

MINUTES OF MEETING
5TH UN-REDD PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE BOARD

General information of the meeting

Time	13 th July 2011, 1.30pm – 5.00pm
Venue	Flower Garden Hotel, No 46, Nguyen Truong To Street, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Chairs	H.E. Hua Duc Nhi, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). H.E. Eamonn Murphy, UN Resident Coordinator (a.i) – United Nations in Viet Nam
Annexed documents	Annex I: List of participants Annex II: Agenda Annex III: Semi-annual report 2011 Key activities of the 2 nd half of 2011

1. Opening remarks

His Excellency Vice Minister Hua Duc Nhi emphasized that the 5th PEB Meeting aimed to review the Programme implementation progress of the first six-month of 2011, and discuss the work plan for the last six month of 2011. The chair especially stressed that according to the Joint Programme Document, the Programme will be completed by the end of 2011. The Programme had made efforts to conduct the planned activities. To complete the unaccomplished activities, measures needed to be taken in order to strengthen the implementation for the second half of 2011. The chair noted with appreciation the participation of relevant ministries and agencies in the meeting.

His Excellency Eamonn Murphy also welcomed the presence of representatives of MoF, MoFA, MPI and MONRE. It showed, he said, that the whole Government supported the importance of REDD to Viet Nam. Since the last PEB meeting in March Viet Nam had successfully organized the 6th UN-REDD Policy Board meeting in Da Lat. Concerning Programme implementation, the co-chair appreciated the fact that there had been efforts made, particularly in the last few months, to speed up progress. He mentioned a successful implementation of the Programme would shed good light on the potential for a Phase 2, also showing donors the capacity and willingness to deliver. A stronger commitment and efforts from both the Government and the UN agencies were needed to accomplish the Programme's objectives as scheduled. Furthermore, particular attention was needed for Outcome 3 as well as components under FAO. Mr. Murphy closed his remarks by underlining that active participation and involvement of other key government partners in the development of the National REDD+ Programme needed to be ensured.

His Excellency Stale Torstein Risa congratulated MARD and the UN agencies for their efforts in implementing the Programme over the last several months, although there had been understandable delays. The Ambassador stressed that regional displacement issues and cooperation need to be looked at more closely.

2. Re-visit the conclusion of the 4th PEB Meeting

(See annex IIIa: Minutes of the 4th PEB Meeting)

3. Progress report of the first six-month of 2011

(See annex IIIb: Semi annual narrative report)

4. Tentative key activities of the second half of 2011

(See annex IIIc: 2nd half 2011 – Key activities)

5. Summary of discussions and conclusions

• **UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme Phase II**

The Programme Director, Madam Pham Minh Thoa, stated that the drafting team had developed a new draft of the Phase II Document based on 15 recommendations from the NORAD's appraisal report on the Phase II proposal. Currently the drafting team is continuing to revise the Phase II proposal focusing on financial management and program management.

Stakeholder representatives needed to participate in the development of Phase II Document. Ministries were requested to assign representative to the drafting team soon.

• **National REDD Programme**

The Programme Director remarked that the National REDD Programme (NRP) Document would not be completed in June 2011 as scheduled because international negotiations were still ongoing and pending specific instructions on issues such as safeguard, policies and measures, MRV and REL. It was required to accelerate the development of NRP framework; on the other hand, harmonization with international practices and negotiations were needed. The first draft was expected to be shared with the REDD+ Network in September 2011.

As a living document, it should be regularly updated and adjusted to based on the results of the international negotiations, while it would not affect the Viet Nam Forestry Strategy. The NRP framework was tentatively to be submitted to the Prime Minister by the end of this year.

Currently MONRE with support from relevant ministries and agencies was developing Viet Nam National Climate Change Strategy to 2050 and vision to 2100. It was very good if MARD/MONRE would cooperate in development of the legal text/policy for REDD+ at this stage as well as add some sentences on REDD+ to the Climate Change Strategy.

The content of NRP was important but the participatory process was even more important. REDD+ was about participatory process at all levels. It meant this document had to get consultation with GoV, ministries, agencies, and all stakeholders.

• **Mainstreaming REDD+ in provincial SEDP and Forest Protection and Development Master plan 2011-2020**

Mainstreaming REDD+ in forest protection & development master plan and SEDP was one of the key activities of outcome 2. Currently the Forest Protection and Development Master plan had been in the final draft with inclusion of REDD+. The draft master plan was going to be consulted with different stakeholders at local and national level. In the meantime, MARD would work closely with the Lam Dong province on this issue in the next six months. It should also be noted that mainstreaming REDD+ into SEDP and Forest Protection & Development Master plan should be considered in term of feasible scope and scale. REDD+ should also be integrated in the Green Economy Strategy that was now developing.

- **Benefit Distribution System**

GoV' Decision No. 2284 assigned MARD to take lead in coordination with MONRE to develop and publish the joint circular on management and use of PFES, completed in December 2011, in which stipulates the object, rate and method of payment, and services related to forest carbon and K factor. This would support enterprises to join the carbon credit market which the two ministries are building. Tentatively in the last 6 months, the Programme would conduct the research on the potential, opportunities and challenges for Vietnam to participate in carbon credit market. Based on that study, the official document would be submitted to Prime Minister by end of 2011.

Seventeen policies recommendations had been developed in 2010. In the first six months of 2011, the Programme had been in preparation to conduct related activities such as BDS consultation and development R factor for Di Linh district with the involvement of many stakeholders and learning experience from K factor in Lam Dong. The BDS was not expected to be available by the end of this year.

- **Regional coordination**

Both the GoV and Norway underlined that regional cooperation should be strengthened focusing on management and protection of forest resources, avoiding risks of emission displacement. However, this was a difficult issue; most of meetings related to regional coordination were only at the ministerial level.

- **Stakeholder engagement/ coordination**

The more active involvement of Government stakeholders in the Programme was a good sign, including greater involvement of VNFOREST in the REDD network. In addition to the sub-technical working groups on BDS, MRV, and LI; the STWG on private sector engagement, chaired by Forest Trends, would start in August 2011 together with the STWG on Governance. This would contribute to the NRP and UN-REDD Programme Phase II. In addition, the study tour to Mexico and Ecuador with representatives from related ministries (MPI, MOF) had proved the engagement of Gov.

- **REL/RL - MRV**

Although waiting for instructions from the COPs, some activities related to REL/RL had been implemented such as the study of forest ecological stratification. Study had recommended 8 different forestry ecological regions and 40 sub- regions. MRV framework had been developed and shared with REDD network. Technical meeting would be held in a couple of weeks following consultations on the stakeholder consultation strategy with support from regional office. This stakeholder consultation strategy had also been applied for BDS and NRP. Second draft of version 1 of the MRV Framework discussed what would be the overall national Framework of MRV.

Needed to get consultation from GoV to get direction on how the GoV wanted to invest in option of pilot. Technical meeting would happen in a few weeks, with invitation to MONRE, where there were hopes to get direction from GoV on how to implement MRV. There was also a need to have consultations with key departments within MARD and outside of MARD to make sure that people were strongly committed to MRV.

- **Extension of Phase I UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme**

By 30 June 2011, 60% of the total budget had been disbursed. The funding from UNDP and UNEP would be delivered this year, but funding from FAO remained quite large (US\$1.3 million). Many activities under the FAO components had not been carried out due to pending UNFCCC guidance as a result of international climate negotiations. Phase II could not begin in early 2012; in order to make a smooth connection between phase I and phase II, there should be an extension of the UN-REDD Programme Vietnam Phase I. This would be further discussed in the coming three months with proper planning and justification by PMU.

- **Share the results of Programme**

The Programme had done many activities. The dissemination of the Programme's results should be strengthened nationally to raise awareness on REDD+, and especially on PCM, the Programme should share experiences with other countries. The international negotiations on REDD+ were not finalized yet. Would Viet Nam's experiences contribute to the negotiation process? If that was possible, the position of Vietnam would be strengthened.

Recommendations

The Programme would need to focus on implementation of all planned activities, especially those are delayed. With regards to MRV, it was necessary to consider the work done by Viet Nam and what was needed to be done to adhere to the international regulation. Strong focus should be given to NRP, MRV, mainstreaming REDD into SEDP and REL as these were key outputs of the phase 1 and on which phase 1 would be assessed. The Programme needed also to look into the regional issues and come up with a detailed plan.

The Programme therefore needed to try all of the efforts to accomplish the planned activities. This would be further discussed at the next PEB meeting in the next three months with proper planning and justification by PMU. The next PEB meeting would look at the progress and finalize the work plan, also give decision on the question of extending phase I.

The Programme needed to look more carefully at the linkage between UN-REDD and the NRP on how to harmonize or fully integrate all REDD+ projects into the NRP, and how to use it to convince a number of bilateral programmes that are never aligned.

Mr. Murphy mentioned that it could be an idea to include UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) in activities that address issues concerning cross-border illegal logging.

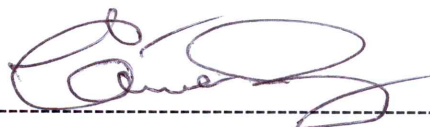
Norway would like to encourage other donors to contribute funds through the UN-REDD system, but maybe some donors would prefer bilateral arrangements. Norwegian contribution for phase 2 would be channeled through UN-REDD because Norway saw this as a very useful and effective mechanism, and contributing to the on-going One UN piloting in Viet Nam. If other donor countries came in and wanted to contribute to Phase 2 through other channels, and it required bilateral agreement, then it would be up to the Viet Nam Government to decide.

The meeting ended at 5:00 pm.



H.E. Hua Duc Nhi
Vice Minister of MARD
Chairman

Date: 4/9/11



H.E. Eamonn Murphy
UN Resident Coordinator a.i.
Co-Chairman

Date: 25/08/11