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Submitted by UN-REDD Africa Team

Title: Regional advisors and specialists, UNDP/REDD+ (Africa)

Date submitted 10th March 2015

1. Practice area : UN-REDD

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)

Josep Gari: from 20th January (then remained two weeks in Geneva, to continue mission to Kinshasa)

Anne Martinussen: 20th to 28th January

Ela Ionesco: 20th to 28th January (including mission to Cambridge between 20th and 24th)

Fabien Monteils: 20th to 28th January

Elsie Attafuah : 19th to 28th January

Mino Randrianarison: 20th to 28th January

Leslie Ouarzazi: 20th to 28th January

3. Type of mission : Information sharing and annual planning

4. Clients : UN-REDD Global / Regional / Country levels

5. Purpose of mission

Global annual planning meeting and joint UN-REDD meeting

6. Documents, materials, resources

See Teamworks, including regional business plan

7. Mission members: The entire UNDP/REDD+ Africa Team:

Josep Gari, Anne Martinussen, Ela Ionesco, Fabien Monteils, with international country advisors (Elsie Attafuah, Leslie Ouarzazi and Mino Randrianarison)

8. Costs: global UNDP/REDD+ budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

9.a Mission Highlights and findings:

The core UNDP retreat took place from 21st to 24th of January, with 38 UNDP/REDD+ participants from global level (mainly Geneva and New York), regional units (Bangkok, Nairobi, Panama) and selected countries (DR Congo, Republic of Congo and Zambia for the case of Africa). For the first time, the regional team was requested to draft a comprehensive regional business plan, to be discussed during the retreat.

The approach to the retreat was focused on discussing substantive matters. From the 21st to the 23rd, discussions addressed 12 major topics on: 1. State of play; 2. "What is REDD+" document; 3. Supporting NS/AP; 4. Inclusive national REDD+ strategies; 5. UNDP REDD+ social inclusion; 6. PAMs; 7. Governance; 8. Safeguards; 9. National delivery; 10. Towards RBF; 11. GCF; 12. National fund management.

On Saturday 24th, regional teams discussed their regional business plan with UN-REDD Principal Advisor, one by one, in the presence of observers from other regions and global experts. The Africa group's session took place from 2pm to 4pm, and offered the opportunity to present annual results, and discuss priority countries, key challenges and 2015 plans and targets.

On the 26th and 27th, the first UN-REDD annual meeting gathered about 60 participants from the various agencies, including the members of the UN-REDD Management Group and the Head of the Secretariat. The meeting promoted inter-agency exchanges on a selection of key issues like safeguards, national reference levels and national strategies. It offered the opportunity to present updates on the UN-REDD 2016-2020 framework strategy and discuss implications in terms of management revolution. Two "hard talk" sessions with MG members allowed open exchanges on challenging issues.

Beyond the technical aspects learnt from all sessions (which instruments must be applied to assist national programmes and deliver quality assurance, what other regions or agencies are doing, what challenges are they facing, how to better coordinate and harmonize our approach etc.) some specific key findings can be highlighted:

- In 2014, the Africa region performed well: 3.4M\$ and 95% of expected delivery, a 38% increase compared to 2013, with 4 countries above 700K\$ annual delivery including Rep. of Congo (from 7 to 54% NP delivery rate) and the closure of Zambian NP. In addition Africa team has strengthened its portfolio with 2 new NP approved (Cote d'Ivoire and Uganda), 3 new countries opened with TS supports (Madagascar, Ethiopia, Malawi), a regional NGO/IPO platform on REDD+ formed, and an ambitious KM plan developed. Coordination with internal and regional UNDP colleagues, UNEP and FAO was also strengthened through multiple joint missions and

coordination meetings.

- The Africa region has contributed to strengthening the NS/AP agenda, and positioning it at the core of UN-REDD action. Now the region is keen on deepening it through specific work on the identification and assessment of policies and measures as part of the NS/AP framework. The UN-REDD principal advisor has given a green light to the regional team to further explore this issue in 2015.
- The financial plan should be considered as a specific point of attention when designing REDD+ NS/AP and PAMs. LAC regions seems ahead in this field and could share elements of methodology for financial/investment planning.
- There is an increasing need to build capacities and confidence of donor countries themselves to invest in REDD+ and do RBP under the GCF or make sound bilateral deals.
- Message from LAC: REDD+ can encourage national discourse and momentum to mobilise national resources for forests
- GCF might offer opportunities to finance REDD+ investment in the near future, with first calls for proposals as early as 2015. The regional team should keep a close eye at it to anticipate and position ideally.
- The UN-REDD 2016-2020 Framework Strategy alignment on UNFCCC requirements is well consolidated and supported by donor and REDD+ countries.
- The UN-REDD 2016-2020 Framework Strategy calls for a management revolution that raises high expectations but also faces various challenges to implement. Intensified dialogue among agencies will be key to build understanding and trust.
- UN-REDD agencies share multiple interfaces on various REDD+ issues, like safeguards, FREL/FRL, NS/AP and PAMs etc. Dialogue can help bridge perspectives and enrich our value addition. However, some corporate perspectives on certain issues can prove challenging to converge, for instance on scope and scale of NS/AP, on priority to national approach to REDD+ and modalities for subnational support etc.
- KM and communication at all levels are the valuable levers for achieving UN-REDD corporate ambitions, and are required to inform stakeholders on the business and development case for REDD+ readiness, and the vital roles and innovations the UN-REDD Programme offer to the process. Enhanced communication is also crucial for managing political expectations.
- It is critical for UNDP to build political case for REDD+. The "economic" case is useful but not the only or necessary lever. Among possible entry doors: donors' coordination and mainstreaming, national interests and diplomacy, stakeholders' engagement and vision for REDD+.
- The Africa team should improve the delivering of corporate reports on time.
- The UN-REDD team still missed a good way to tell the story of REDD+ in general, and the UN-REDD programme in particular, so as to make it understandable and promoted, and to communicate results in what is often perceived as a slow process. In this regard, an African project for documentary was submitted and offers a chance to address part of the challenge.

9.b Results achieved (key outputs)

- Clearer roadmap for 2015, for the team and for each member (with remote decisions to be made)
 - Corporate, policy guidance and analytical products: implement regional KM strategy and plan; broaden work on SE, which entails focusing on a wider variety of stakeholders as part of the new UN-REDD strategy ; start CBR+ implementation; explore the PAMs issue, promote experience sharing, and disseminate lessons learnt to support global level efforts.
 - Operational: "Delivery" as an operational priority for 2014 (continue support building national implementation modality for the region). More specifically, the Africa team to focus in 7 priority countries
 - (i) Cote d'Ivoire – start NP implementation, aiming at a good impact at the Paris CoP in terms of national policy dialogue and PAM scoping.
 - (ii) Kenya – intensify support, possibly through NP formulation
 - (iii) Nigeria – speeding implementation of the NP and advance design of REDD+ strategy and CBR+
 - (iv) Republic of Congo – Complete the NP
 - (v) Uganda – start NP implementation
 - (vi) Zambia – completing national strategy and planning transition
 - (vii) DRC - operationalise the REDD+ national fund, launch first investment cycle and start implementing CBR+
 - Strategic and political liason with UNEP and FAO to both facilitate coherence and assembling support actions in a right sequence, and maintain mutual support
- Validated internal organisation of the UNDP-REDD+ Africa team, with clear work plans for each member (with remote decision to be made)
 - Josep/Elsie: Leading coordinator in Zambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi (plus follow up on most English-speaking countries with uncertainty and lesser priority in 2015).
 - Fabien: Leading coordinator in RoC, Cdl, DRC, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Tunisia (plus follow-up on most French-speaking countries with uncertainty and lesser priority in 2015, backstopping RTA work in Uganda and leading technical

support on Nigeria's diplomacy and PAMs).

- Anne: Leading role in stakeholder engagement across all Africa (NP and TS countries), and progressive RTA role in Uganda
- Ela: Leading role in coordinating KM and South-South dialogue activities in the region, including supporting KM integration into TS and CNA, KM national strategies in Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya and Cote d'Ivoire, and facilitating knowledge production and dissemination through publications, events, communities of practice.
- Improved understanding of responsibilities and means to carry out respective missions and achieve targets
- Acknowledged contribution to the larger corporate debate on REDD+ and strategic challenges post-2015, for instance on NS/AP and in terms of consolidating coordination with UNEP and FAO

9.c Expected outcomes and impacts

- Performing UNDP REDD+ Africa team, delivering efficiently on the annual work plan 2015
- Enhanced UNDP contribution to global REDD+ and climate debate post-2015

9.d Other aspects

The mission of Josep Gari was extended to pave the way and lead on stakeholder engagement portfolio at global level.

As regional KM specialist, Ela Ionesco participated to the UNEP annual retreat in Cambridge from 21st to 23rd, and then joined the UN-REDD inter-agency meeting on 26th and 27th in Geneva. The Cambridge Mission Highlights (UNEP) follows:

The UNEP UN-REDD Team retreat gathered 40 participants, including representatives from the UN-REDD Secretariat and the 3 regional KM specialists (UNDP) for 3 days. The Team got a good overview of the work which had been achieved in 2014 and reflected on the lessons learned to improve its work in 2015. In light of the main changes brought by the new UN-REDD Strategy 2016-2020, the team discussed more in depth the role of UNEP within UN-REDD, how to shift towards increased country support and how to enhance collaboration with FAO and UNDP. The retreat was also a great opportunity for internal team building and networking: to meet every member in person and to learn more about the knowledge centres' and regional offices' work.

Some of the 2014 highlights discussed in the retreat included: record level of TS requests on private sector and Green Economy; high number of countries with work on safeguards; general understanding of REDD+ being part of sustainable development at large; REDD+ Academy and its lessons learned; involvement in the preparation of the New York Declaration on forests. While looking forward it was suggested to focus on publication of a chapter on REDD+ in the Emission Gap Report, REDD+ Academy in Africa (Nigeria) and LAC (Argentina); development of REDD+ Academy into an online course with UNITAR; participation at the Global Landscape Forum in COP 21 in Paris 5-6- December; publications on finance, results of the TS on private sector in LAC. Interesting to note that participants when asked what were the main achievements of the UNEP UN-REDD Team in 2014; what worked well; what did not work well and what could be done better- overwhelmingly agreed was inter-agency collaboration. This is mainly because regional experiences quite vary. Sessions covered regional updates, safeguards, green economy and private sector, UNEP's role in new strategy, finance and private sector engagement, interagency collaboration and KM and Communication.

10. Key counterparts

UNDP-REDD+ team in Geneva, NY and regional centers

11. Follow up action matrix

| Action to be taken | By whom | Expected completion date |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Finalising annual business plan, including Africa portfolio and roles matrix, and integrating guidance and final decisions from the UN-REDD Principal Advisor. | Josep, regional team members, Tim Clairs | March 15 |
| Stay updated with management products: quarterly work plan with expected support, travel plans, annual/home leave updates, PMD, LMS... | Each Africa team member | Continuous |
| Agreeing with FAO and UNEP on joint regional planning matrix, and complete the template | Fabien | March 15 |
| New RTA joining | Elsie | 30 March |

12. Distribution list: Tim Clairs, UN-REDD regional team members, Leslie Ouarzazi, Elsie Attafuah, Mino Randrianarison.