant international organization is an advantage;

- Fluency in English and French; knowledge of Spanish and/or Portuguese is an advantage;

- Willingness to travel regularly within Africa, as required by project activities and country requests.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Expected Outputs: - Terms of References and Back-to-office reports - Targeted Support Requests - Monitoring framework for Targeted Support activities - Didactic material, power point presentations, publications, country progress report - Meetings proceedings	Required Completion Date: October 31, 2014

HOW TO APPLY

All applications are to be made through FAO's iRecruitment system. Click on the link below to access iRecruitment, complete your online profile and apply for this Call for Expression of Interest.

http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/

In order for your application to be properly evaluated, please ensure that all sections of your iRecruitment account are completed. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

Should applicants encounter any problems in accessing iRecruitment or completing their online profile, they are encouraged to contact irecruitment@fao.org.

Deadline for applications: 13 April 2014.
Applications received after the closing date will not be given consideration. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.