**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA**

 **DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREST**

 **Tunis, 17-12-2014**

 **To**

 **Mr Mario Boccucci**

 **UN-REDD Executive Secretary**

**Subject:** Tunisia’s request for targeted support

Mr. Executive Secretary**,**

Tunisia has been committed since December 2013 in the REDD+ process, and has been a member of the UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative platform of three UN agencies including UNEP.

The Tunisian Constitution after revolution it is actually one of the few national Constitutions in the world addressing climate related issues.

National forestry code define forest as any natural or artificial plant formation composed of one or several species of trees or shrubs or bushes pure or mixed. The forestry code is a set of special rules that apply to forests, esparto grasslands (alfa cover), rangeland, lands with forestry vocation, national parks and natural reserves, fauna and flora. Forest legislation distinguishes land under the forest regime and the others: Are under the forest regime federal lands with forest vocation, some private forests, Alfa grass lands and collective rangelands, State-owned lands and collective lands, national parks and natural reserves. These lands are administrated and managed in accordance with the forestry code that the DGF is in charge to enforce. State forests may be located on public land registered in the name of the State or on land pending registration (requisitions).

In order to help improve and implement its new forestry strategy, Tunisia intends to take advantage of the international REDD+ mechanism. Its long-lasting commitment to sustainable forest management, which could be leveraged by a future REDD+ mechanisms, will materialize its potential to achieve triple-win scenarios in terms of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and poverty reduction. To be able to benefit from REDD+ mechanism, Tunisia will need to put in place the main pillars for REDD+ readiness, including: (i) a baseline scenario of deforestation and forest degradation, based and back on analytical data; (ii) a National REDD+ Strategy that responds to identified and prioritized drivers of deforestation and fits into the broader national development agenda; and (iii) a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system compliant with principles of transparency, comparability, completeness and accuracy. More particularly, Tunisia could be assisted by UN-REDD program to implement “REDD+ Readiness activities”, in working out their reference scenarios for emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, adopting and complementing national strategies for stemming deforestation and forest degradation, and designing national monitoring reporting and verification systems for REDD+.

Having noted that the land situation in the country is confused which are key driver of deforestation, Tunisia aims to clarify the land situation in the country to contribute to the development of its REDD + strategy for effective implementation.

This work will begin by undertaking an exploratory study that will analyze land issues. It will provide a relevant database on land issues and propose a list of recommendations.

Tunisia is submitting a request for UNEP targeted support of US$79,500 in order to achieve activities detailed below:

1. Preparation of the study design and work plan with the national consultant;

2. Identification of actors (institutions) keys that are involved in land and forest areas;

3. collection and analysis of existing documentation, practices, policies, laws and regulations (PLR) related to land areas for forests and REDD +;

4. Organization of a one-day workshop to introduce land issues in the context of REDD + and to get feedback on the issues and priorities of Tunisia in this area;

5. Organization of a second one-day workshop for the presentation of a preliminary version of the study and discussion of recommendations.

6. Key policy makers group meeting involved in the development of the strategy and the future plan of action to approve the work plan to address the challenges of land REDD +.

7. Integration of all comments and the end of the study

Thank you for your consideration on this matter, and I hope that you will look favourably upon this request.

Yours faithfully,

 **Rafik AINI**

 **Focal Point UN-REDD program**

 **Tunisia**

Cc:

- Thais … (UNEP Africa, UN-REDD)

- ….. (UNEP Tunisia)