

## **Bangladesh UN-REDD National Programme Justification for the Request of No-Cost Extension till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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The Bangladesh UN-REDD National Programme (NP) was signed on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015 for a 3-year implementation period up to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018. As for all development assistance projects/programmes in Bangladesh, the Government requires a mirror document named a Technical Project Proposal (TPP) after the project/programme is officially committed. Through the TPP, the programme is mainstreamed into the national planning process.

The TPP formulation demands a greater level of detail in describing activities and procurement needs than what is described in the UN-REDD National Programme Document. Moreover, the internal Government approval procedure for the TPP is a lengthy process and final approval to initiate activities was given by the Government only on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

The Programme Management Unit (PMU) was thereafter established, after which programme activities could proceed smoothly and the Bangladesh NP was officially launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016, at the Inception workshop organized under the patronage of Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, with the participation of over 100 people.

By this time, 15 months had lapsed since the signing of the Programme Document and therefore since the start of the implementation period according to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund and UN-REDD Secretariat. This is the main reason for our request of No-Cost Extension of the NP.

In addition, several delays in recruitment and selection processes were experienced due to the shortage of suitably knowledgeable national personnel and consultants with the expertise needed to conduct the studies and activities under the NP. Raising awareness more generally, among government and other stakeholders, has also been problematic, first in ensuring understanding of the concept and second in relating the concept to stakeholders' work mandates. Furthermore, the NP was designed well before the inception. Some of the activities and modalities proposed in the NP have proved to be inappropriate during programme implementation, which required the technical officers to redesign some of the key concept notes.

For these reasons, it will not be possible for the PMU to complete NP implementation by the current programme end date of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018. A no-cost extension is therefore proposed for 14 months, with a revised end date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. This proposal has already been endorsed at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Programme Steering Committee on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (endorsed minutes are attached to this justification note). Members of the Programme Executive Board (PEB), who are not members of the PSC have also endorsed the PSC decision through communication with the National Programme Director (evidence of this communication is also attached).

This justification note is further supported by a revised Results Framework of the NP till end June 2019.