TERMS OF REFERENCE

Activity 1.3.1.1: Data collection and calculation of EPI relating to land degradation and biodiversity in Viet Nam

Title:	**Data collection and calculation of EPI (land degradation and biodiversity in Viet Nam)**
Project ID and title:	89760 Enhancing Capacity for Implementing Rio Conventions
Contract type:	Consultancy Firm
Duty station:	Hanoi and field visit to selected provinces (if required)
Duration & Timing:	August to December, 2017
Reporting to:	Project Management Unit (ISPONRE), UNCCD and UNCBD focal points in Viet Nam

1. INTRODUCTION

This Terms of reference (TOR) is developed to address the activities under the Output 1.3: "Continue support the development and monitor of Environmental Performance Indices in line with international standards" under the "Enhancing Capacity for Implementing Rio Conventions" Project.

The Project's Objective is: "To enhance the capacity for implementing the Rio Conventions by developing and applying tools that will lead to global environmental benefits". The Project attempts to achieve this through 2 Outcomes: 1. Viet Nam has the environmental management tools that fully address global environmental concerns; and: 2. Viet Nam is integrating global environmental concerns into its national strategic planning and development processes.

The project will support to attain output 1.3 "Continue support the development and monitor of Environmental Performance Indices in line with international standards". In order to do that, the project is looking for a consultantcy firm to collect data for developing EPI relating to land degradation and biodiversity in 63 provinces in Viet Nam.

2. BACKGROUND

At the UN Summit on 25-27 September 2015, the UN's Sustainable Development Agenda (MDGs) 2030 was adopted. At the same conference, President Truong Tan Sang affirmed Vietnam's support and commitment to focus all necessary resources, mobilize all ministries, sectors, localities, organizations, communities and People to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda and all Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has provided a vision for the next 15-year development period with 17 SDGs and 169 targets, implementation modalities, global partnerships and Follow up action Objective 15 calls for countries to protect, regenerate and encourage the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable forest resource management, anti-desertification, soil erosion and biodiversity loss. Indicator 15.3 states "by 2030, against desertification, the restoration of degraded lands and land, including land affected by desertification, droughts

and floods, and strive to achieve a The world does not degenerate the land ". At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD Convention (COP.12), held in Ankara, Turkey in October 2015, the Parties agreed on SDG 15.3 including the concept of Land degradation balance (LDN) is a means of accelerating the implementation of the Convention. In addition, COP.12 has:

- Invites all Parties to "establish voluntary objectives for the implementation of the LDN" and integrate them into the national UNCCD action plan (NAPs);
- Requires UNCCD agencies to provide "guidelines for the establishment of national level goals and initiatives"; Ii) support "the use of the UNCCD indicators framework for monitoring, evaluation and information on the implementation of national targets";
- Decides that "where possible, affected countries will promptly respond to default data and proposed methodologies to establish national voluntary LDT targets through use of Framework for monitoring and evaluation, and completion of the reporting and goal setting process for the CRIC to review at the briefing session expected after January. 2018 "..." provided that countries have sufficient official national data / information to report or confirm national estimates based on global data sources and the report will primarily use data Whether the official country ";
- Recommendation for affected Member States to include national voluntary targets for LDN in national reports, as appropriate, and
- The decision "as a tool for understanding the current state of land degradation and land reclamation potential, this report is mandatory for evaluating the following three indicators of the UNCCD process", corresponding to Sub-target SDG of objective 15.3: "land cover trend" (parameter: vegetation coverage), "land productivity or land productivity trend" (parameter: land); And "upper and secondary carbon stock trends'

In Viet Nam, in order to achieve sustainable development, the Government of Vietnam has issued many important strategies and policies such as Agenda 21 on sustainable development (2004); Sustainable Development Strategy 2011-2020 (2012); National Action Plan for Sustainable Development 2013-2015 (2013); National Green Growth Strategy (2012); National Action Plan for Green Growth (2014); National Action Plan on Desertification between 2016-2020 with a vision to 2030 and a series of policies in other specific areas.

In the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Office of Desertification, located in the Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation and the General Department of Forestry, is the focal point for the implementation of anti-desertification in Vietnam. In 2016, the Secretariat of the Convention The United Nations' Anti-Desertification Program (LADP) is undertaking a program to establish the Land Degradation Balance (LDN-TSP) program for the 2016-2030 period. The Office of Desertification is the national liaison office for LDN-TSP in Vietnam

Vietnam has been a member of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since 1994. At present, the Focal Point Office is located in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

The CBD requires countries to develop reports on progress towards achieving the 2011-2020 Biodiversity Strategic Objective and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. To make an assessment of this process, countries need to develop biodiversity indicators / indicators. These are the bases for assessing the effectiveness of environmental protection in general and for biodiversity conservation in particular and are also an important basis for making policy decisions on biodiversity management in a consistent manner. Incorporate and effectively detect emergency emergencies in biodiversity conservation. Especially, in the context of the world's attention to issues such as climate change, sustainable development, green growth, biodiversity indicators play an important role in both propaganda and grassroots. Assess the impact of solutions on the issues mentioned above on the environment and vice versa.

The Convention on Biological Diversity has guided the development of a biodiversity and monitoring indicator at the national level since 1999 (UNEP / CBD / SBSTTA / 5/12, 22 October 1999). In 2011, based on this guideline, the World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) BIP (World Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity Indicators) (BIP) piloted and published guidelines for the development and use of indicators. Biodiversity at the national level).

In Vietnam, biodiversity indicators are used to monitor the progress of the implementation of the objectives, tasks and solutions identified in the national strategies and plans for the environment and biodiversity. . The Law on Environmental Protection (2005), Law on Biodiversity (2008) all regulate the assessment of environmental factors in order to provide information for evaluating the current state and evolution. Environmental quality as well as biodiversity.

Mangroves in Viet Nam are distributed in 29 provinces / cities of 05 ecological regions nationwide. According to statistics, 62% of the total area of mangrove forests in the country today is pure forest, newly planted, poor quality in terms of size, height and biodiversity. The primary mangrove forests are almost gone.

The statistics show that the rate of loss of mangroves in our country is very high, about 2-3% per year, mainly due to environmental pollution and conversion of land use. In 1943 our country had more than 408,500 ha of mangroves. As of 2012, the national mangrove forest area is 139,046 ha of which only 60,822 ha of natural mangroves.

Mangroves play an extremely ecologically and environmentally responsible role.

For ecology: Mangroves are also spawning grounds of many aquatic species; Is the habitat, feeding and nesting of many birds; It has the function of anti-alumization, prevent erosion, limit the impact of wind and storms on estuaries and coastal areas.

For the environment: Mangroves are green lungs regulates the climate in the area, reducing the maximum temperature and heat amplitude, helping to limit the evaporation of mangrove soil, Limiting salt intrusion into the mainland. Mangrove reduces the greenhouse effect. One-year-old mangrove forests can absorb 8 tons CO2 / ha / year and the absorption capacity of CO2 increases with the age of forest trees (Nguyen Thi Hong Hanh, 2010). Mangrove is a filter tank for coastal environments. Flows from the inland - where industrial parks, densely populated areas - carry waste from daily life, health, industry, agriculture

together with surplus chemicals through coastal mangrove forests. The mangrove root system has a great deal of biodegradation, making it a food source for the organism here, purifying seawater.

Recognizing the importance and close interaction between mangrove protection and the protection of the environment, as well as many governments around the world, Vietnam has set legal regulations to protect flooded forests. screen; The Prime Minister issued Decision 120 / QD-TTg dated January 22, 2015 approving the "Coastal Protection and Development Project to Respond to Climate Change 2014-2020".

This Terms of Reference Describes the Work of Developing an Environmental Performance Indicator for Land Degradation and Biodiversity in Vietnam, covering two main areas:

1) Develop land-degradation baseline report; evaluate trends and factors that lead to land degradation; establish self-balanced goals for land degradation in Viet Nam supporting UNCCD reporting process.
2) Develop mangrove indicator report; identify relevant parameter, variables and monitoring methods in order to support UNCBD reporting process

3. OBJECTIVES

The selected consultancy firm will support UNCCD and UNCBD focal points to develop EPI relating to land degradation and biodiversity in Viet Nam.

4. SCOPE AND TASKS

TASK I: Develop land-degradation baseline report; evaluate trends and factors that lead to land degradation; establish self-balanced goals for land degradation in Viet Nam supporting UNCCD reporting process.

1) Develop land-degradation baseline in Viet Nam

- Review all data provided by Global Mechanism (GM) and verify the parameters relating to maps, boundary that fit to actual context in Viet Nam
- Collect national available data ***in the period of 2000-2015*** from relevant agencies, programme, projects to develop land-use baseline;
- Compare the accuracy rate between GM data and national data; propose proper data source to develop land-use baseline.
- Use the data set to calculation the land use baseline and maps for Viet Nam
- Review the data set in the period 2010 to 2015 to evaluate land degradation trends in Viet Nam and identify factors that lead to land degradation in Viet Nam
- Consult with related stakeholders, include LD focal points on the initial results of the calculation

2) Identify Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target (Land use target, Forest cover) for Viet Nam during the period of 2016-2030 and develop Land Degradation Neutrality National Report for Viet Nam

TASK II: Develop mangrove indicator report; identify relevant parameter, variables and monitoring methods in order to support UNCBD reporting process

1) Collect available data on mangrove from different sources (i.e. MARD, MONRE, NGOs) in Viet Nam in the period of 2000-2015, including:

- Mangrove coverage
- Quality of mangrove
- Changes of mangrove area during the period

2) Identify measurements, parameters, variables for each indicators of mangrove in order to calculate EPI. Indicators should include:

+ Current status of mangrove;
+ Pressure from social-economic development;
+ Response from mangrove
+ The benefit of mangrove protection

3) Work with CBD focal point to calculate EPI for mangrove and collect feedbacks from stakeholders (i.e. MONRE, MARD, research institutes, etc.)

5. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT, DUTY STATION AND EXPECTED PLACES OF TRAVEL

Duration and Timing: August to December 2017

Duty station: Hanoi with travel to the field if required

6. DELIVERABLES/OUTPUTS

- Inception Report, that includes the understanding and comments of the consultants on the TORs, the methodology to be followed, detailed work plan of the team
- Land-use baseline report; evaluate trends and factors that lead to land degradation; establish self-balanced goals for land degradation in Viet Nam supporting UNCCD reporting process.
- Mangrove indicators report, identify relevant parameter, variables and monitoring methods in order to support UNCBD reporting process

All reports to be submitted in both Vietnamese and English

7. PROVISION OF MONITORING AND PROGRESS CONTROL

The selected firm will have regular meetings and discussion with ISPONRE/MONRE, focal points of UNCCD and UNCBD. The firm is required to regularly report to PMU/ISPONRE, focal points of UNCCD and UNCBD on the progress of the work based on the agreed work plan.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT

PMU/ISPONRE will support the arrangement of all meetings, partners/stakeholders consultations as needed.

Documents: Copies of the following documents will be made accessible to the consultants upon commencement of the assignments:

- Project documents
- Reference documents on EPI.

9. REQUIREMENTS / QUALIFICATIONS

Consultancy firm's Capacity and Expertise:

- Having general reputation that indicates its competency and reliability;
- Demonstrated technical expertise and proven international experience in the area of development of database on land degradation/biodiversity in Viet Nam;

- Proven knowledge of the process of data collection and processing of land degradation/biodiversity data in Vietnam at all levels;

- Good appreciation of the current status of collecting and processing land degradation/biodiversity data, types of data, and data sources;

- Good contacts in key Government agencies in charge of the Viet Nam land degradation/biodiversity data collection;

-Having relevant equipment for collecting and analyzing required samples

-Ability to deliver report in English (through previous report/research)

10. REVIEW TIME REQUIRED AND PAYMENT TERM

The first installment of 20 % contract amount will be paid upon submission of inception report/detail work plan agreed by PMU/ISPONRE and UNDP

The second installment of 30 % contract amount will be paid upon submission of the first draft report with satisfactory acceptance by PMU/ISPONRE and UNDP

The third installment of 30 % contract amount will be paid upon submission of the revised draft report with satisfactory acceptance by PMU/ISPONRE and UNDP

The final payment of 20% will be paid upon the completion of final products under the contract, mentioned in item 6, with satisfactory acceptance by PMU/ISPONRE and UNDP

11. EVALUATION CRITERIA WITH ASSIGNED SCORES

Consultancy firm's Capacity and Expertise		
1	Having general reputation that indicates its competency and reliability;	**150**
2	Demonstrated technical expertise and proven international experience in the area of development of database on land degradation/biodiversity in Viet Nam;	**150**
3	Proven knowledge of the process of data collection and processing of land degradation/biodiversity data in Vietnam at all levels;	**150**
4	Good appreciation of the current status of collecting and processing land degradation/biodiversity data, types of data, and data sources;	**150**
5.	Good contacts in key Government agencies in charge of the Viet Nam land degradation/biodiversity data collection;	**150**
6.	Having relevant equipment for collecting and analyzing required samples	**150**
7.	Ability to deliver report in English (through previous report/research)	**100**
Total		**1000**