



# Semi-Annual Report - Viet Nam Programme

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31 July 2011

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# 1. National Programme Status

## 1.1 National Programme Identification

<p><b>Date of submission:</b></p> <p><b>Submitted by:</b>          Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen          Programme Manager          UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam</p>	<p><b>Country:</b> Viet Nam</p> <p><b>Title of programme:</b>          UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme</p>
<p><b>Implementing partners<sup>1</sup>:</b>          The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)          Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST)</p>	<p><b>Reporting period:</b> 1 January– 30 June 2011</p> <p><b>Programme duration:</b> Aug 2009-Dec 2011</p> <p><b>Official starting date<sup>2</sup>:</b> [UN to fill]</p>

The financial information reported should include overhead, M&E and other associated costs.

<b>Financial summary [to be entered]</b>	
<b>Budget</b>	
<p><b>Total approved National Programme budget<sup>3</sup></b>  <i>(This information is available on the MDTF Office GATEWAY <a href="http://www.mdtf.undp.org">www.mdtf.undp.org</a>)</i></p>	<p>FAO: US\$ 1,690,814            UNDP: US\$ 2,501,128            UNEP: US\$ 192,814  <b>Total: US\$ 4,384,756</b></p>
<p><b>Total amount transferred to date</b>  <i>(This information is available on the MDTF Office GATEWAY <a href="http://www.mdtf.undp.org">www.mdtf.undp.org</a>)</i></p>	<p>FAO: US\$ 1,690,814            UNDP: US\$ 2,501,128            UNEP: US\$ 192,814  <b>Total: US\$ 4,384,756</b></p>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
<p><b>Commitment to date</b>  <i>(Amount for which legally binding contracts have been signed, including multi-year commitments which may be disbursed in future years)</i></p>	<p>FAO: US\$ 66,504            UNDP: US\$ 115,235            UNEP: US\$ 12,470  <b>Total: US\$ 194,209</b></p>
<p><b>Disbursement to date</b>  <i>(Amount paid to a vendor or entity for goods received, work completed, and/or services rendered (does not include un-liquidated obligations))</i></p>	<p>FAO: US\$ 358,071            UNDP: US\$ 1,913,685            UNEP: US\$ 88,992  <b>Total: US\$ 2,360,748</b></p>

<b>Electronic signatures by the designated UN organization focal points<sup>4</sup></b>			<b>Electronic signature by the Government Counterpart</b>
<b>FAO</b>	<b>UNDP</b>	<b>UNEP</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Please list all the partners working on implementing the National Programme  
<sup>2</sup> Date of first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office to the National Programme  
<sup>3</sup> Total budget for entire duration of the Programme, as specified in the signed National Programme Document  
<sup>4</sup> Each UN organisation is to nominate one or more focal points to sign the report. Please refer to the *UN-REDD Programme Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Framework* document for further guidance

## 1.2 Monitoring Framework

In the table below, please report on progress to date based on the Monitoring Framework included in the signed National Programme Document. Please input cumulative data and input quantitative/qualitative values for the indicators. If indicators or other data was modified, please explain in the comments column. If there is no data to be reported in the reporting period, please mark N/A. Please add additional rows as needed.

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
From Results Framework	From Results Framework	Baselines are a measure of the indicator at the start of the National Programme  <u>Baseline for all indicators:</u>	The desired level of improvement to be reached at the end of the National Programme	The actual level of performance reached at the end of the reporting period. Please provide a substantive assessment of the achievement of target to date, <b>no more than 300 words per outcome.</b>	From identified data and information sources	Specific responsibilities of participating UN organizations (including in case of shared results)	Summary of assumptions and risks for each result	
<b>Goal: By the end of 2012 Viet Nam is REDD-ready and able to contribute to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation nationally and regionally</b>								
<b>Objective: To assist the Government of Viet Nam in developing an effective REDD+ regime in Viet Nam and to contribute to reduction of regional displacement of emissions</b>								
<b>Outcome 1: Improved institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD activities in Viet Nam</b>								
1.1. National coordination mechanism established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of system</li> <li>Government staff in MARD, MONRE and MPI coordinate REDD+ activities and negotiations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal for "interim working group" exists</li> <li>Limited knowledge in GoV on REDD+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of April 2009 the interim working group is operational</li> <li>By the end of 2010 all partners have endorsed a roadmap generated by the working group</li> <li>By the end of 2011, partners are trained in REDD+ and UNFCCC REDD+</li> </ul>	<p>National coordination has been set up and strengthened through the REDD Network activities including meeting/discussion and sharing information of STWG-BDS, STWG-LI, STWG-MRV<sup>5</sup>, and REDD+ Steering committee has been functional since January with representatives from MONRE, MPI, MOFA, MoF<sup>6</sup> who are also initially engaged in the REDD network and activities of the UN-REDD Programme.</p> <p>To strengthen cross sector cooperation, the Programme has collaborated with MPI through UNDP project-based activities to gradually mainstream CC and REDD+ into the SEDP 2011-2020.</p> <p>The REDD+ website has been functioning well and served as a main tool and platform for sharing REDD+ activities in Viet Nam and improved the collaboration of different REDD+ activities</p>	Reports; interviews with key government and development partner officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VINAFOREST /MARD</li> <li>FSSP</li> <li>MONRE</li> </ul>	<p>Commitment from all partners</p> <p>Institutional relationships with other initiatives, especially the FSSP are resolved</p>	

<sup>5</sup> Sub-technical working group on local implementation. Sub-technical working group on monitoring, reporting and verification.

<sup>6</sup> Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Ministry of Planning and Investment; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Finance

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
			negotiations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By end 2011, national coordination on REDD activities improved</li> <li>By Sep 2011, Viet Nam website improved in design and content</li> <li>By Sep 2011, human resource on REDD+ within VNFOREST strengthened</li> </ul>	across the country.  <u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> activities taken as planned except exchange visit of the Network and stakeholder consultation of phase II proposal.				
1.2. Data and information for national REL/RL for REDD+available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest ecological classification and stratification system for Viet Nam</li> <li>National circumstances</li> <li>Understanding of REDD+REL/RL development by staff at relevant national institutions</li> <li>Stakeholder consultation of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 “agro”-ecological zones are applied for forestry</li> <li>No national circumstances have been identified</li> <li>There is little knowledge on REL/RL development with staff of relevant national institutions</li> <li>Consultation on data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By March 2011 an ecological stratification mechanism has been developed; expected to be adopted by MARD by September 2011</li> <li>By August 2011, “National circumstances” will have been identified and endorsed by a multi-stakeholder process</li> <li>By end of 2011, there will be a</li> </ul>	Review of methodologies for establishing RELs/RLs and RS and selection of a suitable method for national circumstances has been conducted to identify options for the establishment of reference levels <sup>7</sup> for reduced deforestation and forest degradation and enhanced carbon stocks under the REDD+ mechanism of the UNFCCC.  Some applicable proposals in establishing reference levels in accordance with UNFCCC current status and available IPCC guidance, with emphasis on capacities, data and options, have been made available such that Viet Nam has <b>collaborated with other partners (Finland and JICA) in REL development.</b> With the support from the embassy of Finland, all forest maps and field-measured data for 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010 were digitized in 2010. An interim national REL was proposed. The JICA Study is now validating forest maps for 1995 and 2005, and then they will be used for improving the interim REL.. The data validation is expected to be completed by the end of August 2011.	Reports Maps Surveys Staff records Financial reports Joint agreements and reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VINAFOREST</li> <li>FIPI</li> <li>FSIV-RCFEE</li> <li>FAO</li> </ul>	Viet Nam prioritizes and resources for the process adequately  Participating agencies in Viet Nam committed to developing the RS  Methodological support from Partners is available  Sufficient data	

7. The term *reference level* is here used in its generic form. It includes all variants of it, in particular also reference *emission levels*, whether they are retrospective or prospective. Section **Error! Reference source not found.** gives an overview of the different contexts in which a reference level can be used.

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
	REL/RL methodology	sources and methodologies conducted	<p>core group of national technical staff trained on REL/RL and have acted as resource persons in the STWG-MRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By end of 2011, REL/RL methodology will have been consulted through a national multi-stakeholder process</li> </ul>	<p>A study on ecological stratification has been conducted and is under final review before submission to the Government for endorsement in the third quarter. The study would include three main results on forest eco-region research: classified eco-region system, from which Viet Nam's territory is divided into two areas, 8 regions and 40 sub-regions; set of criteria and indicators of forest ecological stratification; map of forest ecology. The stratification system, based on ecological regions, is particularly useful to develop REL and further implement MRV whereby forest strata need to be accounted for as initial input data.</p> <p>A technical workshop was organized to get recommendations from technical experts on the draft report. The sub-contractor, the Research Center for Forest Ecology and Environment (RCFEE), is revising the report. Two workshops (one for technical experts and one for policy makers) will be held in July and August 2011. The final report is expected to be presented to VNFOREST for endorsement in September.</p> <p><u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> activities taken as planned</p>			is available to develop an ecological stratification	
1.3. Framework National REDD+ Program (Strategy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline analysis on governance and policy for REDD+</li> <li>Structure of National REDD+ Program</li> <li>Information gap analysis</li> <li>Draft Framework document</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No integrated analysis</li> <li>No structure exists</li> </ul> <p>Gaps only known in general terms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of September 2010, an analysis of governance and policy for REDD+ is completed</li> <li>By March 2011 a structure for the National REDD+ Program is endorsed by MARD</li> <li>By the end of 2010 information gaps have been identified and a work plan to fill</li> </ul>	Draft National REDD+ strategy has been developed. The legal text of the strategy is under development to be submitted to the Gov later this year.	Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VINAFOREST</li> <li>MONRE and other government agencies</li> <li>NGOs</li> </ul>	Coordination mechanism works effectively	

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
			<p>them prepared</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of June 2011 a draft document ready for presentation to the Government</li> </ul>					
1.4. Performance-based, transparent benefit sharing payment system from national to local levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder satisfaction with payment system, monetary or in-kind benefits, in target communities of a magnitude that could influence decision-making</li> <li>Payment system based on performance indicators</li> <li>Decision on the suitability of the FPCF to manage the National REDD+ Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No REDD+ system, but Program 661 system provides model</li> <li>No system exists that objectively applies performance indicators</li> </ul> <p>FPDF documents available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By end of 2011, a payment system has been developed that meets the expectations of all stakeholders and beneficiaries</li> <li>By June 2011 the payment system is ready to use the national REDD+ MRV for assessment of performance</li> <li>By June 2011 an assessment has been made on making the National REDD+ Fund a sub-fund of the FPDF nationally and provincially</li> </ul>	<p>Inputs required for the development of BDS including (i) design of a framework for the assessment of R-factors; (ii) local consultations on REDD+ BDS; and (iii) piloting local decision making in the development of a REDD+ BDS, are being undertaken. In addition, the existing forest protection and development fund, and trust fund for forest are being reviewed in term of suitability for national REDD+ fund. Initial results should be available tentatively in the end or the third quarter.</p> <p>The study tour to Mexico and Ecuador has been conducted. The GoV delegation learned financial management and benefit distribution for development of the National REDD+ Program.</p> <p><u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> activities taken as planned except on-going review of FPDF and TFF</p>	<p>Survey</p> <p>Operation of the MRV system for assessing performance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MARD</li> <li>MoF</li> <li>NGOs</li> </ul>	<p>Stakeholder views are not too divergent</p> <p>A mechanism can be designed that is relatively immune to corruption</p>	

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1.5. Communications materials produced for sharing lessons nationally and internationally	Communications materials	No materials	By the end of 2011, lessons learnt in programme implementation identified, documented and shared	<p>Lessons learned on FPIC, PCM, BDS and NRP as well as FPIC communication material were documented and shared nationally and internationally (e.g. the 6th Policy Board; Mexico; Ecuador; Oslo REDD+ exchange)</p> <p>The Programme is known for its FPIC implementation. Organizations like JICA, FFI, LBA [The Laos Biodiversity Association] came to learn about the FPIC implementation.</p> <p>The Programme is planning on documenting internal and external lessons learned on the whole Programme implementation to help it to improve its work during Phase 2 and to share nationally and internationally.</p> <p><u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> activities taken as planned. Documentation of lesson learnt need much effort in the 2nd half.</p>	Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VINAFOREST</li> <li>UNEP NGOs</li> </ul>	Programme is able to generate relevant lessons over a short time-frame	
1.6 National MRV system designed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive MRV design documents endorsed by stakeholders</li> <li>Training and resulting national capacity on MRV</li> <li>Allometric equations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key components of the MRV system have been discussed</li> <li>Historical forest inventory data are being reviewed and will become available early 2011</li> <li>Training on general concepts of MRV has been undertaken</li> <li>Allometric</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of 2011, comprehensive framework document of the national MRV system prepared, demonstrated and presented to stakeholders</li> <li>Vietnamese technical staff have been trained on the MRV system and have acted as resources persons in the STWG-MRV (by end of 2011)</li> <li>By the end of 2011</li> </ul>	<p>The measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework document has been prepared by a group of international and national consultants. The document focuses on description of the MRV System and its components, Safeguards, and monitoring of Policies and Measures (PaM). The draft version has been revised after numerous meetings of STWG-MRV and consulting with relevant stakeholders. The revised framework document has been sent out for next round consultation; and two technical workshops will be organized in July and August to provide inputs for finalizing the document. The final document will be submitted to as part of the National REDD Programme Document for endorsement by the end of the year.</p> <p><b>Allometric equations:</b> PMU and Vietnam REDD-plus Office have discussed with relevant technical agencies (VFU, FIPI, FSIV and Tay Nguyen University) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing previous and current work on development</li> </ul>	<p>Design documents</p> <p>Workshop reports</p> <p>Digital products on forest land stratification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VINAFOREST</li> <li>FAO</li> </ul>	Sufficient national staff available with required skills in IT and RS	The related agencies are now preparing technical proposals and Vietnam REDD-plus Office will synthesize the proposals and make a common work plan by late

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
		equations have been developed for some forest types	allometric equations are available for the ten most forested ecological strata	<p>of equations for forest timber volume and forest growth, biomass estimation and wood density;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifying the gaps and proposing activities need to be done in 2011 as well as for long term plan.</li> </ul> <p><u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> activities taken as planned. The framework MRV is in consultation process. Reporting and Verification parts of the framework would contribute significantly to the existing forest management system.</p>				July for implementation in Q3.
<b>Outcome 2: Improved Capacity to manage REDD+ and provide other Payment for Ecological Services at district-level into sustainable development planning and implementation</b>								
2.1. District-level forest land-use plan mainstreaming REDD potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District socio-economic development plan with REDD+ priorities</li> <li>• Framework for the assessment of opportunity costs of REDD+</li> <li>• Data on REDD+ activities and performance is available for inclusion in FPDP development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local plans do not include REDD+</li> <li>• No methodology for opportunity cost analysis for REDD+ exists</li> <li>• No data management system is in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By the end of 2011, methodology developed for incorporation into SEDP of status and trends of forest cover and identification of REDD+-eligible areas</li> <li>• By February 2011 a methodology for assessment of opportunity costs for REDD+ has been developed</li> <li>• By the end of 2011, methodology for REDD+ integration into FPDP is based on the provincial MRV system</li> </ul>	<p>Methodology for assessment of opportunity costs for REDD+ has been developed. Opportunity cost analysis has been recommended to be integrated into the forest protection and development plans.</p> <p>Historical forest maps of the two pilot districts (with administration boundary, over periods) have been developed with a view to identify changes in forest area and to support development of the district land-use plan in taking into account REDD+ potential area.</p> <p>A joint workshop between MARD and MPI was organized with the participation of members from the Central Highland Steering Committee and representatives from five provinces in the region to discuss on the need and approach to integrate REDD+ activities in regional and provincial socio-economic development plan.</p> <p>REDD+ has been gradually mainstreamed into the provincial SEDP 2011-2015 and forest protection master plan 2011-2020.</p> <p><u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> activities taken as planned except FPIC 2. Pending guideline from HQ which would be available in</p>	<p>Reports/maps</p> <p>Methodology for opportunity cost assessment available</p> <p>Data management system at provincial and district levels</p> <p>NFI design documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial and District authorities</li> <li>• FREC/FIPI</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities have the basic capacity for socio-economic planning</p> <p>Local authorities have technical skills to work with a data management system for REDD+</p>	



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				the end July.				
2.2. Participatory C-stock monitoring (PCM) system operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement of stakeholders at the district and local levels (including ethnic minorities and forest - dependent communities)</li> <li>Preliminary C-stock estimates</li> <li>NFI design documents reference REDD+ approach to carbon assessment at forest owner level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local institutions have little capacity for forest monitoring</li> <li>Current inventory on volume based on remote sensing</li> <li>NFI is being newly designed with forest owner level assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of 2010, a sample plot system has been established in the pilot sites</li> <li>By the end of 2010, PCM has been tested with local institutions</li> <li>By end of 2011, local institutions are able to conduct PCM</li> <li>By November 2011 a full PCM survey of two pilot districts in Lam Dong province has been completed</li> <li>By June 2011, NFI approach to forest owner level assessment made compatible with REDD+ assessment</li> </ul>	<p>PCM manual was developed in 2010 and, tested at the local level. PCM is going to be consulted technically and at the policy and local level.</p> <p>Assistance to piloting the National Forest Inventory (NFI) in two pilot districts was requested to the UN-REDD programme in 2010. Since then, FIPI has been working on revision of the proposal with VNFOREST for submission to Programme. Piloting NFI is aimed not only to test methodologies and approaches for forest inventory and assessment but also to explore how and to what extent local stakeholders could be involved in the forest monitoring activities before the GoV conducts the nation-wide forest inventory. Ground work is expected to start in August.</p> <p><u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> technical discussion on PCM and NFI in progress. Ground activities have yet taken.</p>	Reports, maps, data files NFI design documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial and District authorities in Lam Dong</li> <li>FAO</li> <li>NGOs FREC/FIPI</li> </ul>	<p>Capital investments and training are delivered in a timely fashion</p> <p>Institutional coordination is effective</p> <p>Provincial and district staff are capable of engaging in district-level participatory C-stock assessment</p> <p>FIPI and FREC are flexible enough in adapting the NFI approach</p>	

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2.3. Equitable and transparent benefit sharing payment systems defined	Stakeholder satisfaction with payment system, monetary or in-kind benefits in target communities of a magnitude that could influence on decision-making	No REDD+ payment system, but forest protection system provides a model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of 2011, a payment system has been developed that meets the expectations of all stakeholders and beneficiaries</li> <li>By June 2011, FPDF option for Provincial REDD+ Fund investigated</li> </ul>	See 1.4 above	Survey; interviews with beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District and provincial authorities</li> <li>NGOs</li> </ul>	<p>Stakeholder views are not too divergent</p> <p>A mechanism can be designed that is relatively immune to corruption</p>	
2.4. Awareness on REDD+ created at district and local levels	Level of awareness among local stakeholders (including ethnic minorities and forest - dependent communities)	Stakeholders unaware of REDD+	<p>By end of 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Messages on REDD+ and UN-REDD widely disseminated to government leaders</li> <li>A network of journalists set up to communicate REDD+ continuously and at large scale</li> <li>Local stakeholders' awareness on forest and climate change increased</li> </ul>	<p>Many awareness-raising events (ceremony to commemorate the International Year of Forests and the decade of UN Convention to Combat Desertification, World Environment Day), and workshops (5) were held at the national and local level (in the central highland and in the north) to increase level of awareness of the local stakeholders on REDD+. Many articles on REDD+, UN-REDD Viet Nam; FPIC and PCM films were published to help local people to gain more knowledge on CC, REDD+ and UN-REDD implemented activities.</p> <p>Finding out key gaps in knowledge concerning REDD+ among grassroots forest stakeholders is very important. Together with RECOFTC/NORAD funded project, the Programme conducted capacity building need assessment in the pilot province. A proposal has been made to build up capacity for the forest sector grassroots stakeholders in REDD+ in Viet Nam.</p> <p>Integrating REDD+ into social economic development plans is very important. Together with MPI, UNDP funded project in climate planning, the Programme support the Central Highlands Steering committee to have more knowledge on REDD+ and the need to integrate REDD+ into SEDP in the central highland region where keeps 50% of national forest.</p> <p><u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> activities taken as planned</p>	<p>Survey of awareness of government leaders</p> <p>List of network members and 2 reports on network activities</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation minutes and survey about level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District and provincial authorities</li> <li>NGOs</li> </ul>	Existing proposal for awareness raising on PES provide an effective vehicle for awareness raising on REDD+	

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<b>Outcome 3: Improved knowledge of approaches to reduce regional displacement of emissions</b>								
3.1. Drivers of regional emissions displacement and inter-sectoral leakage assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Framework for assessment of drivers of potential regional emissions displacement</li> <li>Intra-national displacement of emissions</li> <li>Framework document or agreement on FLEGT and REDD+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No methodology for assessment drivers of potential regional emissions displacement in place</li> <li>No policies or intervention strategies for reductions in place</li> <li>Initial discussions on commonalities held</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By April 2011 a framework for the assessment of drivers of potential regional emissions displacement developed</li> <li>By the end of 2011, a study on intra-national displacement of emissions will be completed</li> <li>National REDD+ Program and FLEGT process align efforts on areas of common interest</li> </ul>	<p>Discussions with EFI on a) joint workshops and b) on provision of assistance to the FLEGT process for stakeholder consultations were initiated, but have not materialized to date. The activities are in discussion to take place in Q3 and 4.</p> <p>The activities related to the establishment of a framework for assessment of intra-national displacement of emissions are not progressing due to difficulty in identification of relevant international authorities to lead the study. It is being proposed that the activities be taken up by the Global Programme.</p> <p><u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> activity pending, due to pending of further discussion</p>	Reports Workshop reports Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MARD (DoF and ICD to secure involvement of other governments)</li> <li>FAO</li> </ul>	<p>Other countries in the region are committed to a common approach on drivers and emissions displacement</p> <p>FLEGT process still in its early stages</p>	The Program has cooperated with WB and SNV to complete a study on major driving forces of deforestation and forest degradation in Viet Nam. The key results were presented to Vice Minister Nhi. The study provided a valuable input for development of R-PP that was approved by the FCPF Participant

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
								ts' Committee in March 2011. However, no assessment on drivers of potential regional displacement is conducted
3.2. Regional synergies and collaboration on REDD+ enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging agreements on approaches to reduce regional displacement of emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essentially no debate has taken place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of 2011 elements of a work plan to address drivers of regional displacement of emissions cooperatively are documented</li> </ul>	<p>A VNFOREST Official to attended the regional REDD+ Meeting in Myanmar to discuss on cooperation. Under support of the Programme, two MARD representatives attended the SBSTA meeting in Bonn and discussed with the Indonesian and Australian officials on joint collaboration and information sharing on REDD+ implementation between Indonesia and Vietnam. A visit of Vietnamese officials to Kalimantan REDD Project is under preparation with the support from AusAID.</p> <p><u>Initial assessment of progress:</u> activity pending, due to pending of further discussion</p>	Minutes of meetings, workshops, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MARD (DoF and ICD to secure involvement of other governments )</li> </ul>	Influence of powerful entities engaged in movement of timber and wood products does not negate progress	

### 1.3 Financial Information

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES	UN ORGANISATION	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS				
		BUDGET	CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES		DELIVERY (%)	
			Commitments	Disbursements	Total Expenditures	Expenditure as percentage of the budget
Outcome 1: Improved institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD activities in Viet Nam	FAO	658,200		255,562	255,562	38
	UNEP	61,000		53,066	53,066	87
	UNDP	634,700	26,929	567,505	594,433	94
Outcome 2: Improved Capacity to manage REDD+ and provide other Payment for Ecological Services at district-level into sustainable development planning and implementation	FAO	598,000		59,767	59,767	10
	UNEP	119,200	12,470	35,926	48,396	41
	UNDP	1,290,800	72,222	450,472	522,694	40
Outcome 3: Improved knowledge of approaches to reduce regional displacement of emissions	FAO	324,000		42,742	42,742	13
	UNEP					
	UNDP	84,900	-40	24,756	24,716	29
Programme management (for UNDP including GMS fee)	FAO					
	UNEP					
	UNDP	350,000	16,124	695,873	711,997	200
	FAO	110,614	110,614		110,614	
	UNEP	12,614	12,614		12,614	
	UNDP	140,728		175,079	175,079	60
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>4,384,756</b>	<b>250,933</b>	<b>2,427,252</b>	<b>2,678,185</b>	<b>60</b>

## 2. National Programme Progress

The questions in section two are intended to capture advancements and challenges that the National Programme has faced during the reporting period. It also aims to collect information on inter-agency coordination, ownership and development effectiveness, and communication. Please provide your answers after each question.

### 2.1 Narrative on Progress, Difficulties and Contingency Measures

The questions below ask for a brief narrative describing progress on the implementation of activities, generation of outputs and attainment of outcomes. It also asks for a description of internal and external challenges to National Programme implementation, as well as the contingency actions planned to overcome them.

#### 2.1.1 Please provide a brief overall assessment of the extent to which the National Programme is progressing in relation to expected outcomes and outputs. Please provide examples if relevant (600 words). [not more than 2 pages]

The progress of the Programme was a little slow at the beginning of the year but it has been accelerating since the end of the first quarter. Most of the planned activities have been implemented and delivery reached % of the yearly target. By the end of the first half of the year, the Programme has accomplished:

**Under the Outcome 1 - Improved the institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD+ activities in Viet Nam:** the National coordination mechanism has been gradually strengthened through the set up of the National REDD+ Steering Committee. REDD+ activities have also been coordinated under the leadership of Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNForest).

The draft NRP, and MRV framework have been developed and are now ready for stakeholder consultation. NRP development started in mid 2010 and is one of key output of phase 1. The draft of NRP is planned to be submitted to the GoV in December 2011. Similarly, the MRV framework, as key input to MRV system, is ready for stakeholder consultation.

The completed study on ecological stratification directly contributed to the development of MRV. The stratification system based on ecological regions is particularly useful to develop REL and further implement MRV whereby forest strata need to be accounted for as initial input data.

The REDD network and sub technical working groups particularly the ones on MRV, BDS, LI are very active. Through this channel, the issues of MRV framework, design BDS including fund management, local REDD+ implementation has been discussed substantially and updated information has been widely shared among each others.

Lessons learned have been documented and shared widely.

**Under the Outcome 2 - Improved the capacity to manage REDD+ through the sustainable development planning and implementation at the local level:** opportunities cost analysis, establishment of historical map through 1990 to 2010 has been conducted; training the local forest managers/owners and local technical agencies/local authority on how to use of map has been held; mainstreaming REDD+ into SEDP; and forest protection and development of a master plan is progressing. In collaboration with RECOFTC's<sup>8</sup> NORAD funded project, capacity building need assessment on REDD+ at the grassroots level has been conducted. REDD+ and UN-REDD update has been communicated through the provincial REDD+ group, consultation workshop on BDS and training/awareness events.

#### Highlight key achievement

**Development of NRP:** the current draft of the National REDD+ Program will cover all provinces of Viet Nam and will involve all sectors, in particular the agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, energy and infrastructure sectors. REDD+ considerations will be integrated into all relevant sector policies and planning, including Socio-Economic Development Plans (SEDPs), thus balancing the concerns and interests of the different sectors. The REDD+ program will cover aspects of governance, operationalization and implementation, including actors, their responsibilities and coordination, setting of reference emission levels (REL), monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), financing and benefit distribution and sharing (BDS).

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<sup>8</sup> The Center for People and Forests

The NRP includes key parts in establishment of national and sub national reference emission levels, of a national forest monitoring system, and a national REDD+ information system.

The NRP also consists of part of FINANCING REDD+ which establishment of National REDD+ Fund, a REDD+ Benefit Distribution System are key components.

In order to implement the National REDD+ Program, it will require policy measures including creating the legal framework; integrating REDD+ aspects into socio-economic development plans and into the plans. In order to implement the NRS, the engagement of the other line ministries, MPI, MONRE, MoF, CEM and local government is very significant. The NRP will undergo wide stakeholder consultation at national and local level. The NRP is going to be submitted to the GoV in this December.

**Development of National MRV framework:** the draft of the MRV framework document is now available for various stakeholder consultations. This Framework Document is intended to support the development of Vietnam's MRV System.

MRV framework is one of the Vietnam's key REDD+ documents to be developed in Phase I which, along with other critical elements of a National REDD+ Program, will allow the country to leverage maximum benefits from the future REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC by guiding the country through a phased approach to forest monitoring and MRV, fully integrated with the phases of the REDD+ mechanism. The Framework Document focuses on the mechanism through which GHG emissions and removals from the forestry sector will be monitored, reported and internally verified (ie the national MRV System). Safeguards and monitoring of PaMs are also discussed in this document in the context of monitoring/collection and provision of information, their mutual linkages, and linkages to the MRV System.

**Benefits Distribution System:** the Updated Policy Decisions for the REDD+ Compliant Benefit Distribution System (BDS) has been consolidated from the original 16 Policy Decisions, supplemented by several new policy decisions, and up-dates of the information to reflect the results of the follow-up analyses, and other developments related to REDD+ in Viet Nam. For each Policy Decision, the issue is described, together with the recommended course of action and the activities required in order operationalizing the policy decision. The study also includes a summary of all actions required to operationalize all Policy Decisions. There is wide stakeholder engagement in designing BDS.

**Mainstreaming REDD+ into national and provincial SEDP:** in collaboration with UNDP funded project on SD &CC to MPI, the Programme tries to engage the planning sector in the REDD+ debate and develop cross sectoral links to develop approaches to mainstream climate change and REDD+ in planning processes. As a result, avoiding deforestation and proposed action is to be included in the SEDP. This could be made more explicit through referencing to REDD+. Further work in the 2nd half of 2011 will include initial research into social economic development strategies for REDD+ provinces.

**Opportunities cost analysis (OCA)** undertaken is based on estimates of net returns to forest and alternative land uses, and their respective carbon stocks. The study recommended that OCA for REDD+ should be integrated into the Forest Protection and Development Plan which is carried out by the forest sector for long term strategy planning and annual operational planning. The advantage of including this analysis into the Forest Protection and Development Plan is because this plan is specific to the forest sector and it allows a level of detail in the planning process that does not exist in the current Land-Use planning process. The results from the analysis of opportunity costs for REDD+ should be fed back to the Land-Use plan as well as the socio-economic development plan.

**Study tour** to Mexico and Ecuador: GoV officials learned the sophistication of the benefit distribution system in both countries, including aspects such as financial management, risk management, stacking of payments and third-party funding modalities. Inversely, Mexico and Ecuador appreciated learning from Viet Nam's experience with the establishment of a National REDD+ Program, particularly through the UN-REDD Programme. This form of South-South collaboration has proven very effective. Even when the physical, socio-economic and political conditions are different in each country, there is commonality in many aspects of establishing a National REDD+ Program. The study tour to Mexico and Ecuador resulted in increased awareness of the required components of financial management and benefit distribution for the National REDD+ Program. In particular, it has enable the related ministries to jointly identify mandates of the various offices to implement the full set of required functions of financial management and benefit distribution with due regard for essential issues like accountability, transparency and equitability.

**Lessons from UN-REDD Viet Nam** have been shared widely with other countries and programmes, with national and local partners through FPIC, PCM, NRP, BDS through leaflet, clip, brochures and website.

**2.1.2 Please provide a brief overall assessment of any measures taken to ensure the sustainability of the National Programme results during the reporting period. Please provide examples if relevant. (250 words)**

The goal of Phase 1 is to build capacity at the national and local levels. To reach the goal and ensure the sustainability of the results, the following actions were taken:

To ensure the continuance of increasing knowledge on REDD+ at the local level, the Programme build capacity of provincial REDD+ working group who consist of representatives of key department and district authorities; build up a team of village facilitators (follow-up activity of FPIC exercise). The village facilitators find opportunities to mainstream REDD+ into all related events at the local level. Many articles on REDD+, UN-REDD Viet Nam; FPIC and PCM films were published to help local people to gain more knowledge on CC, REDD+ and UN-REDD implemented activities.

Workshops/trainings for MARD officials and others were held to continuously provide opportunities to learn about REDD+. Together with MPI/UNDP funded project on SD and CC, the Programme supported the Central Highlands Steering Committee to gain more knowledge on REDD+ and the need to integrate REDD+ into SEDP in the central highland region. Awareness training on REDD+ for VNFOREST and local DARDs has been conducted, representatives from about 20 provinces with forest has attended the training.

The Programme has been putting more effort into improving the REDD+ website. The REDD+ website has been updated more regularly and is more user friendly, and more importantly it now serves as a main tool and platform for sharing REDD+ activities across the country.

The Programme communicated/ trained/ briefed related stakeholders result/products, for example, training of local agencies/government on using historical map of forest change over period including GIS software training, handover map (in digital format and paper), post result on the website. The Programme also builds capacity for local official and village head on REDD+ who then can act as facilitator at local level.

Emphasis on commonalities between countries in the region is the most challenging part for the Programme. The Programme is starting to improve this by sharing lesson learned, experiences on implementing FPIC with The Laos Biodiversity Association, JICA, FFI... Nonetheless, the Programme will have to continue on sharing lesson learned from Viet Nam with others countries and vice versa.

**2.1.3 If there are difficulties in the implementation of the National Programme, what are the main causes of these difficulties? Please check the most suitable option.**

- UN agency Coordination
- Coordination with Government
- Coordination within the Government
- Administrative (Procurement, etc) /Financial (management of funds, availability, budget revision, etc)
- Management: 1. Activity and output management
- Management: 2. Governance/Decision making (PMC/NSC)
- Accountability
- Transparency
- National Programme design
- External to the National Programme (risks and assumptions, elections, natural disaster, social unrest)

**2.1.4 If boxes are checked under 2.1.3, please briefly describe any current *internal* difficulties<sup>9</sup> the National Programme is facing in relation to the implementation of the activities outlined in the National Programme Document. (200 words)**

As the first country to implement a national UN-REDD programme, since Aug 2009 Viet Nam has pioneered its

<sup>9</sup> Difficulties confronted by the team directly involved in the implementation of the National Programme



activities in the absence of an operational guideline. The inception report has tried to cover the management/implementation of the Programme. However, guiding seems simple and general. In the mean time, UN agencies tend to use their own implementation guideline.

None-updated log-frame is also a challenge to the implementation particularly to the planning, monitoring and reporting. The timely review/adjustment of the targets set in the log-frame has not been done. The log-frame underwent one revision after a half year of implementation, late 2010.

Communication and coordination with the UN agencies and Government remain challenges, there exists many contact points from UN as well as the GoV. It may be partly because of the lack of clarity in term of delegation of authority at both sides.

**2.1.5 If boxes are checked under 2.1.3, please briefly describe any current *external* difficulties<sup>10</sup> (not caused by the National Programme) that delay or impede the quality of implementation. (200 words)**

Time for programme implementation is quite short in comparison with activities set forth in the joint document as well as allocated resources and complexity of one joint programme. The Programme will be completed this December i.e 28 months implementation. This is insufficient for any country to be come ready for ready and to pilot activities.

The Programme has been affected by some other factors including the absence of international guidance on REDD and the national institution arrangement for REDD+.

Human resource mobilization to programme implementation remains challenged since the beginning of the Programme.

**2.1.6 Please, briefly explain the actions that are or will be taken to eliminate or manage the difficulties (internal and external referred to in question 2.1.3 and 2.1.4) described in the previous sections. (250 words)**

Staffs of the Programme Management Unit and UN agencies are meeting frequently at different levels to foster the implementation taking into account the international negotiation and national circumstance. The Programme and UN agencies have tried best to harmonize as much as possible in term of operational procedure as well as technical inputs.

Members of Programme Executive Board meet quarterly to discuss progress as well as challenges which need to be addressed timely.

The Programme has strengthened the net-working activities, adopted head hunting approach to find appropriate consultants, sent request for proposal directly to the consultancy service providers including International and Vietnamese NGOs and encouraged their participation. The Programme also set up close cooperation with university and technical institutes and agencies.

The Programme has also maintained good links with other ministries/agencies, departments in the ministry and VNFOREST and other programme/project in REDD+, CC and sustainable development nationwide and in the pilot province.

## **2.2 Inter-Agency Coordination**

The aim of the questions below is to collect relevant information on how the National Programme is contributing to inter-agency work and “Delivering as One”.

**2.2.1 Is the National Programme in coherence with the UN Country Programme or other donor assistance framework approved by the Government?**

Yes       No

**If not, does the National Programme fit into the national strategies?**

Yes       No

**If not, please explain:**

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<sup>10</sup> Difficulties confronted by the team caused by factors outside of the National Programme

- 2.2.2 What types of coordination mechanisms and decisions have been taken to ensure joint delivery? Please reflect on the questions above and add any other relevant comments and examples if you consider it necessary:**

Monthly meeting between PMU and UN to review progress and delivery.  
Quarterly PEB meeting to adopt guidance, changes and to address challenges

- 2.2.3 Is HACT being applied in the implementation of the National Programme by the three participating UN organisation?**  
 Yes  No

HACT is being applied by UNDP. FAO shows willingness to adopt HACT however pending their clear guidance from their headquarters.

**If not, please explain:**

### **2.3 Ownership<sup>11</sup> and Development Effectiveness**

The questions below seeks to gather relevant information on how the National Programme is putting into practice the principles of aid effectiveness through strong national ownership, alignment and harmonization of procedures and mutual accountability.

- 2.3.1 Do government and other national implementation partners have ownership of the implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs?**  
 No  Some  Yes

**Please explain:**

VNFOREST and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Lam Dong Province (pilot province) have actively co-implemented the activities. In particular, VNFOREST takes the lead in activities in Outcome 1 - national coordination and pilot province lead in ground activities under Outcome 2.

- 2.3.2 Are the UN-REDD Programme's Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement and Operational Guidance Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities been applied in the National Programme process?**  
 No  Partially  Fully

**Please explain, including if level of consultation varies between non-government stakeholders:**

- 2.3.3 What kind of decisions and activities are non-government stakeholders involved in?**  
 Policy/decision making  
 Management:  Budget  Procurement  Service provision  
 Other, please specify

**Please explain, including if level of involvement varies between non-government stakeholders:**

Non-government stakeholders have been engaged in consultation on policy development of NRP, financial mechanism for REDD+ and BDS through the REDD network. They have also chances to participate activities of the Programme through the competitive bidding. The Programme has also entered into formal agreement with NGO in capacity building need assessment on REDD+ at local level.

- 2.3.4 Based on your previous answers, briefly describe the current situation of the government and non-government stakeholders in relation to ownership and accountability<sup>12</sup> of the National Programme. Please provide some examples.**

*to be entered*

## **3. Government Counterpart Information**

<sup>11</sup> Ownership refers to countries exercising effective leadership over their REDD+ policies and strategies, and co-ordination of actions.

<sup>12</sup> Accountability: Acknowledgment and assumption of responsibility for actions, products, decisions, and policies and encompassing the obligation to report, explain and be answerable for resulting consequences.

The aim of this section is to allow the Government Counterpart to provide their assessment, as well as additional and complimentary information to Section 1-3 which are filled out by the three participating UN organizations.

**Comments by the Government Counterpart:**