



## USFS Scope of Work



### US Forest Service International Programs Cameroon NFMS Technical Advisor Position April 2016

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USFS International Programs (USFS/IP) has been requested to recruit an individual as Technical Advisor on MRV REDD+ to support the REDD+ Technical Secretariat (ST REDD+) of the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) of Cameroon in developing the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) in partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and local partners.

#### **DATES**

April-August 2016

#### **LOCATION**

Yaoundé, Cameroon with potential travel to Douala for partner meetings.

#### **ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY**

USFS/IP seeks a candidate to coordinate with the REDD+ Technical Secretariat of Cameroon, IUCN, and local partners to develop a design for the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) taking into consideration the diversity in the different agro-ecological regions. The work will be carried out in close cooperation with the Technical Coordinator of the REDD+ Secretariat.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Since late 2013, USFS-IP has been collaborating with the REDD+ Technical Secretariat of Cameroon and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) concerning technical assistance to Cameroon on REDD+, Climate Change, and Forest Inventory issues. It has been agreed that USFS will provide support for the design of Cameroon National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) methodology (including Forest Carbon Inventory methodology), supporting the National REDD+ Secretariat in the NFMS design process, and the elaboration of the national REDD+ strategy.

A Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) was signed in May, 2014, where USFS agreed to support at least five (5) priority activities in 2014 and 2015. Based on the MoC, the REDD+ Technical Secretariat elaborated a series of Scopes of Work (SOWs) to solicit the support of USFS in agreed upon areas of technical assistance. Upon review of the SOWs with a USFS forest inventory design specialist, USFS has refined the technical focus and sequencing of proposed activities as suggested in the following summary and accompanying Terms of Reference (ToRs).

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- Support to the REDD+ Technical Secretariat to elaborate the national REDD+ strategy;

**IP Program Manager: Alex Neidermeier 202-281-4651**

- Strengthen the capacity of the REDD+ Technical Secretariat in NFMS design, development and implementation.
- Support for the development/ review/ validation of a NFMS (and a National Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)) design.

### **TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

The following summarizes how the series of six NFMS activities are linked together and sequenced. Individual SOWs are also attached that go into more detail about each activity.

Two Cameroonian expert consultants collected the wide-ranging research and data available on Cameroon's Forest Inventory and Remote Sensing efforts from sources such as JICA, MINEPDED, MINFOF, etc. (Activity 1), including information on the five agro-eco zones that will inform the reporting and possibly the design of a NFMS. Technical working groups were designated to advance the issues of a forest and land-use class definitions. Thematic expert groups were also designated to develop focus attributes for each of the newly validated objectives.

The thematic expert groups and technical work groups have been supported by a USFS expert to advance their research on focus attributes for each objective of the NFMS, an applicable and harmonized forest definition (within the context of the Cameroon R-PP), and land-use class definitions with a corresponding legend (Activity 3). Both groups' research were presented in the second workshop in order to validate these definitions and attributes (Activity 4).

With the most important considerations in a NFMS/ MRV plan now defined and validated, a new work group will synthesize this information into several NFMS/ MRV design options, taking into consideration desired focus attributes, accuracy, precision, cost, etc. (Activity 5). These design options will be presented to principal stakeholders in a third workshop (Activity 6), which will discuss and validate a NFMS/ MRV design.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A NFMS methodology proposal through assisting the National REDD Secretariat. The proposal would be appropriate (specific, effective, and efficient) to the Cameroonian context, by considering the definitions of the forest, land use classifications, selected focus attributes, linkages between field plots and remote sensing technologies, and other NFMS parameters as defined by stakeholders (biodiversity, safeguards)
- Validate the NFMS/ MRV design and methodology through a peer-review process by international experts.
- Organize a workshop to validate draft NFMS/MRV design and methodology by stakeholders.

### **ADVISOR DUTIES:**

- Support the MRV Unit in the REDD+ Technical Secretariat in developing the monitoring, measuring, reporting and verification system design;

- Develop a methodological guidance for estimating carbon fluxes taking into consideration specificities in the different agroecological regions of Cameroon and in conformity with the IPCC guidelines of GHG estimations;
- Provide updates and regular communications to the REDD+ Technical Secretariat, IUCN and US Forest Service on progress in the NFMS design process, communicating specifically areas where intervention is needed and next steps.
- Coordinate the peer-review by international experts and the validation workshop by stakeholders.

#### **ADVISOR QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Minimum of a BAC +5 (superior diploma) in geography/ cartography/ forestry;
- At least two years professional experience in the fields of geospatial technology (remote sensing, GIS) or forest inventory design preferred;
- Knowledgeable of forest inventory and land-use in Cameroon;
- Knowledge of local/international institutions and actors involved in climate change and specifically in the REDD + process;
- At least two years of experience in program management/ design, and specific experience organizing workshops and trainings;
- Knowledge of the agro ecological zones of Cameroon;
- Knowledge of Cameroon's social and economic issues and trends relating to Cameroon's vision of the REDD+ process;
- Strong communication, writing, and interpersonal skills;
- Excellent written and verbal fluency in French and English;
- Strong ability to work independently in difficult conditions while maintaining productivity;
- Preference will be given to residents of Cameroon.

#### **TEAM COMPOSITION**

The Advisor will be supported by two Washington based staff and one in-country staff.

Interested candidates should submit CVs and a brief statement of interest to the Cameroon program managers, **Richard Paton** and **Alex Neidermeier** ([richardpaton@fs.fed.us](mailto:richardpaton@fs.fed.us) & [anneidermeier@fs.fed.us](mailto:anneidermeier@fs.fed.us)), no later than **COB March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Selections will be made by mid-March for an early April start date.