Vacancy Announcement for Lao Nationals
Forest and Climate Change Specialist
(Based in Vientiane Capital and occasionally travels to provinces)

SNV Netherlands Development Organisation is dedicated to a society where all people enjoy the freedom to pursue their own sustainable development. SNV Lao PDR provides capacity development services in 4 sectors: Agriculture and Forest Products, Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism, Renewable Energy and Water Sanitation and Hygiene. Governance, Gender and Social Inclusion are a core approach in its capacity development work with (groups of) clients.

Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a new programme of SNV. The USAID is financing a five-year (2011 – 2016) regional programme entitled Lowering Emissions in Asian Forests (LEAF). This programme aims to enhance capacities in forest carbon monitoring, create enabling policies and market incentives, demonstrate sustainable forest and land management practices through pilot activities, and share and replicate lessons and innovations through regional platforms and partnerships. The programme is being implemented by Winrock International, SNV, and Climate Focus, along with technical assistance from the United States Forest Service. SNV is leading the implementation of LEAF in Lao PDR.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

SNV is seeking a qualified candidate who will be responsible to develop and implement REDD+ and forest carbon activities in project sites with local, regional and national partners; as well as will provide support to build technical capacity in-country. He/she will work in close collaboration with the regional LEAF Advisor on Forest and Climate Change, GIS, and Monitoring and Evaluation, as well as with the Lao Field Officer. He/she will report to the national Country Manager.

His/her main tasks will be to provide technical support to field site interventions, which may include helping establish baselines, MRV systems and linking to potential carbon markets. This requires good knowledge of GIS, Remote sensing and techniques for the measurement of forest carbon stocks. Given the technical nature of this position the person will receive support and training from Winrock’s Carbon specialists to help carry out these responsibilities. He/she will also work closely with Winrock’s ECO unit to introduce trainings and curriculum development on MRV and economic valuation. The position will require travel to the project’s field location sites.

KEY TASKS:

- In collaboration with the team provide technical support for REDD+ activities and pilot projects with a particular emphasis on monitoring and measuring changes in forest carbon emissions;
- Assist in developing Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance guidelines for measuring and analyzing forest plot data to determine forest carbon stocks and working with partners to collect and analyze data;
- Design and provide training as necessary to partners, beneficiaries, and counterparts;
- Working with partners, development of strategies and implementation of activities that reduce deforestation and/or forest degradation as well as MRV design.
- Timely preparation and submission of reports and other deliverables;
- Provide inputs for National REDD+ Working Groups or Sub-Technical Groups; and
- Collaborate with provincial and district level authorities and partners.

Job requirements:

**Education:**
Master's Degree in Natural Resource Management, Forestry, Geographic Information Systems, or otherwise achieved academic level of working in these fields of expertise.

**Work Experience:**
- Five years of relevant technical experience in forestry, forest carbon, carbon accounting, climate change mitigation, REDD+, CDM, or natural resource management projects
- Is up to date and has knowledge of different methodologies and MRV systems; has experience in working on Forest Carbon projects
- Demonstrated and proven record to work in a multidisciplinary team under changeable and complex circumstances
- Experience in capacity building at sub-national level

**Skills:**
- Technical skills on REDD+ and MRV using approved carbon accounting methods.
- Understanding of CDM Knowledge of and experience with land cover change modeling, GIS/Remote sensing is highly desirable.
- Analytical skills for interpretation of carbon data
- Strong training, facilitation and capacity building skills
- Good oral and written communication skills and fluency in English
Time frame: Initial one year contract with probation period for two months and with possible extension up to another two years.

Starting date: As early as possible.

How to apply: Interested applicants should submit an application letter with an updated Curriculum Vitae and copies of relevant certificates by 14 November 2011 to laosjobs@snvworld.org with the ref. to the position of Forest and Climate change Specialist, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, PO Box 9781, Nongbone Road, Vientiane.

All application documents will be treated confidentially and only short listed candidates will be contacted. Women are strongly encouraged to apply.