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**Back to Office Report**  
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Title RTA  
Date submitted: 05 February 2016

<b>1. Practice area:</b> PBPS SDC	
<b>2. Mission period (incl. of travel days):</b> From: 18 - 23 January 2016	
<b>3. Type of mission:</b> Supporting programme inception	<b>4. Clients:</b> UN-REDD NP PMU staff, UNDP CO, FAO CO, MEGDT
<b>5. Purpose of mission:</b> To support the PMU and MEGDT in organizing a number of inception activities.	<b>6. Documents, materials, resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff induction presentations</li> <li>• Updated results framework, budget and risks</li> <li>• AWP 2016</li> </ul>
<b>7. Mission members:</b> Aki Kono, RTA, joint mission with Ben Vickers, FAO and Thomas Enters, UNEP	<b>8. Costs:</b> UN-REDD Global Programme Budget

**9. Brief summary of the mission**  
The objectives of this backstopping mission were:

- 1) to deliver a staff/key stakeholder induction workshop to bring newly recruited members of PMU and key national counterparts/stakeholders up to speed on what Mongolia is expected to do during its readiness phase in relation to the four essential elements of REDD+ and information streams for receiving results-based finance;
- 2) to participate in the review of NP results framework, budget and risk log against the current national circumstances and if necessary, make adjustments to ensure the NP's relevance in the present context; and
- 3) to assist the PMU, MEGDT and FAO and UNDP COs in reviewing and understanding adaptive management tools and procedures, reporting requirements, and management arrangements under the NP.

## 10. Findings

### Induction workshop

- Approximately 25 participants, including the PMU staff, technical staff members from MEGDT, GIZ and FAO and others, who have been involved in the Roadmap preparation process participated in the 1.5-day workshop.
- Sessions were modelled after REDD+ Academy to introduce REDD+ in general, four elements of Cancun and stakeholder engagement.
- Many participants were very actively engaging in a plenary discussion after each session to ask questions and to raise issues and concerns in the context of Mongolia's pursuit of REDD+.
- One of the key concerns was on Mongolia's position on strict forest protection despite its capacity and potential for more sustainable use and management of forest resources in many parts, and weak political leadership to break away from this historical position.

### Updating of NP results framework, budget and risk log

- Results framework appeared still largely relevant in the current country context, and GIZ's contribution to Roadmap Outcomes 3 and 4 on FREL/FRL and NFMS were taken into consideration, but did not result in major changes to Outcome 3 and 4.
- Readiness institutional arrangements were discussed in the context of whether having both a taskforce and technical working groups would make sense given that there are a relatively small group of stakeholders involved in the process at the moment. The conceptually agreed to keep the structure light and simple and gradually scale up as required.
- FAO-GEF project on providing support to UFGs plans to develop a national association of UFGs and therefore,

will coordinate closely with the NP to establish a CSO/LC forum.

- FAO-GEF project will go ahead with demonstration of activities in thinning and market access establishment and results of which will be fed into the upcoming process of PAMs identification and prioritisation, and resulting PAMs will also inform the future direction of demonstration activities under the FAO-GEF project.
- Financial administration and cash transfer modality of each participating UN agency was discussed in order to ensure that the PMU would be able to maintain a clear overview of planned and actual expenditures under the NP.
- UNEP's financial administration matters were discussed, but there were no clarity in terms of what exactly would be done.
- Risks in the NPD were reviewed and updated. The PMU will later link the risks to outcomes and outputs to enable more targeted identification and monitoring of issues and risks in order to take timely preventative or/and curatives actions as necessary.

Based on these minor updates and revisions to the NPD, the first PEB meeting together with the official programme launch event were held during the following week.

### General observations

- PMU staff members are relatively less experienced than desired but seem to have good organizational and coordination skills to manage the programme; therefore, it is important to provide close support and monitoring from the CO and regional side during the inception phase.
- We have very collegial relationships with GIZ and FAO, and it will be important to build on this to make our partnerships stronger to support the overall readiness effort of the government.
- New focal point is our original counterpart back in 2011, Ms. Tungalag; therefore, we expect our work relationship to be already strong.
- During the field visit with FAO and GIZ partners, we visited a vocational college in Mandal Som, Selenge where GIZ has been supporting the training of forestry technicians, three to four times a year. The attendance is fully subsidised by the Government for anyone under the age of 24. Nearly 50% of those who are enrolled in the training programme are women, and most graduates go on to work for forest enterprises, GIZ projects, or participate in their FUG activities.

### Key Individual met during this mission:

- Mr. Khishigargal Batjantsan (Jack), PMU Manager, [khishigjargal.batjantsan@undp.org](mailto:khishigjargal.batjantsan@undp.org)
- Mr. Richard Metcalfe, International Consultant (REDD+, NFMS, FREL/FRL) - [Richard.Metcalfe@fao.org](mailto:Richard.Metcalfe@fao.org)
- Mr. Bilguun Oyuntsetseg, UNDP Governance Component Coordinator ([bilguuno@unredd.mn](mailto:bilguuno@unredd.mn))
- Mr. Batchuluun Bayanmunkh, Communication officer ([batchuluun.b@unredd.mn](mailto:batchuluun.b@unredd.mn))
- Ms. Naratsatsral Baatarjamba, Admin and Finance Officer ([narantsatsral@unredd.mn](mailto:narantsatsral@unredd.mn))
- Ms. Undarmaa Gonchigsumlaa, Secretary/Translator ([undarmaa@unredd.mn](mailto:undarmaa@unredd.mn))
- Andrew Inglis, FAO GEF-SFM Project CTA ([Andrew.Inglis@fao.org](mailto:Andrew.Inglis@fao.org))
- Bat-Ulzii Chultem, GIZ NFI Expert ([chultem.bat-ulzii@giz.de](mailto:chultem.bat-ulzii@giz.de))
- Dan Altrel, CTA, GIZ NFI Project ([Altrel@sajt.se](mailto:Altrel@sajt.se))

### 11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Internal risk log, and ToR for PAMs identification and prioritisation	Jack and Bilguun	5 <sup>th</sup> February
Inception report	Jack	Early March

### 12. Distribution list: UN-REDD, and the CO