



UN-REDD PROGRAMME



CAMBODIA UN-REDD NATIONAL PROGRAMME

Minutes of the 4th UN-REDD Programme Executive Board Meeting

Venue: Cambodiana Hotel-Phnom Penh

Date: 28 March 2013

Time: 13:30-17:00

Summary of Minutes:

The fourth Cambodia UN-REDD Programme Executive Board (PEB) meeting was organized on the 28th of March at the Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh.

The objectives of the meeting were to review progress against last PEB decisions, update programme progress; highlight programme challenges; and request for decisions on the scope of Communications Strategy UN-REDD National Programme, approval of Standard Operation Procedures (SOP), and suggested changes to Outcome 2.

At the meantime, PEB members also gave a warm welcome to technical specialists, Mr. Mathieu Van Rijn and Mr. Peter Iversen to be on board and help accelerating the activities' implementation.

Decisions and Actions:

- *The PEB decided that the 5th PEB meeting will be held on the 08 August 2013.*
- *The PEB requested that videos (e.g. presented video: 'An Introduction to REDD') for use in awareness raising on REDD+ should include an elaboration on the uses and alternative uses of forests and forest products and the causes of deforestation and forest degradation.*
- *The PEB decided to drop output 2.5 with the understanding that this could be captured by the FCPF programme. The use of the remaining funds from output 2.5 will be used for output 1.3.*
- *The PEB requested the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS) to review progress against indicators specified in the monitoring framework by the 5th PEB.*
- *The PEB requested the NPD to ensure that the REDD+ Taskforce consider whether it would agree that UN-REDD lead the development of a national REDD+ communication strategy.*
- *The PEB requested the RTS to consult with other partners on the feasibility of a common national REDD+ communication strategy, while awaiting a decision from the National REDD+ Taskforce.*
- *The PEB requested the RTS to consider where and how the website should be hosted in order to ensure sustainability after the completion of the UN-REDD Programme.*
- *The PEB requested that the Cambodia REDD+ web-site should be operational by the end of April, 2013.*

- *The PEB decided to allow PEB members an additional three weeks to send comments on the SOP to the RTS. The PEB also requested the RTS to compile all comments, make any amendments to the SOP indicated by those comments, and to circulate a compilation of all comments and the revised SOP to PEB members for a one-week, no-objection approval.*
- *The PEB requested the RTS to maintain a record of compliance with the SOP and to present a report on compliance to the 5th PEB meeting.*
- *The PEB requested the RTS to once again consider prioritization of activities and to consider dropping activities for which there is inadequate funding; and to report again to the next meeting of the PEB.*
- *The IPs Representative suggested that the REDD+ (Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA) safeguard system be used in Cambodia that REDD+ in Cambodia recognize IP rights, involvement, and different types of IP land, and also asked for capacity building for local communities.*

I. The Participants:

Details on PEB members, PEB alternates and observers who attended the 4th PEB Meeting can be found in Annex I.

II. Agenda:

The focus of the meeting agenda was to provide an update on follow-up against last PEB decisions, programme progress, programme challenges; and request for decisions on the scope of the Communications Strategy (currently designed for the UN-REDD National Programme), approval on Standard Operation Procedures (SOP), and a suggestion for changes to Outcome 2.

Please find more detail in Annex II

III. Meeting discussions:

1. Progress against last PEB decisions by Mr. Lun Kimhy

Please find more detail in Annex III

2. Programme Progress

Please find more detail in Annex IV

Presentations were made on the following topics:

- Progress Update by Mr. Khun Vathana
- SOP Development by Ms. Pan Thida
- Communications Update by Ms. Thy Heang
- Programme Challenges by Mr. Peter Iversen

Comments and discussion:

H.E Dr. Chheng Kimsun: In regard to the video “Introduction to REDD+” shown during the meeting, he suggested to double check with the translation and the statement regarding more than thousand millions before publicly sharing the video.

Mr. Koen Everaert: Requested an update on the status of the R-PP: is it on the FCPF website, and what is expected in the near future? Respect the SOP as being in line with government and UN regulations, encourage the distribution of the video broadly. He highlighted the good presentations and the timely production of the background documents.

Mr. Khun Vathana: The R-PP has been revised and re-submitted to the World Bank. Final document would be uploaded very soon once the internal FCPF review is completed.

Mr. Chhith Sam Ath: Commented on the REDD+ Video and asked about the selection of CSO process, how it will proceed and when.

Ms. Thy Heang: The CSO selection for the PEB would be processed together with the CSO consultation group's selection process facilitated by the voluntary facilitation committee (VFC). As so far, the VFC group has been working on criteria for each group of the Consultation Group members, including CSOs, national and international NGOs, IPs, private sector, academic institutions, CF, CFI and CPA networks. Communications Officer would update Mr. Chhith Sam Ath on the process and keep informing once announcement is made.

Mr. Napoleon Navarro: Commented the good follow up of the 3rd PEB meeting and the progress since the 3rd PEB. He asked whether the focus for the communication strategy was only for the UN-REDD or for all of Cambodia. How would we engage on the local level? He suggested some interactive interface and for photo competition we shall engage more with the social media. UNDP is also happy to help posting UN-REDD activities.

Mr. Kim Nong: Commented on process instead of the implementation. He said there has not been much progress yet. He asked about the financing of the no-cost extension. GDANCP still have not implemented anything. He mentioned the triple role for the chair of the REDD+ Taskforce, the co-chair of the PEB and the National Programme Director. He believed there is a lot of misinformation between the different agencies. He asked about how to improve the project document. He said that declaration of the council of ministers should be followed. GDANCP are working on how to get the private sector involved in REDD+ pilot projects.

Mr. Khun Vathana: GDANCP are also part of RTS and part of all the decisions taken.

H.E Dr. Chheng Kimsun: Explained that the chair of the Taskforce will also be co-chair of the PEB and he was sorry that H.E. Chea Sam Ang was not able to be in the meeting have this role. However, he said he would no longer chair the PEB after the meeting and H.E. Chea Sam Ang will be chair, instead. He suggested adding more information to the video on the link to rubber plantation or agriculture, and the tangible and non-tangible benefits from the forest. He mentioned the difficulties in selling CO₂ credits from Oddar Meanchey.

Mr. Kim Nong: GDANCP have also not sold any CO₂ credits but have 0.5 million hectare where they wanted to develop a REDD+ project. The report is available from GDANCP and secretariat can copy and distribute if requested.

H.E Dr. Chheng Kimsun: Asked the GDANCP should speed up the process and implementation, and have their activities merged with the other activities carried out by FA. We all want to make progress.

Mr. Thomas Enters: Congratulated the Secretariat for very brief presentations. He suggested that all the implementing partners shall sit down together and solve any issues to speed up implementation.

Mr. Kim Nong: GDANCP agreed with a meeting to discuss the issues raised.

Ms. Nina Brandstrup: Compared Programme outputs with some timelines. She proposed that the Secretariat shall report back on where we are compared to where we need to be at the end of the Programme by using this framework.

Mr. Timothy Boyle: Experience with other countries suggested a midterm review was a very valuable process in ensuring effective progress towards the end goal.

Mr. Napoleon Navarro: UNDP supports this suggestion and asked about how the pilots fit into the overall progress and the end result.

Summing up by Ms. Nina Brandstrup:

- Suggested to look at the possibility for the video presented ('An Introduction to REDD') to elaborate more on the uses and alternative uses of forests and the different causes of deforestation and forest degradation to be addressed under REDD+ implementation; In general the Information should be presented in a better and understandable way for different stakeholders
- Requested the RTS for follow-up on decisions made by PEB regarding activities proposed and agreed to be implemented
- *Requested the RTS* to review progress against indicators specified in the monitoring framework, make sure that we achieve more outputs;
- Mid-term review and assessment against the result-framework found to be a valuable process in ensuring effective progress towards the end goal..

1. Request for decision by Mr. Khun Vathana:

Please find more detail in Annex V

- **Communication Strategy:** Should we use it for UN-REDD only or seek to have a comprehensive communication strategy (CS)?
 - **Mr. Timothy Boyle:** the scope of the CS is a decision for the REDD+ Taskforce to decide on whether to enlarge to the National REDD+ Program Level (not just UN-REDD level). The website is already for REDD+ in Cambodia. Formally this is a decision for the REDD+ Taskforce but the PEB could make a decision to ask the Taskforce address the question on the scope of the communication strategy. And ask the Secretariat to talk with other partners on a common communication strategy.
 - **Mr. Thomas Enters:** Proposed a decision on ensuring that the website is functional within one month. He would like information on the status of the Taskforce. He supported as a minimum coordination of the messages on REDD+ among partners.
 - **Mr. Kim Nong:** GDANCP proposed to work or to involve more closely with National Climate Committee.
 - **Mr. Koen Everaert:** Suggested a common communication strategy even if this is a decision of the REDD+ Taskforce. He mentioned that the EC often encounter wrong messages on what REDD+ is about, including international NGO's. He said that it is important to know where we host this website related to who will maintain this website after the UN-REDD Programme closes in 2014.
 - **H.E Dr. Cheng Kimsun:** Also mentioned the misunderstanding arising in the communities. Some NGOs use or spread wrong information on REDD+ to attract funding, which will later be problematic for the Forestry Administration. This leads to expectations which can't be fulfilled. Therefore, communications and information must be careful before sharing to the public.
 - **Mr. Chhith Sam Ath:** Communications Strategy shall also look at the community participation and grassroots level. CSOs have report on communication with communities. He also asked for information from the Secretariat on the process on the selection of CSO.
 - **Mr. Paris:** Website is quite important and want to see it finalized as soon as possible; however, he is concerned about the sustainability and he suggested the government should consider on who will be in charge of the website after programme completion.

- **Summing up by Ms. Nina Brandstrup:**
 - PEB asked the NPD to ensure that the REDD+ Taskforce make a decision on whether UN-REDD should lead on developing a national REDD+ communication strategy.
 - Request the Secretariat to consult with other partners on the feasibility of a common national communication strategy.
 - Request the Secretariat to consider where the website should be hosted.
- **SOP:**
 - **Ms. Nina Brandstrup:** Requested for three weeks to review the SOP and if there is no comments or suggestions, the SOP is regarded as accepted.
 - **H.E Dr. Chheng Kimsun:** Requested Thomas and Tim to comment on the SOP and whether it is similarly to the other countries implementers or not.
 - **Mr. Thomas Enters:** Agreed with the three week suggestion.
 - **Mr. Timothy Boyle:** Agreed with Ms. Nina's suggestion. He proposed that the Secretariat circulated a compilation of all comments after three weeks and the revised SOP, and requested a no-objection approval within one week. He also requested the Secretariat to keep a record of how the SOP was respected.
 - **H.E Dr. Chheng Kimsun:** Encouraged the Secretariat to follow the SOP when approved in the future.
 - **Mr. Thomas Enters:** Mentioned that it was not only up to the staff of the Secretariat to follow the SOP.
 - **Mr. Koen Everaert:** Did not think the PEB should approve this document and will not provide specific comments. It's more the responsibility of the UN agencies and the government.
 - **Mr. Paris:** Agreed with the usefulness of the SOP which should be aligned to international standards. It has to be circulated to all members for comments. He also mentioned the website and the hosting.
 - **Ms. Nina Brandstrup's summing up:**
 - Requested the Secretariat to circulate a compilation of all comments after three weeks and the revised SOP and have a no-objection approval within one week.
- **Suggestion for changes to Outcome 2 (outputs 2.3 [formerly 2.4] and 2.5)**
 - **Mr. Khun Vathana:** Presented the proposal.
 - All three UN agencies agreed to the proposal.
 - **Mr. Koen Everaert:** Asked whether it would have an impact on outcome 4 on the national MRV. We needed also to focus on finalizing the different activities. E.g. the funding gaps on the protected area strategy. Should we start such activities if we know already that there is a funding gap? But have no objections for the proposal.
 - **Mr. Timothy Boyle:** Mentioned the funding coming from the FCPF can cover some of these gaps including the additional costs of the Secretariat.
 - **Ms. Nina Brandstrup:** Mentioned the mid-term review is a possibility to take stock of the questions raised by Mr. Koen Everaert.
 - **Mr. Koen Everaert:** Reiterated the request to ask the Secretariat to present the bigger picture. He noted that some concept papers showed a budget gap and questioned whether such activities should be started.
 - **Ms. Nina Brandstrup:** She agreed.
 - **Mr. Khun Vathana:** Mentioned that the technical teams would help prioritize the activities.

- **Mr. Nok Ven:** Suggested implementation of REDD+ SESA safeguards, IP rights and involvement, different types of IP land. Asked the Secretariat to select the CSO in the same process as the IP selection. And asked for capacity building for the local community.
- **Ms. Thy Heang:** The IP reselection process is being process in all 15 provinces due to the requirement of local authority recognition of the IPs representatives. The decision of the process was discussed and agreed during the last CS and IPs workshop taken place on 25-27 September 2012.

→ Recommendations and suggested actions were noted (see summary at the beginning).

Date of Next Meeting: The 5th PEB Meeting will be the 08th of August 2013.

The meeting ended at 17:30

Phnom Penh, *21* / *May* / 2013

Minutes seen and approved by: *h*

H.E. Cheng Kimsun, Ph D *na*
Co-Chair UN-REDD Programme Executive Board
Director General of the Forestry Administration *h*

Ms. Nina Brandstrup
Co-Chair UN-REDD Programme Executive Board
FAO Country representative ,