

REQUEST FOR TARGETED SUPPORT

Supporting the Government of Ethiopia in navigating REDD+ readiness and designing a model for regional REDD+ under the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework

Final, September 27st

I. SUMMARY OF REQUEST	
Main objective	<p>The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) requests UN-REDD targeted support through UNDP and UNEP in order to enhance the national REDD+ readiness process, by strengthening capacities of national and regional authorities to understand the multiple values of forests, to drive and coordinate the development of the various REDD+ components, and to design a model for decentralised REDD+ under the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework. This capacity building effort will specifically allow the GoE to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Better understand and navigate the institutional context and political forces that drive and determine the national REDD+ system- Better assess and advocate for the value of forests as part of national socioeconomic development- Learn from leading countries experiences on institutional arrangements for forest management and leverages to make REDD+ a transformational tools that supports sustainable national development.- Mobilise regional authorities to increase coordinated capacities to attract funding under the UNFCCC framework and engage into the REDD+ investment phase, through nationally coordinated policy and measures
Main results expected	<p>The Targeted Support will deliver 4 major outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Institutional context analysis report <i>An Institutional and Context Analysis for REDD+ is performed and provides information and practical advises to help the GoE navigate the REDD+ readiness process at the national level.</i>2. Roadmap linking the value of Ethiopia's forests to its national account <i>Building on the WB's Forest Sector Review to assess the economic value of forests, build a roadmap exploring different methods to link Ethiopia's forest and natural capital values to its national accounts in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the National Planning Authority and the Central Statistical Agency, to support technical and policy advocacy and substance for the REDD+ strategy.</i>3. Learning exchange visits, lessons learnt and debriefing report <i>Learning exchanges and visits are carried out and facilitated for Ethiopian professionals in four relevant countries for REDD+ to improve capacities in terms of institutional arrangements for forest management, and transformational approach to REDD+.</i>4. Regional REDD+ readiness situation analysis and progress reports <i>A regional REDD+ initiative is scoped, background analysis and capacities are consolidated and strengthened, and an assessment of needs and roadmap are formulated to finalise the regional readiness processes as embedded into national REDD+ system.</i>

Total amount requested (US\$)	US\$ 230.000 (UNDP), US\$ 100.000 (UNEP)
Related Work Areas as defined in the <u>UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015</u>	Governance, Transparency and Accountability, Multiple Benefits, Green Economy
Planned period of implementation	October 2014 – June 2015
Please select below type of funding as appropriate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Request for funding for REDD + activities implemented in support of existing UN-REDD National Programmes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for funding for REDD+ activities complementary to other nationally-defined REDD+ activities (national strategies, RPP and/or bilaterally funded REDD+ activities) or for initiation of REDD+ activities. (The country has no UN-REDD National Programme.	

II. BACKGROUND

Ethiopia has been in the REDD+ process since 2008. The FCPF grant agreement was signed in October 2012. The national process was officially launched by an inception workshop in January 2013, and effective implementation started in June 2013. Under the responsibility and supervision of the State Ministry of Forests, the national REDD+ Secretariat coordinates REDD+ efforts as a tool towards green economy and carbon neutral development target, and implements readiness work with support from the FCPF. Through arrangements with Norway and the UK, the FCPF supports the REDD+ readiness process in Ethiopia with about US\$ 14M, covering the total amount of the R-PP. On top of that, a US\$ 10M agreement was signed between the GoE and Norway for performance-based payments against the implementation of a readiness roadmap up to 2020. The national REDD+ process is well funded, but experiences slow delivery related to the low level of capacities for this new topic, and the time requested to digest the various technical inputs and related political implications.

The national REDD+ process is part of a national development vision and strategy that is already strongly aligned with environmental and climate concerns (Climate Resilient Green Economy Vision). On the other hand, the Ministry of Environment and Forests was only created one year ago. So Ethiopia shows a mix of opportunities (awareness of natural and climate vulnerability, political discourse and commitment, mainstreaming efforts...) and weaknesses (young institutional arrangements for forest management...) that offer a very specific context for implementing REDD+. Besides the WB as the largest direct contributor to the environment and forestry sector, the MEF has requested UNDP to support with the institutional capacity building of the new State Ministry of Forests, and a project of US\$ 13M is currently submitted and discussed with Norway, with strong bridges with the REDD+ readiness process.

Several pilot activities are deployed on the ground by various partners, with the largest being the REDD+ programming in the Oromia region with the perspective of agreeing on a ER purchase agreement with the FCPF CF. Most pilot activities aim at experimenting ways to tangible emissions reduction at subnational level, and typically focus on building capacities towards concrete subnational carbon transactions. There is a need to explore alternative avenues for implementing REDD+ on the ground while moving more directly towards the UNFCCC Warsaw mechanism. Indeed, since COP19 in December 2013, the REDD+ international mechanism was completed and agreed by the international community. Now countries have a framework and procedures to implement REDD+ activities (national strategy, safeguards), to measure impacts (carbon MRV under national forest monitoring systems) and to receive international payments based on results (reference level). The UNFCCC Warsaw Package promotes a step-wise approach, where countries can quickly start deploying result-based actions and claim for related payments at the national level.

In this context, UN-REDD targeted support will assist the MEF in general and the REDD+ Secretariat in particular with getting ready for REDD+ in a very complementary way with the FCPF programme, exploring additional avenues and deepening the information and capacities on substantive issues to foster transformative and policy-based approach to REDD+ strategy.

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The targeted support will encompass four main components, with respective objectives and activities:

Component 1: Institutional context analysis (supported by UNDP)

- Objectives
Analyse political and institutional factors, processes related to the use of resources and impacts on programmes and policies related to REDD+; Formulate recommendations for national REDD+

readiness. Among others, the background information and ideas provided in the R-PP will be assessed more thoroughly, and the institutional analysis from Climate Focus with emphasis on the Oromia province will be capitalized. This will help Government to better map and coordinate the different institutions and stakeholders involved in the climate change arena, with a focus on REDD+, and to better define the role of the new Ministry in charge of forests in REDD+ while overcoming challenges and forging alliances.

- **Activities**

A national consultant will be recruited to carry out the Institutional Context Analysis, with technical guidance and support from the UNDP/UN-REDD global expert on Governance based in Addis Ababa. The consultant will perform a bibliography review on the overall REDD+ context but also broadening to larger climate change and environment context as required to capture relevant implications on related issues like REDD+ finance or policies. He will also run bilateral consultations and organise two workshops for information and consultation. The analysis can be divided in four components:

- Background data collection and analysis, building strongly on available literature, in particular on Climate Focus report on legal and institutional analysis for REDD+ implementation with emphasis on Oromia. This review encompasses notably:
 - a. Analysing the history of forest management in Ethiopia
 - b. Analysing the legislation, legal processes, and capture relevant sociocultural factors
 - c. Analysing and mapping the actors involved in REDD+, directly or indirectly
- Analysing the potential for change and identify priority actions for transformational impact of REDD+ and other forestry activities
- Underscoring implications on broader governance issues for conducting REDD+
- Exploring the institutional and policy context in the UN-REDD pilot region using tools and methodology above

Component 2: Economic valuation of Ethiopian forests (supported by UNEP)

- **Objectives**

To work towards an understanding of the economic contribution of Ethiopia's forests to its economy and national account, building work conducted by the World Bank through the Forest Sector Review. In order to ensure success, the Ministry of Environment and Forests will take responsibility of implementing the operational activities ensuring high-level engagement at every step with other ministries, including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the National Planning Authority and the Central Statistical Agency.

- **Activities**

UNEP will provide expertise to conduct an assessment of the situation and the gaps in terms of bibliography, data, initiatives and institutions. It will also support the MEF with setting up a network with key institutions including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the National Planning Authority the Central Statistical Agency and other relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. It will bring advise and training to key stakeholders, and help work towards a (draft) value how Ethiopia's forests contribute to its economy and how data on the biophysical and economic values can be linked to its national accounts using the UN SESA approach and guidelines on Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. The progress to move towards an understanding about Ethiopia's forest values depends on the availability of existing biophysical data and other conditions to achieve success.

The MEF will take responsibility of implementing the operational activities while UNDP could support technically together with UNEP, while UNDP will facilitate with operational and financial implementation of actions. UNDP will also provide political and institutional expertise and backstopping to facilitate the translation of forest value into the national accounting system.

Component 3: International learning exchanges (supported by UNDP)

- Objectives

Build national and regional capacities, at technical and political levels, so to strengthen the institutional efficiency of the newly-created Ministry of Environment and Forests in the field of forest management, and to better understand opportunities and practical ideas to position forests as a key lever for climate resilience and green economy in Ethiopia.

- Activities

UNDP will assist the MEF with organising 4 learning visits with relevant countries:

- First will be a Northern country (Finland, Sweden...) with long history of robust institutional arrangements to support forest management. This first visit will also offer opportunities to understand the role of forests in a developed economy and the ways to add value throughout the process chain, to involve private sector etc.
- Second and third will be a Latin America and an Asia country, with more similar forest ecosystems and economic structure, so to better understand the transformational potential of REDD+ to upscale forest-related activities and position forests as a key lever of sustainable development and green economy, particularly how to engage private sector, increase economic value and profile etc. These second and third countries will also provide relevant experience on institutional arrangements for forest management.
- Last country will provide holistic view and inspiring model on how to successfully engage in bold reforestation process nation-wide. The case of South Korea will certainly be prioritised.

With the TS request, UN-REDD will provide technical assistance for the identification of partner countries and preparation of visits. It will also support 4 professionals. It will be completed by UNDP CO support for another 6 professionals, and the REDD+ Secretariat will mobilise FCPF funding for 10 additional persons. The 20 supported professionals will be split in 4 teams. They will be mainly from technical level, but also include a few key political leaders. Some representatives from key regions, including the pilot region for UN-REDD supported alternative approach to REDD+ readiness, will also compose the team. The four visits will be organised in parallel by the month of January and February 2015. After these series of visits, the TS will facilitate technical exchanges and feedbacks on REDD+ Secretariat's funding, so to stress and make full use of lessons learnt and share them publicly with REDD+ stakeholders.

Component 4: Regional REDD+ readiness (supported by UNDP)

- Objectives

In a context of national REDD+ readiness, this component will explore an alternative way to craft and implement REDD+ at the regional level. The approach consists in focusing on policies and measures in support to regional authorities, while relying on and coordinating with national REDD+ architecture and tools to carry out carbon monitoring, reporting, verification, general accounting and access to result-based payments. This component will build regional capacities and set the ground for testing policy approaches to achieving REDD+ results under the UNFCCC and national REDD+ frameworks.

Concretely, authorities will be mobilised, regional capacities will be strengthened, background knowledge and understanding of deforestation drivers and options at the regional level will be improved, the design of REDD+ architecture and instruments will be embedded in the national system and aligned with international UNFCCC guidelines, and a roadmap will identify needs and pave the way towards full readiness of the region to engage in REDD+ investments as part of national REDD+ architecture.

- Activities

The pilot region will be selected by the national authority and UNDP/UN-REDD based on the following criteria:

- Consistency with achieving results-based action expected to be relevant to Ethiopia's first-

step FREL/FRL. This includes in terms of

- a. the national definition of forest to be used
 - b. the significant REDD+ activities to be included
 - c. any sub-national geographical coverage – bioregion, biome etc.
 - d. availability of data
- REDD+ potential;
 - Political will and regional authority's interest for the approach;
 - Strategic opportunities to implement PAMs that can demonstrate lessons relevant at the national level
 - Limited carbon projects interferences.
 - Potential synergies with present or potential initiatives so to foster and finance implementation of the expected policies and measures (including international support such as GEF and domestic co-financing)

In January 2015, relevant data will be collected to assess potential pilot regions and complete the selection process. In February 2015, a scoping mission will be organised in the region to dialogue with regional authorities and stakeholders, and ensure full understanding, appropriation and leadership at the regional level.

A regional project manager will be recruited and based in the region from early 2015 on, with some missions to Addis Ababa to coordinate with the REDD+ Secretariat and UNDP CO. He/she will be supported by an international technical advisor providing coordination support and technical backstopping. The project manager and international advisor are expected to be in place in early 2015 so to facilitate the selection process, the scoping mission, and launch activities through the appropriate inception modalities.

The regional project manager will be in charge of facilitating the regional REDD+ dynamics by identifying and engaging key stakeholders, while assisting regional authorities and stakeholders with daily backstopping, capacity building and advice. An intensive training event will be organised to share a common level of understanding about REDD+ at the regional level. The event could take the shape of a full one-week training programme for about 100 participants representing multiple stakeholders, including administration, civil society or private sector at regional and sub-regional levels. The project manager, with assistance from the international advisor, will also coordinate activities with the national REDD+ Secretariat, contributing to the design of national instruments by providing a regional perspectives and needs.

More specifically and as the technical backbone of his/her work, the project manager will carry out desk review and consultations to consolidate an assessment of drivers of deforestation in the region. He/she will also collect additional data, carry out consultations and workshops, and run a contextual assessment of strategic options for REDD+ in the region. He/she will progressively build a clear vision of the current capacities and gaps, so to design and fine-tune a comprehensive roadmap towards full regional REDD+ readiness in the framework of national architecture and UNFCCC Warsaw Framework. A first draft is expected by the end of the 1st quarter of 2015 so to early explore additional finance for the second phase of regional readiness.

At last, the project manager will also have to coordinate with various relevant work streams and partners, for example to mobilize and harmonize additional support for institutional and capacity building at the regional level from the FCPF as part of the implementation of the R-PP, or the expected UNDP forest sector institutional strengthening programme with support from Norway. Beyond readiness support, the project manager will also facilitate mobilization of demonstration and implementation finance.

A person at the REDD+ Secretariat in Addis Ababa will specifically be appointed by the MEF to supervise the implementation of this TS, and in particular the regional readiness component.

Internal expertise from UNDP and UNEP through the UN-REDD programme will be mobilised to provide technical backstopping throughout the implementation. This implies reviews and constant communication, technical notes, as well as missions to facilitate coordination and strengthen capacities.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed activities will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forest in collaboration with UNDP Country Office. The national REDD+ secretariat will be involved at all levels of the implementation. The UNEP component will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forest in collaboration with the UNEP-REDD+ team in Nairobi, with support from UNDP CO and also in close coordination with the REDD+ Secretariat. This coordination implies that the Ministry through the REDD+ Secretariat will be informed at every steps, participate in the design and implementation of activities, and validate key milestones (ToR, reports...). UN-REDD experts from Nairobi (UNDP and UNEP offices) will provide technical backstopping throughout the implementation of the activities, and ensure quality of outputs.

Consultants to be hired to implement the activities of the TS will be placed under the joint supervision of UNDP or UNEP accordingly, and the Ministry. The stakeholders to the Ethiopian REDD+ readiness process will be consulted and involved throughout the implementation of the activities through meetings and collective or bilateral consultations. In particular, civil society and indigenous peoples' representatives will be involved in compliance with UN-REDD and FCPF principles and guidelines. As an illustration, following UN-REDD approval of this TS request, UNDP and the Ministry will formulate a project document and convene stakeholders to inform, discuss and validate it as part of a formal meeting of the project appraisal committee (LPAC).

V. FUNDING SOURCE

The proposed activities will be fully financed by the Targeted Support, with the exception of component 3, for which UNDP Ethiopia will support 6 out of the 10 team members, and REDD+ Secretariat will mobilize FCPF funding to support the other 10 professionals, and debriefing activities.

On top of that, it should be noted that these activities are fully embedded in a broader framework of objectives and works towards REDD+ readiness in Ethiopia, and thus are closely associated with additional funding from the FCPF (US\$ 14M) or contributions from the national Government.

It is also expected that such activities leverage additional finance from partners and stakeholders to the national REDD+ process. For instance, when organising training sessions at the regional level, cooperation agencies or civil society might provide support to bring in additional participants or lecturers.

At last, this first cooperation between UN-REDD programme and Ethiopia is expected to pave the way for further cooperation and strengthening of targeted areas, for instance in terms of stakeholders' engagement, policy and strategic advise etc.

VI. SUMMARIZED WORKPLAN WITH BUDGET AND TIMELINE

Description of planned outputs and activities	Amount (US\$)	Implementation period
Output 1: Institutional and context analysis report	\$35 000	Oct. 2014 - May 2015
Recruit a national consultant to run the analysis and consultations	0	Oct. – Dec. 2014 -
Consultant (national, 5 months, full-time)	\$25 000	Jan. – May 2015
Organize an inception workshop to share information and start consultations (Secretariat/FCPF funding)	0	Jan. 2015
Organize a debriefing and validation workshop	\$10 000	Feb. 2015
Output 2: Economic value of forests assessment report	\$100 000	
Inception mission UNEP: learning exchange visit to various Ministries and meetings with other stakeholders	\$ 1 200	Oct 2014
Recruit a national/international professional or organisation with	\$ 60 000	Oct – Nov 2014

expertise in accounting and/or ecosystem valuation		
Inception workshop/training module: from biophysical data to economic valuation and accounting	\$ 10 000	Jan – Feb 2015
Draft roadmap to national natural capital accounting for Ethiopia	\$ 15 000	May 2015
Public briefing to disseminate results and plan for next steps	\$ 13 800	June 2015
Output 3: Learning exchange visits, lessons learnt and debriefing report	\$20 000	Oct. 2014 - March 2015
Write terms of reference and prepare the visits (partner countries, participants, schedule, logistics...)	\$0	Oct. - Dec. 2014
Carry out learning exchange visits (4 participants covered out of 10)	\$20 000	Jan. 2015
Organize a technical debriefing workshop (Secretariat/FCPF funding)	\$0	Feb. 2015
Formulate a consolidated report of visits and lessons learnt	\$0	Feb. 2015
Organize a public debriefing workshop to disseminate lessons learnt (Secretariat/FCPF funding)	\$0	March 2015
Output 4: Regional REDD+ readiness situation analysis and progress reports	\$175 000	Oct. 2014 - June 2015
Recruit a project manager and a technical advisor	\$0	Oct. - Dec. 2014
Project manager (national, 6 months, full time)	\$12 000	Jan. - June 2015
Workstation, communication and transport for missions	\$10 000	Jan. - June 2015
Technical advisor (international, 6 months, full time)	\$60 000	Jan. - June 2015
Organize a scoping mission in the region	\$10 000	Jan./Feb. 2015
Organize a follow-up mission and inception workshop	\$20 000	March 2015
Consolidate an assessment of drivers (specific logistics for project manager)	\$10 000	Jan. - March 2015
Draft a roadmap and work plan towards regional REDD+ readiness	\$0	March 2015
Organize a public and intensive training event in the region (partly under Secretariat/FCPF funding)	\$10 000	March 2015
Organize workshops and consultations to review possible options	\$10 000	April 2015
Collect data and run a first assessment of options, identify gaps	\$10 000	May 2015
Formulate preliminary proposals on regional implementation framework, consult and identify gaps	\$5 000	March - May 2015
Upgrade the consolidated roadmap and work plan to finalize regional readiness	\$0	June 2015
Facilitate exchanges between national and regional processes	\$18 000	Oct. 2014 - June 2015
Total amount requested	\$330 000	
VII. MONITORING OF PROGRESS AND REPORTING		

Reporting will be conducted according to the UN-REDD procedures for Targeted Support under the “Support to National Actions” programme, including a semi-annual and an annual report following UN-REDD template. The reporting will also cover the various deliverables described above (analysis reports, technical notes and reports, roadmap, visits and workshops’ reports...).

For the implementation of this Targeted Support, the UNDP team at the national (country office), regional and global levels (UN-REDD team) will provide technical advice, assistance and monitoring of delivery of outputs 1, 3 and 4. UNDP CO will also assist with the delivery of output 2 under the responsibility and technical leadership of UNEP team in Nairobi.

A Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the State Minister of Forests and including the advisor to the Minister, the national REDD+ coordinator and representatives from UNDP and UNEP will meet every two months to supervise and assess progress. Possible marginal expenses related to the meetings will be covered as part of the UNDP budget of this targeted support.

By the time of formulating the Project Document, management, monitoring and financial arrangements might evolve to increase harmonization and alignment with the expected UNDP Forest Sector Programme. In particular, it’s expected to merge this targeted support with a larger capacity building programme for forest institutions that is being planned between the GoE, UNDP and Norway.

IV. UN-REDD COUNTRY FOCAL POINT
Dr. Tefera Mengistu, Advisor , State Minister of Environment and Forests

National Focal Point
 Dr. Tefera Mengistu, Advisor, State Minister of Environment and Forests

(Signature)

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