

**UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Programme Executive Board (PEB) Meeting Minutes**

**Name of Project:** UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme  
**Venue:** Blue Sky Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.  
**Date and Time:** 27 March 2019  
**Chaired by:** Tsengel. Ts, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Tourism.  
**Co-chaired by:** Beate Trankmann, United Nations Resident Coordinator *a.i.*, Mongolia

**1. Attendance:**

**Present**

**Programme Board members**

1. Tsengel.Ts, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Tourism
2. Beate Trankmann, UN RC/ UNDP RR
3. Enkhtaivan.N, Senior Officer, Department of Forest Policy and Coordination, Representing NPD
4. Vinod Ahuja, FAO Representative
5. Bunchingiv.B, Programme Analyst, Climate Change, UNDP
6. Oyunchimeg.L, Representing Director, Department of Monitoring and Evaluation of Internal Auditing, Ministry of Environment and Tourism
7. Anand.Ts, Officer, Department of Climate Change and International Cooperation
8. Sarantuya.B, Director, Information and Research Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment
9. Badamkhand.D Forest-sustainable development council, CSO
10. Solongo.Ts, Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management and carbon sink enhancement into Mongolia's productive forest landscapes project, FAO
11. Michael Trockenbrodt, Project Manager, Supporting Protected Areas for the Conservation of Ecosystem Services (SPACES) in Mongolia, GIZ
12. Alexis Corblin, Regional Technical Advisor, UN Environment (remotely, by Skype)

**Non-members**

1. Ben Vickers, Regional Technical Advisor, UNFAO
2. Khishigjargal.B, Programme Manager, UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme
3. Akihito Kono, International Consultant, UNDP
4. Banzragch.Ts, REDD+ Policy Advisor, UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme
5. Narantsatsral.B, Finance and Administrative Officer, UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme
6. Maralgoo.G, Officer, DFPC, MET
7. Dulamjav.D, Secretary/translator, UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme
8. Batchuluun.B, Contractor Communication Officer, UN-REDD Mongolia National
9. Danae Maniatis, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP (remotely, by Skype)

**Absent**

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Delgerjargal.B, Director, Department of Mining policy, Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry</li> <li>2. D.Erdenebayar, Director, Division of Sector Development and Coordination, National Development Agency /due to field mission/</li> <li>3. Batkhuu.I, Director, Department of Development Financing, Ministry of Finance</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Byambadorj.N, Officer, Department of Livestock Policy and Implementation, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry</li> </ol> |
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## 2. Objectives of the 7<sup>th</sup> PEB meeting

1. To review progress on the decisions and recommendations made at the previous meeting;
2. To review overall achievements, challenges, and lessons learned;
3. To review and approve asset transfer;
4. To review Phasing out strategy; and
5. To discuss future support by the Government and participating UN agencies.

For detailed agenda see [Annex 1](#).

## 3. Progress update and final report

### 3.1. Opening

The opening remarks were made by Mr Tsengel. Ts, PEB Co-chair and State Secretary of the Ministry, followed by Mrs Beate Trankmann, Co-chair of the PEB and United Nations Resident Coordinator *a.i.*.

In his remarks, Mr. Tsengel, the State Secretary acknowledged the efforts by UN-REDD Mongolia NP team to make Mongolia ready for REDD+ and step towards NDC through forest sector. He highlighted the key achievements of the UN-REDD NP, including the final draft of the National Programme on Reducing Emissions from Forest Degradation and Deforestation /NP/ that had been submitted to the Ministerial Council, and emphasized the sector's potential to contribute significantly to country's GDP. Ms. Beate Trankmann, UN Resident Coordinator *a.i.* , also welcomed all PEB members to the 7<sup>th</sup> (and final) PEB meeting of the UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme and thanked Mr. Tsengel, the co-chair and all the PEB members for their continuous support and engagement in the Programme activities for the last three years.

### 3.2 Update 1: Progress on Decisions and Recommendations made at the previous meeting in Nov 2018

Status of decisions and recommendations were presented to the PEB ([see Annex 2](#)). The decisions and recommendation that require follow up by MET were specifically highlighted.

### 3.3 Overall achievements, challenges, and lessons learned

The NPM presented overall achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. Key achievements are summarized below (presentation can be found in annex 3).

#### a) National Strategy

Mongolia's National Program on REDD+ (NP), which is Mongolia's National REDD+ Strategy, has been prepared along with an Action plan (AP). The formulations of Mongolia's REDD+ NP and AP were informed by a series of baseline and feasibility studies conducted between 2015 and 2018. The NP and AP underwent an extensive stakeholder consultation process and incorporated inputs by all key stakeholders including forest-dependent communities, local and national authorities, private sector representatives, CSOs, ethnic minorities and development partners.

#### **b) National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)**

Mongolia's first comprehensive and multi-purpose NFI from 2016 was updated in 2018 to include information on poorly-stocked forests. A decision to undertake the NFI on an annual continuous basis, covering at least 10% of permanent NFI sample plots, was taken by the MET along with a commitment to allocate budget for the NFI under the MET's forest management budget from 2019 onwards. Based on the collected raw data on belowground biomass stock of Mongolia's dominant tree species, *i.e.* larch and saxaul, regionally-specific biomass models were developed by national research institutes. Data generated through these studies will help improve the accuracy of biomass and GHG emission estimates in the future. In October 2018, the government formally approved a technical guidance document that makes Mongolia's national land use and land use change statistics compliant with the IPCC guideline.

#### **c) Forest Reference Level (FRL)**

A nationally-endorsed FRL was submitted to the UNFCCC for a Technical Assessment (TA) in January 2018. The FRL was further amended based on TA recommendations and resubmitted in June 2018 entailing a complete set of compiled historical activity data and emission factors. The FRL was developed by a core group of technical specialists from key national institutions, capacities of whom have been strengthened by the UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme throughout the process. The TA team acknowledged the fact that the information and data set used for Mongolia's FRL were transparent, complete, and in overall accordance with the UNFCCC guidelines. In late November 2018, the UNFCCC provided a draft TA report, and Mongolia's response to the TA report was submitted to the UNFCCC in February 2019. The on-line publications of modified version of FRL and TA report on the UNFCCC website are expected shortly.

#### **d) Safeguards and Safeguard Information System (SIS)**

Mongolia's national REDD+ Safeguards Framework (NSF) has been designed with stakeholder participation in accordance with the UNFCCC safeguards and national goals and circumstances making full use of existing systems and institutions in the country. It includes the following five key components: 1) goals and scope; 2) potential benefits and risks and measures to enhance/mitigate the benefits and risks; 3) safeguards relevant policies, laws and regulations; 4) national safeguards clarification; and 5) information on Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). Mongolia's Safeguards Information System (SIS) has also been designed and is set out in a two-volume report 'Mongolia's REDD+ Safeguard Information System: Proposed Structure, Functions and Roles'. In addition, an excel version of the SIS database structure has been developed with relevant indicators, which will be potentially integrated into an online database hosted by the Environment Information Center (EIC). The development of the NSF and SIS design was led by the Technical Working Group on Safeguards and SIS (TWG-S&SIS).

### 3.4 Introduction of REDD+ NP and expected results.

Mr. Banzragch, Ts, Policy Advisor, presented progress on development of the National Program on Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation. He highlighted the expected impacts and benefits of

the National Programme and immediate and required follow-up steps (presentation can be found in annex 4).

#### *Discussion*

Anand.Ts, CCICD, MET, expressed her willingness to support the endorsement of the NP and Action Plan as they are timely and will help set updated NDC targets, which are currently under development. She highlighted that potential contribution from forest sector to the national NDC is defined by this NP and AP. In addition, a National sub-committee on Climate Change to develop country's medium term development plan aligned with SDV is expected to be fully functional and its first meeting is being planned in near future.

To support the political consultation process to get the NP and AP approved, Ms. B. Trankmann raised a potential further extension of the programme for PEB approval. Tsengel.Ts, State Secretary, confirmed the need to extend the UN-REDD National Programme implementation for another four months, taking into account the challenges MET may encounter in convincing key players including the Ministry of Finance, the National Development Agency and relevant parliamentary committees, who may raise reservations to approve yet another national programme especially in light of fiscal constraints facing the government. In addition, he also expressed that he would personally make sure that ministerial review of the NP and AP chaired by the Minister MET takes place within the month of April. Other members were in agreement.

Ben Vickers, FAO Regional Technical Advisor, acknowledged the rationale to extend the programme, but advised the activities under the extension request should be more narrow and focused compared to the previous no-cost extension process, taking into account the fact that the official end date will have already passed.

PEB members discussed how and to what extent private sector and forest user groups are expected to be involved in implementation of REDD+ NP and AP.

Representative from the CSO Forum - "Forest and Sustainable Development Council" expressed the need for more resources and equipment to function and requested some of the equipment used by the PMU be transferred to them upon completion of the Programme.

#### **4. Decisions and Recommendations**

**PEB decision 1/1:** The PEB agrees on requesting a four-month no-cost extension of the Programme to support the political process to get NP/AP documents approved by Cabinet. As UNRC a.i. Ms. Beate Trankmann will communicate this request to the UN-REDD Executive Board (EB) via the UN-REDD Secretariat.

**Recommendation 1/1:** PMU operation and work should be continued beyond current end date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, in anticipation that extension request will be granted by the UN-REDD EB.

**Recommendation 1/2:** To support the extension request, the PMU under guidance of NPD and State Secretary will develop revised Work Plan and budget, with key activities, including further revision of NP and AP, and activities supporting political consultation process advocating with key players such Minister of Finance, NDA and members of parliament.

**Recommendation 1/3:** DFPC, under the guidance of State Secretary and NPD, take leadership role in ensuring that the ministerial council meeting by MOET to review the NP and AP is held at the earliest possibility.

**PEB Decision 2/1: Assets transfer**


The list of assets, except item #15 and #16, submitted to the PEB would be formally handed over to the receiving entities, for which these assets were procured. See Annex 5 for details.


**Recommendation 2/1:** PMU and UN will prepare formalities to ensure smooth transfer of assets. Process to be initiated for handover, except for two items (two air purifiers, item#15 and 16) to be transferred to the newly established GEF ENSURE project PIU, which will be housed at MET premises. Hence, two items would remain in custody of UNDP to be transferred to GEF funded ENSURE project.

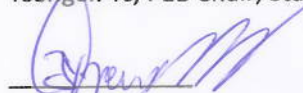
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Note taken by:  date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Khishigjargal. B, Programme Manager

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Oyunsanaa.B, National Programme Director

 date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bunchingiv B, Programme Analyst, UNDP Mongolia

Agreed by:  date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tsengel. Ts, PEB Chair, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Tourism

 date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Beate Trankmann, PEB Co-chair, The United Nations Resident Coordinator

**AGENDA**  
**FINAL PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**UN-REDD MONGOLIA NATIONAL PROGRAMME**

09:30-12:30, March 27, 2019

Topaz Hall, Blue Sky Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**Objectives are:**

1. To review progress on the decisions and recommendations made at the previous meeting;
2. To review overall achievements, challenges, and lessons learned;
3. To review and approve asset transfer;
4. To review Phasing out strategy; and
5. To discuss future support by the Government and participating UN agencies.

**Decisions to be made by PEB:**

- a. Endorsement of the Final Expenditure and Progress Report against the Programme targets.
- b. Resolution of budget underspending

Time	Session	Presenter/Facilitator
09:30 – 10:00	Registration	
10:00 – 10:20	Opening remarks	PEB chairs
<b>Session 1: Progress updates, final report</b>		
10:20 – 10:30	Progress on decisions and recommendations made at the previous PEB meeting in Nov 2018	Khishigjargal.B, Programme Manager
10:30 – 10:50	Overall achievements of the Programme, challenges and lessons learned	Khishigjargal. B
10:50 – 11:10	Discussion on overall achievements	PEB members
11:10 – 11:40	Introduction of REDD+ NP and expected results	NPD
11:40 – 12:20	Discussion on: - Future support to NPD implementation and related initiatives	PEB members
<b>Session 2: Decisions</b>		
12:20 – 12:30	Decision to be made by PEB on: a. Endorsement of the Final Expenditure and Progress Report against the Programme targets. b. Resolution of budget underspending	Facilitated by PEB chairs
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	

*Annex 2 Progress on Decisions and Recommendations made at the previous meeting in Nov 2018*

*Annex 3 Overall achievements, challenges, and lessons learned*

*Annex 4 Introduction of REDD+ NP and expected results*