

## Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

### Summary of Proposed FY12 Budget Activity: Linking Community-Based Forest Monitoring with National REDD+ MRV System Development

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**Background:** Recent decisions made at the international climate negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have provided a rough framework for developing countries' participation in a future scheme for REDD+. An important set of activities for countries' REDD readiness is the development of national forest monitoring and carbon accounting systems that would form the basis for a future system of performance-based payments for forest-related emissions reductions (measurement, reporting, verification, or MRV). This entails the following: (i) a combination of remote sensing and ground based forest carbon inventory approaches; (ii) provision of estimates that are transparent, consistent, accurate; and (iii) ensuring the availability of system results for review. As part of their monitoring systems, countries should track both carbon and non-carbon values (such as biodiversity, livelihoods, participation of indigenous peoples, etc.).

Local communities, including indigenous people, are the stewards of forests and their participation in the monitoring of natural resources has been part of development cooperation for decades. A variety of recent initiatives and practical experiences have demonstrated that forest-related data (both carbon and non-carbon) collected by local communities can play an essential role in forest monitoring and management, is scientifically viable, and thus bears an important potential for the development of national REDD+ programs. This often includes participatory approaches for forest mapping and data analysis to validate and improve satellite-based observations of forest cover changes. Also, community-based monitoring can facilitate the tracking of the socio-economic and environmental impacts of REDD+ beyond emission reductions which has potential benefits such as in the context of verification systems to track illegal logging and the attraction of external investments due to improved transparency, accountability and improved land use planning. Indigenous and local knowledge is also harnessed to understand drivers of forest cover change and develop forest management plans and scenarios at the local level. Examples from such community-based approaches exist in virtually all parts of the world. More recently indigenous peoples and local communities have started using similar approaches to perform forest carbon assessment at the local level. At the same time, there is often little or no connection between locally based forest and resource management and national REDD+ planning. As forest countries start developing their capacities for REDD+ at the national level, it becomes a central question to find ways in which the efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities can be integrated in national MRV systems, monitoring of social and environmental impacts, and how emerging technology can be harnessed to facilitate this integration to improve forest mapping and management.

**Scope of Work:** This activity is expected to have two phases.

1. During a first phase relevant experiences to-date would be synthesized to develop technical guidance material to REDD countries for a closer integration of the efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities in forest inventories and the development of national MRV systems. A

central element is the organization of a workshop during which indigenous peoples, local communities and national REDD+ planning teams can showcase their activities, discuss synergies, and areas where community-level and national forest monitoring efforts intersect. The resulting material and documentation is expected to be used by FCPF countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts going forward and ultimately help develop tools for participatory information systems that will help enhance the inclusiveness and effectiveness of REDD+ readiness activities.

2. The focus for a second phase would be on providing guidance and technical assistance to countries at the national and regional level to advance the application of good practices. This would also involve funding organizations to work with local communities and indigenous peoples on identifying the relevant social and environmental indicators that can be used to monitor REDD+ effectively.

**Timeframe:** This activity will commence in July 2011 with the organization of an international workshop in September 2011. Final guidance material is to be produced by October 2011. The international workshop is expected to provide a framework and technical guidance to further build capacity at the national and sub-regional level and an additional 4 technical capacity building workshops are anticipated in the 2012 timeframe.

**Budget request for FY12:** The total budget requested for this activity from the FCPF Readiness Fund is \$185,000. This includes \$105,000 for about sixteen weeks of FMT time plus international travel, to support this activity (indicatively \$50,000 for the international workshop, and \$55,000 for 4 national and regional workshops). Co-funding for the analysis, consultancies, workshop costs etc. for phase 1 activities (international workshop) has been secured from other sources including \$220,000 from GEF grant resources which supplement FCPF readiness activities. The proposed additional funding of \$80,000 from the FCPF Readiness Fund is required to conduct the workshop in phase 2 (national workshops).