**Lead Technical Advisor, Bangladesh National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap**

***Background***

Over the past two years the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has made significant steps towards preparation for implementation of REDD+. These steps include the establishment of three committees, namely:

* A National REDD+ Steering Committee
* A REDD+ Technical Working Committee
* A REDD+ Strategy Drafting Committee

Also, REDD+ pilot proposals are being prepared for (1) the Sundarbans, supported by the USAID-funded IPAC project, with a request submitted to the World Bank Bio-carbon Fund for carbon financing; and (2) Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, with funding support from GIZ.

Bangladesh joined the UN REDD Programme, the application approved by an inter-sessional decision of the UN-REDD Policy Board, in August, 2010. This led to UNDP committing to support the Royal Government of Cambodia with an initial REDD+ Readiness process independent of the UN REDD Programme, but serving as a preparatory phase for a future UN-REDD Country Programme.

Although there have been several initiatives in support of REDD+ readiness, as illustrated above, overall progress remains patchy and uncoordinated. Therefore the initial financial support from UNDP will be used to prepare a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap for Bangladesh. UNDP funding will enable the recruitment of an international team leader, who will work with a number of national experts, to be assigned by the Forest Department and other agencies.

***Responsibilities***

The Team Leader will provide technical leadership for a team of experts and provide advice to the GoB in relation to the following outputs:

1. The completion of a “REDD+ Readiness Roadmap” for Bangladesh, which will describe all the capacities required for the country to the ready for REDD+, the current initiatives of the government and development partners that are contributing to this process, and the capacity gaps that remain to be addressed;
2. Proposals for the scope of a future UN-REDD Country Programme, the main objective of which should be to address capacity gaps identified by the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap;
3. A proposal for a “Phase 2” (*sensu* UNFCCC Decision CP.16/1; paragraph 73) REDD+ initiative for Bangladesh, with UNDP support and engaging a broad range of development partners and government agencies.

***Outputs and Activities***

1. REDD+ Readiness Roadmap

The preparation of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap will involve the following indicative activities (but may also require additional activities, to be determined):

* Analysis of the current legal and policy framework in support of REDD+ in Bangladesh, including all relevant sectoral policies;
* Analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and of constraints to sustainability of past and current efforts on reforestation, conservation, and sustainable forest management;
* Analysis of required capacities for REDD+ implementation;
* Mapping of existing initiatives supported by the GoB and development partners contributing to the establishment of required capacities;
* Identification of the resulting capacity gaps, and formulation of a workplan to address those gaps
* Estimation a required budget to address capacity gaps

The REDD+ Readiness Roadmap will be formulated in broad consultation with all main stakeholder groups, and the final document will be subject to endorsement through consultative workshops at the national, and sub-national levels.

The REDD+ Readiness Roadmap should be completed by the end of 2011, and it is anticipated that implementation of the Roadmap should cover a period of 2 years (subject to analysis of opportunities and gaps).

1. Preliminary UN-REDD Programme Document

Based on the results of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, a preliminary UN-REDD Programme Document will be prepared in anticipation of future UN-REDD funding (Note: there is no guarantee of future funding or of the timing of such funding). The UN-REDD Programme Document should address as many as possible of the capacity gaps identified in the Roadmap. The UN-REDD Programme Document should incorporate all UN-REDD guidance concerning REDD+ readiness (for example, regarding stakeholder engagement, application of environmental and social safeguards, etc.). Where appropriate, the document should also identify opportunities for regional cooperation on REDD+ readiness.

A draft should be prepared by the end of January, 2012, anticipating a UN-REDD Country Programme to be implemented over a period of 2-3 years. It is expected that the UN-REDD Country Programme will contribute to several key elements of REDD+ “architecture”, including a National REDD+ Strategy, a REDD+ compliant Benedfit Distribution System, a national MRV (possibly based on regional cooperation), and a system of social and environmental safeguards.

1. Phase 2 Proposal

A proposal for a Phase 2 initiative, probably focusing on the Chittagong Hill Tracts, should build on a previous UNDP concept paper entitled “*Shamol Bangladesh: Greening Initiative for Sustainable Livelihood of Rural Poor and Biodiversity Conservation*”. The Phase 2 initiative should seek to reduce emissions and enhance removals at a significant scale in one of the main forested regions of the country (nominally, the Chittagong Hill Tracts). It should thus include provision for results-based payments, which will require a broad partnership of development partners, and mobilization of substantial financial resources to cover both technical assistance and payments. UNDP Country Programme funds are anticipated to provide some of the technical assistance costs, but contributions from other partners will also be required. The Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund, the Bangladesh Climate Resilience Fund, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility are all potential sources of funding for results-based payments. The Phase 2 initiative should be implemented over a period of 4-5 years, and pave the way for Bangladesh to move to REDD+ Phase 3 (*sensu* UNFCCC Decision CP.16/1; paragraph 73), through generating lessons that will be used in improving the various elements of REDD+ architecture developed under the UN-REDD Country Programme and other initiatives.