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15<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Mr. Mario Boccucci,  
Head, UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

**Subject: Request for no-Cost extension of Papua New Guinea's UN-REDD National Programme**

As per the terms and Conditions of the UN-REDD Programme, a no-cost extension of one year is requested for the National PNG Programme. The requested end date therefore will be **31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**.

The Government of Papua New Guinea is grateful for the assistance and the support provided by the UN-REDD Programme. To date, considerable progress has been made under all components of the UN-REDD National Programme, notably under components 1 and 5. These will be completed by end of 2015. Nevertheless, components 2, 3 and 4 require some additional activities to fully establish the National Forest Monitoring System, including activities for the design and piloting of PNG's first National Forest Inventory (NFI). In addition, there is a need to continue developing PNG's capacity to integrate multiple benefits and safeguards into its national REDD+ strategy and planning processes.

To enable FAO and UNEP to support finalization of activities, a further no-cost extension of the UN-REDD National Programme of one year is requested. The Programme's Executive Board for of Papua New Guinea's UN-REDD National Programme at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015, approved formal submission of a request for a maximum of 12 months no-cost programme extension until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

A detailed justification, work plan and budget for 2016, and the Minutes of the last PEB meeting are attached to this request. Please contact Dr Hitofumi Abe ([Hitofumi.Abe@fao.org](mailto:Hitofumi.Abe@fao.org)) for further information.

Yours sincerely,



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**Varigini Badira,**  
National Project Director  
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**Goodwill Amos,**  
Acting Managing Director  
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To:  
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## Justification to the Request for no-Cost extension of Papua New Guinea's UN-REDD National Programme

The UN-REDD National Programme for Papua New Guinea started in July 2011 and was due to be completed at the end of 2013. Due to initial delays and political instability in 2012, a no-cost extension of the Programme was requested and subsequently approved for a period of two years until the end of 2015. The annual work plans for these two years were developed and approved by PNG's UN-REDD Programme Executive Board to enable completion of all activities by the end of 2015.

While intense efforts have been made to accelerate the implementation of the Programme's activities in 2014, due to initial delays incurred at the beginning of the Programme full completion has not been possible. Based on the remaining activities and available funds, the Programme Executive Board of Papua New Guinea's UN-REDD National Programme at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015, approved formal submission of a request for a **maximum of 12 months no-cost programme extension** until **31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**. Such an extension will allow for satisfactory completion of the UN-REDD National Programme and meet the needs of the Government of Papua New Guinea in addressing the adverse effects of climate change through appropriate mitigation measures.

This request for no-cost extension is submitted based on the following:

- The international technical advisor on MRV arrived only at the end of 2013, effectively starting the FAO component in early 2014 and hence the Programme saw a delay in implementation by a full year. Being the largest outcome of the Programme in terms of budget allocation, much of the initial budget still remains;
- With the technical support from FAO, to date PNG, through the PNG Forest Authority, has completed Phase 1 of the multipurpose NFI. Assessment of land use change in PNG using satellite data was completed in 2014, the results of which were presented in a workshop in Port Moresby in May 2014, and at a SBSTA side event in Bonn, Germany, in the same year.
- The second phase of the NFI (field-based) is yet to start and includes field measurements. Testing of field methods are expected to start in October 2015. Training on tree species identification, soils and biodiversity have been conducted this year in preparation of the field work. To successfully complete this phase additional time is required.
- Work under the M&MRV component has advanced but needs further development, i.e. further operatizing the Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) Laboratory. This includes finalization of a Action Plan for National Forest Monitoring System for REDD+, data management for the SLMS web portal and ongoing capacity building for staff of the SLMS Laboratory
- The work on safeguards was significantly affected by a delay in the closing of a Small-scale Funding Agreement (SSFS) between the Office of Climate Change and Development (OCCD) and UNEP.

To ensure compliance with the new completion date, the Programme Executive Board recommended attention is given to the following:



- The UN-REDD Programme will be continued to allow finalisation of FAO and UNEP activities in 2016. The UNDP part of the Programme will be completed by the end of 2015, effectively finalising its activities and budget;
- FAO will take over the management arrangements of the National Programme that are currently led by UNDP. This implies that as per the Programme's monitoring and evaluation framework, a semi-annual and annual report will be prepared for 2016 by FAO and UNEP and submitted to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat;
- A detailed work plan and budget for the outstanding activities in 2016 are attached to this request; and
- The work to be completed by FAO in 2016 is fully in line with a 6 million Euro EU-funded Multi-Purpose National Forest Inventory project.

As per UN-REDD regulations, an independent final evaluation will be conducted prior to the closure of the Programme; in the context of approval of this extension request, this evaluation will be postponed until late-2016.