



## **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- Stakeholder Engagement Consultant for REDD & MRVS Dialogues**

##### **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.

In recognition of the crucial role of stakeholder engagement in the continued development of the MRVS, the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) is seeking to implement activities in continuing to build awareness, provide training, and foster communication and dialogue on REDD+ and the MRVS through a continuous, iterative two-way process. Under 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 GFC is seeking the services of a Stakeholder Engagement Consultant for REDD & MRVS Engagements.

## 2. Scope of work

The Consultant will be required to conduct national outreach on Guyana's MRVS and its expansion and capabilities for accessing a forest carbon-based market mechanism. In doing so, the Consultant will be expected to:

- Work along with the GFC and relevant stakeholders in planning and executing outreach activities.
- Ensure the dissemination of outreach materials to national and community stakeholders prior to conducting of sessions.

More specifically, the Stakeholder Engagement Consultant for REDD & MRVS Dialogues will be required to:

- 2.1** Prepare and utilise user-friendly, non-technical outreach materials, including videos, booklets, PowerPoint presentations, informational leaflets, diagrams etc., that focus on the MRVS, its expansion and capability of accessing a forest carbon-based market mechanism, its role in the implementation of the LCDS 2030, as well as the broader REDD+ areas related to the MRVS.
- 2.2** Disseminate invitations and outreach materials at least one month prior to the conducting of the engagement session.
- 2.3** Hold stakeholder engagement and capacity building sessions with national stakeholders
  - a. Run a series of workshops to present and explain on the MRVS, its expansion and capability of accessing a forest carbon-based market mechanism, its role in the implementation of the LCDS 2030, as well as the broader REDD+ areas related to the MRVS.
  - b. The workshops will be conducted in clusters with participation from at least 9 communities per cluster.
  - c. The following main clusters will be targeted, based on their central location in relation to forest-based communities and forestry activities:

I. Mabaruma (Region 1)	XI. Annai (Region 9)
II. Moruca (Region 1)	XII. Lethem (Region 9)
III. Port Kaituma (Region 1)	XIII. Aishalton (Region 9)
IV. Anna Regina (Region 2)	XIV. Kwakwani (Region 10)
V. Charity (Region 2)	XV. Linden (Region 10)
VI. Parika (Region 3)	XVI. NTC and IPC
VII. New Amsterdam, Corentyne (Region 6)	XVII. GFC Staff
VIII. Orealla (Region 6)	XVIII. NGO and Civil Society Cluster
IX. Bartica (Region 7)	XIX. Private Sector Grouping
X. Kamarang/Madhia (Region 7)	XX. Government
	XXI. Academic and Training Institutions
	XXII. Youth and Women

At least 5 representatives from each community per session will be targeted, each cluster should therefore have approximately 40 participants to allow for effective dedicated attention to be directed to each person and group of communities.

Special measures will be put in place to ensure representation and participation women (gender representation), youth, elders and other vulnerable groups of vulnerable groups during these engagements.

These measures could include but will not be limited to:

- a. Inviting community leaders to ensure that selection of participants is representative of a mix of local stakeholders with emphasis of gender responsiveness and inclusion of young and elderly persons.
- b. Reiterating recommendations for selection of a representative mix of stakeholders during follow-up calls to village leaders.
- c. Planning sessions at a time and location convenient to the schedules of these groups.
- d. Consideration for focused and separate sessions to target these groups.
- e. Development of relevant and culturally appropriate materials, tailored to specific context and audiences and informed by prior and existing national outreach projects.

Participation by persons with the capacity to share information with the rest of their communities will be encouraged.

The Consultant will be required to prepare:

- A workshop report including photos,
- Participants list with accompanying gender breakdown
- Summary of activities and discussions for each cluster session

### **3. Profile of Consultant**

- 3.1 **Qualifications:** At least a Master's degree in Natural Resources Management, Forestry, Communication, Journalism, Public Relations; with professional work experience in engaging with multiple stakeholders at various levels and fora within Guyana.
- 3.2 **Experience:** Candidate must possess a minimum of 5 years proven experience at the national and/or international level with demonstrated experience in the communications field, including the creation of communications materials, specifically in working with indigenous and/or forest communities. Experience working with forest based communities in Guyana is preferred. The Candidate must also demonstrate relevant experience working with government institutions and public authorities; and knowledge of Guyana's work on REDD+, and other related subject areas.
- 3.3 **Skills and Abilities:** Candidate must also possess excellent oral and written English communication skills and be able to articulate ideas and prepare reports in a clear and concise style. Preference will be given to persons being able to communicate in culturally appropriate ways with forest communities of Guyana.
- 3.4 **Technological Awareness:** Ability to make effective use of relevant computer software programs for training and preparation of training materials (MS Office), and other equipment relevant to the execution of training workshops.
- 3.5 **Adaptive Approach and Innovation:** Candidate must be able to adapt his/her style/approach to Guyana's specific context and to be able to present information using novel and appropriate methods.
- 3.6 **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 colleagues.
- 3.7 **Mentorship and Training:** Preference will be given to Candidate that has demonstrated interest and experience in knowledge-transfer and skills development in order to build capacity in communications within the GFC.
- 3.8 **Availability:** The Consultant is expected to make his/herself available throughout the duration of the project.

#### **4. Authority and Role**

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 **Stakeholder Engagement Consultant for REDD & MRVS Dialogues**

##### **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 at the national and/or international level with demonstrated experience in the communications field, including the creation of communications materials, specifically in working with indigenous and/or forest communities.
- 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.