



1. Practice area: BDP/EEG	
2. Mission period (incl. of travel days) From: 1-4 December 2014	
3. Type of mission: Backstopping	4. Clients: UNDP CO, UN-REDD PMU, and FD
5. Purpose of mission: To support the PMU in facilitating the drivers of D&D stakeholder validation meeting and in attending to UNDP related matters.	6. Documents, materials, resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study report on drivers of D&D • Stakeholder validation minutes • 2015 AWP
7. Mission members Aki Kono, UNDP	8. Costs UNDP/UN-REDD global budget

9. Brief summary of the mission:

The purpose of this mission was to support the PMU in facilitating the drivers of D&D stakeholder validation meeting, and to provide backstopping for the planning (ie. 2015 AWP) and implementation of the UNDP led activities.

The mission delivered the following outputs successfully as planned.

- Summary note from the stakeholder validation meeting on the study of drivers of D&D.
- Agreed ways forward with the Colombo University Cell for the finalization of the report on the study of drivers of D&D.
- Revised AWP 2015 for the UNDP led activities.
- Ways forward with the CSO Forum for the delivery of NCB and gender outputs.

10. Findings/Recommendations:

- Stakeholder validation meeting on the study of D&D Drivers went successfully - the participants were generally satisfied with the current version of the report (see Annex One: summary note).
- PMU (MRV team) will provide a national carbon emissions profiles by sector to support the application of the drivers study findings to identify prioritised PAMs and national REDD+ vision and scope during Q1 2015 from the overall carbon mission perspective in order to support the integration of REDD+ into the national climate framework.
- Based on the most recent updates (September 2014) on the NP indicators and targets, the implementation timeline for the entire programme was adjusted for the UNDP-led outcomes, outputs and activities (FAO and UNEP also did the same for their respective parts) and based on which the AWP 2015 was readjusted and finalised.
- This timeline adjustment exercise has confirmed that the NP will require a no-cost extension of 12 months to complete the programme (ie. until end of Q1 2017).
- Given the upcoming presidential election in January 2015 and expected political uncertainty following it, the UNDP senior management has suggested to make a request for a no-cost extension to the PEB at the first meeting in 2015 instead. The UNDP senior management will in the meantime suggest to FAO and PMU to ensure contingency planning, especially to ensure there is adequate resources available to maintain required functions of PMU.
- Discussion with a representative of CSO Forum has concluded that formal contracts are required to implement the Forum's work plan – a single fund receiving entity will be nominated within the Forum, and its internal financial management arrangements will be identified.
- A call for proposal to implement the TS on gender will be issued – the CSO Forum has suggested the work to be done by a specialised group of experts in the country while working closely with the Forum to help build its capacity in the area during the course of its implementation.
- Discussion with the PMU manager and UNDP focal point has concluded that greater work integration within the PMU is required, and the regional advisors' role should be more focused on technical quality assurance.

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
PMU and University Cell to finalise the Drivers Study	Prasad and Ramitha.	15th December (editorial clean up by 31 Dec)
TOR on NCB	Celina and Aki	19th December
ToR on gender	Aki	19th December

12. Distribution List
UNDP UN-REDD

Annex One : Summary Note

National Stakeholder Validation Meeting on the Study Report on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Time: 09:00 – 14:00

Date: 2nd December 2014

Venue: Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo 03

Meeting Agenda:

Time	Agenda Item
0900 - 910	Opening Remarks by Mr. Anura Sathurusinghe (CGF)
0910 - 1000	Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation Study: objectives, approaches, key findings by the research team
1000 - 1015	Q&A
1015 - 1030	Coffee & tea
1030 – 1350	Breakout Group and Plenary Discussions Items to be discussed: Stakeholder validation: identification of priority adjustments PAMs recommendations
1350 - 1410	Next steps by Mr. Ramitha Wijethunga (UNDP) Closing remarks by Mr. Anura Sathurusinghe (CGF)

Objective

Following a series of stakeholder consultation meetings at national and subnational levels during the study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, this was the final stakeholder consultation/validation meeting with an aim to provide key national stakeholders with one last chance to raise any outstanding issues with the current report on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and to obtain their consensus to complete the study and to finalise the report with the next iteration.

Approach

The majority of the participants had been consulted prior to this meeting to provide their feedback on the previous versions of the report, and the latest version was circulated to the participants one week prior to this meeting. The participants were asked to identify any outstanding issues still remaining in the current version.

After a short presentation on key findings from the study and where and how recommendations from the previous consultation meetings have been addressed in the report, the participants were asked to discuss any outstanding issues and recommendations to be considered in the next iteration through group and plenary discussion sessions.

The team of consultants, FD and UN-REDD Programme felt that there were a number of under explored areas/items under the section on potential policies and measures (PAMs) in the report. The participants were thus asked to focus their PAMs related recommendations on these areas/items indicated below.

- Future infrastructure development projects
- Private agriculture ventures
- Economic development zones including tourism zones
- Power generation, specially coal power

Decisions:

The participants were generally satisfied with the current version of the report. With the following recommendations reflected in the next version, the report can be finalized.

During the breakout group discussion session, the participants were divided into two groups and discussed and agreed on their collective recommendations to be considered in the next iteration. During the plenary session, those suggestions and recommendations were presented and discussed. The participants collectively identified and agreed on a specific way forward for each recommendation as shown below.

Category	Recommendation	Decision
Adjustments	Buffer-zones should be demarcated and declared in order to manage the high value forests more efficiently.	Report will suggest to identify and recognize buffer-zone as part of the management plan.
	A special chapter on conflict area forest cover is not necessary; this can be discussed under development being a key driver.	This section will be subsumed under the previous section on drivers.
	Land use planning for the northern and eastern districts to implement LLRC recommendations.	This will be included as an inhibitor.
	The contradiction between forestry targets and other policies/acts have to be investigated further. At least the main contradictions should be mentioned (Physical plan/ long term generation plan/ Irrigation plans/ Mahaweli act etc).	This will be reflected in the report.
	Grazing is a serious driver/ requires special mention.	Agreed to add this for North Central, Uva and East.
	Consider encroachment due to resettlement (e.g. Wilpattu).	This will be reflected in the report.
	Make the connection between land tenure encroachment and forest degradation.	Will be stressed in the report.
	Identify forest dieback as a cause of forest degradation.	Will be reflected in the report.
	Value added furniture exports.	Will be reflected in the report.
	Mention about the possible impacts of subsidies on tea, Rubber and agriculture on deforestation and forest degradation.	Will be reflected in the report
	Express forest cover changes as percentage in districts.	Will be done.
PAMs	Identify hotspots management as a priority programme for FD. Criteria for identification of forest deforestation hotspots (including the existing PAM). Special range management.	Agreed and will be added to the section on potential PAMs.
	Land tenure issues. Title and ownership issues and demarcation of lands under Forest Department (particularly of IPs).	Agreed and will be added to the section on potential PAMs.
	Monitoring and addressing Forest Degradation. Regularly updated forest inventory (development of criteria for assessing Forest Degradation).	Agreed and will be added to the section on potential PAMs.
	Strengthen existing legal processes such as EIA, and give teeth to planning processes such as SEA (Northern SEA for example).	Agreed. The lack of implementation and monitoring will be emphasized.
	PES systems, explain in detail.	Agreed to include a case study on PES to demonstrate how it might work in Sri Lanka.
	Certain selected drivers should be studied in-depth to come	The need for this will be mentioned

up with more detailed recommendations.	in the report. This will be followed up as activities under the FD and UN-REDD Programme as appropriate.
If deforestation cannot be avoided, compensation has to be planned (plantation or ANR).	Change of wording will be considered in the report.
Please also elaborate REDD related recommendations, especially for non-carbon benefits/ safeguards	Rejected. As this will be done during the work on PAMs and there will be a work stream on safeguards starting in 2015
National level changes in forest land use classification.	This will be added to the section on potential PAMs.
Land use plan for divisional areas coordinated by Head of District Administrations/District Secretary.	This will be added to the section on potential PAMs.
Science and technology to improve productivity—prevent loss of any more forest cover. Stick to sustainable development objective.	This will be added to the section on potential PAMs.

Next steps:

University team will:

- Consult with energy, transport and agriculture authorities to ensure reflection of their feedback in the final report, as they did not participate in the validation meeting;
- Incorporate decisions from this meeting;
- Attach this summary note to the final report as an annex;
- Submit the final report (final contents) to the UN-REDD Programme by the 14th of December; and
- Conduct internal proof reading to remove formatting and editorial errors.

UN-REDD Programme will:

- Publish the report by end-January; and
- Launch it by February