

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### MRV Specialist

#### **US Forest Service Technical Assistance to the Forest Management Bureau Government of the Philippines**

##### **Background**

The U.S. Forest Service, with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Philippines and in partnership with USAID's Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (B+WISER) program, is supporting the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Forest Management Bureau (FMB) in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) readiness. REDD+ Readiness implies that the country is adequately prepared in terms of having completed the pillars of REDD+, namely: 1) Setting of the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL); 2) Developing the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System; 3) Developing the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS); and 4) Establishing a National Guideline on REDD+ Safeguards.

Currently FMB is developing an NFMS with technical support from both USAID and the German donor agency GIZ. B+WISER has a REDD+ and MRV specialist working with FMB on FREL establishment and MRV design. USFS is technically supporting both ground inventory design and also forest change detection using remote sensing aimed to contribute to the NFMS and MRV. Previously FMB had received and implemented a UN REDD program support for REDD+ readiness, including MRV design, but the design was not finalized. There is a need to finalize an MRV system that supports REDD+ readiness and is consistent with the NFMS. More recently, with support from GIZ, a draft NFMS has been developed and currently under review. Moreover, FMB has also received a UN-REDD Targeted support for the development of an NFMS and an action plan for its implementation.

##### **Scope of Work**

USFS will secure the services of an MRV specialist to work with B+WISER and other local partners to design an MRV system for the Philippines. Specifically, the MRV Specialist will:

- Assist in the preparation and writing of an MRV system, taking into consideration previous and ongoing works on MRV in the Philippines
  - The MRV should be a complete document that will be part of the submission of the Philippines to UNFCCC if and when the country decides to submit a FREL
  - The MRV should be consistent with the NFMS and compliant with UNFCCC modalities and IPCC guidelines
  - The MRV should also be consistent with the procedures of conducting the national GHG inventory and its accompanying MRV system
  - The MRV will be presented to FMB and other key stakeholders
- Review the draft NFMS for the Philippines and provide input/comments, if any
- Review the Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) and provide input/comments, if any
- Provide capacity building activities to FMB and other partners on technical matters related to MRV. Specifically, the MRV expert will be required to conduct a series of two workshops/seminars on MRV background, tools and methods for FMB staff and other concerned stakeholders (e.g. the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority)

such as the use of remote sensing for forest biomass estimation and detecting land cover change.

### **Deliverables**

- Draft copy of the MRV system outlining the methodologies and procedure that are consistent with the NFMS, and compliant with the UNFCCC modalities and IPCC Guidelines
- Technical Report outlining key activities, outputs, findings, and general recommendations

### **Qualifications**

- Expertise in MRV systems that comply with the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines, and the standards of major international forest carbon verifiers
- Prior experience designing MRV systems, including both ground inventory and remote sensing components of MRV; experience in policy-related aspects of MRV is preferred
- Expertise working with developing countries on REDD+ readiness
- Prior experience in Southeast Asia preferred
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

### **Duration of Assignment**

4 weeks, estimated to start in October 2015.

### **Location of Assignment**

Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Quezon City, Philippines. Occasional travel within the Philippines is expected.

### **To Express Interest**

Please send resume or CV to Beth Lebow at [etlebow@fs.fed.us](mailto:etlebow@fs.fed.us)