



## **Guyana Forestry Commission/ Conversation International**

### **Advancing a Market Based Mechanism for Forest Carbon Services in Guyana through implementation of the National MRVS and REDD+ Enabling Activities (MRVS Phase 3)**

#### **Terms of Reference - Specialist in REDD+ Safeguards**

##### **1. Introduction/Context**

Guyana's long-term vision is for the payments for forest services to be funded through a market-based or other mechanism agreed within the UNFCCC. Until then, Guyana may enter into voluntary agreements with bilateral partners or voluntary markets that are compatible with REDD+. The precursor to such a mechanism, was an agreement with the Government of Norway; the two countries signed an MOU in 2009 where Norway committed to paying Guyana up to US\$250 million in payments-for-performance, and the two countries agreed to work together on issues 'related to the fights against climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the enhancement of sustainable development'.

Guyana's Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) for REDD+ was developed as the primary mechanism to measure Guyana's performance against the agreed indicators as set out in the Guyana-Norway Agreement. It is a combined GIS-based and field-based monitoring system developed to track national-level forest change of deforestation and forest degradation. The goal is for the MRVS to provide the basis for measuring verifiable changes in Guyana's forest cover and resultant carbon emissions from Guyana's forests, which will underpin results-based REDD+ compensation in the long-term, based on international guidance and best practice.

Following 10 years of developing and operationalizing an MRVS mechanism for REDD+, Guyana is ready to access voluntary (or compliance) markets for forest carbon services. The GFC seeks to position the MRVS to support Guyana's meeting of its domestic commitments such as the implementation of aspects of the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030, and Guyana's climate change agenda; as well as to meet Guyana's international obligation such as reporting to the UNFCCC, reporting on progress in implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and REDD+ Safeguards as well as voluntary market requirements as set out in Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) TREES.

##### ***Safeguards and Guyana's Engagement with a forest carbon financing mechanism for REDD+***

In December 2020, Guyana submitted its application to Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART), identifying two crediting periods: 2016-2020 and 2021-2025. On October 26, 2021, the Secretariat of the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) announced the approval of three TREES Documents for Guyana. The approval of these documents indicated their completeness and the program's eligibility to move forward with independent validation and verification by an accredited verification body. Following successful validation and verification, the ART Board may approve the issuance of serialized TREES Credits to Guyana.

A key component to this process is Guyana's reporting on its progress in implementation of the Cancun Safeguards for REDD+. Guyana's LCDS 2030 recognises that a national Safeguards Information System (SIS) for REDD+ will seek to serve several functions for Guyana, including reporting on results-based financing, providing local information on the country's performance against the Cancun Safeguards for REDD+, as well as ensuring maintained stakeholder support for REDD+. More specifically, it will provide information on the actual outcomes of Guyana's conformance with the Cancun Safeguards throughout REDD+ implementation, including in the context of accessing REDD+ results-based payments in application of the methodological framework established in the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

With the commencement of the project: Advancing a Market Based Mechanism for Forest Carbon Services in Guyana through implementation of the National MRVS and REDD+ Enabling Activities (MRVS Phase 3), the Guyana Forestry Commission is seeking the services of a Specialist on REDD+ Safeguards to support the development of Guyana's Safeguard Information System for REDD+.

### ***Guyana's First Summary of Information (SoI) on REDD+ Safeguards***

In accordance with the decision established in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regarding policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), Guyana, through the Guyana Forestry Commission, compiled its First Summary of Information (SoI) on REDD+ Safeguards. The SoI presented how Guyana's efforts in implementing the safeguards listed in decision 1/CP.16 appendix I, are being addressed and respected in accordance with decisions 12/CP.17, 12/CP.19, 17/CP.21 and covered the period 2009-2020.

This SOI, which was submitted to the UNFCCC in April 2021, detailed the existing national governance arrangements and legal and institutional frameworks within which REDD+ activities are designed and implemented in accordance to the Cancun Safeguards. It has enabled Guyana to meet the eligibility requirements to be able to participate in a forest carbon financing mechanism for REDD+.

## **2. Scope of work**

Utilising existing national systems at sector level, and building on the existing governance arrangements and legal and institutional frameworks detailed in Guyana's First Summary of Information (SoI) on REDD+ Safeguards, the Specialist will be required to provide support to the Guyana Forestry Commission in the in the following areas:

- i. Development of the Safeguard Information System consistent with the guidance in UNFCCC decision 12/CP.17;
- ii. Support Guyana in meeting its reporting obligations to the UNFCCC and ART, specific to safeguards;
- iii. Build the capacity of the Guyana Forestry Commission in REDD+ Safeguards monitoring and reporting

More specifically, the Consultant will be required to:

## **2.1 Develop a Safeguard Information System for Guyana**

- 2.1.1 Utilise existing sector level addressing of grievances, and taking stock of existing governance arrangements in developing a centralised Safeguard Information System for compilation, monitoring and reporting on how safeguards are being addressed, implemented and respected in Guyana. SIS should be developed with flexibility to allow for incorporation of future improvements.
- 2.1.2 Informed by sector level addressing of grievances, develop an appropriate database for reporting of safeguards information.

## **2.2 Conduct annual reporting on status of Cancun Safeguards to meeting international reporting requirements**

- 2.2.1 Compile Section 7- Safeguards of the ART TREES Monitoring Report (TMR) for Guyana for Years 2022 and 2023
- 2.2.2 Compile Guyana's Second Summary of Information Report on REDD+ Safeguards for submission to the UNFCCC.

## **2.3 Build local capacities in REDD+ Safeguard monitoring and reporting**

- 2.3.1 Conduct capacity building activities with staff of the GFC to ensure familiarity with the SIS.

## **3. Profile of Consultant**

- 3.1 Qualifications** – A MSc in Environmental/Forest Economics, Environmental Law, Forestry/Forest Management, Natural Resources Management, or a related field, with proven experience in REDD+ Safeguards.
- 3.2 Experience** – At least 10 years of experience in the development of systems for monitoring and reporting on REDD+ Safeguards, including in building of national systems and capacities. Knowledge of REDD+ implementation in Guyana and issues relating to Guyana's implementation of REDD+ Safeguards required.
- 3.3 Skills and Abilities-** Candidate must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills. The Candidate must be able to articulate ideas in a clear and concise style.
- 3.4 Technological Awareness-** Ability to make effective use of required computer software and other equipment relevant to the post is critical.
- 3.5 Teamwork:** Good interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain effective working relations in a multicultural organization. Ability to provide effective support in relation to work conducted by and in collaboration with colleagues.
- 3.6 Availability:** The Consultant is expected to make his/her self-available throughout the duration of the project.
- 3.7 Future collaboration-** the Consultant may be considered for future collaboration with the GFC in the continued development of the MRVS at the end of the contract.

#### **4. Authority and Role of the GFC**

The GFC has full authority and responsibility for this contract which includes oversight over service provider and of the procurement process. The GFC is a semi-autonomous organization formed in 1979 with a legal mandate to manage and control the utilization of the State Forest Estate. Its main role is to ensure the sustainable utilization of the State Forest Estate in keeping with sustainable forest management principles and guidelines captured in the Forest Act, 2009.

Governed by a developmental mandate, this agency ensures that there is a balance among the pillars of social, economic and environmental development. Over the past decade, the Commission has undergone rapid development in the implementation of sustainable forest management, legality, and environmental standards.

The Guyana Forestry Commission will provide access to relevant personnel and information on REDD+ implementation in Guyana. The management of GFC will identify GFC staff members whom will be collaborating with the Consultant to plan and implement technical activities. The Consultant will receive full logistical support at pre-approved level, from the GFC.

The management of GFC will approve the following submissions from the Consultant:

- Work plan
- Technical Reports

#### **5. Application Process**

Details of the Terms of Reference and Scope can be found on the GFC website at [www.forestry.gov.gy](http://www.forestry.gov.gy) under the tab Publication – **Terms of Reference - Specialist on REDD+ Safeguards**

**Interested Individuals or firms must:**

- Submit a 5-10 page project proposal no later than December 16, 2022.
- Proposals should be addressed to:

**The Commissioner of Forests  
Guyana Forestry Commission  
1 Water Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana, South America.**

Or can be emailed to: [ndewnath@gmail.com](mailto:ndewnath@gmail.com) copied to [finance@forestry.gov.gy](mailto:finance@forestry.gov.gy)

**The Proposal should specifically cover:**

- a. Proposed methodology to undertake the services as specified in this TOR
- b. The fees and business conditions associated with the implementation of the services as specified in this TOR
- c. Activity Timeline
- d. In an appendix, the experience/resources you would bring to the project. Applicants are expected to provide named references with proven implementation and business experience in the terms of reference outlined. This appendix should cover your organization's previous work experience, as well as work relating to this area.
- e. Proposals must be submitted in English and costs must be quoted in US dollars.

**Some of the Assessment Criteria for the proposals include:**

- Technical strength and credibility of proposal in meeting required generally accepted international guidelines and standards.
- Experience of the Provider in the development of Safeguard Information Systems for REDD+, including familiarity with the UNFCCC and ART in this regard.
- Cost Considerations and efficiency of approach

**6. Continuation of work**

The goal of the MRVS is to provide the basis for measuring verifiable changes in Guyana's forest cover and resultant carbon emissions from Guyana's forests, which will underpin results-based REDD+ compensation in the long-term, based on international guidance and best practice. The need for continuity in its continued development is imperative and therefore the selected consultant will be re-engaged through direct sourcing (sole sourcing) for conducting of similar services beyond the contract period through a new or extended agreement.