



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Back to Office Report
Submitted by Aki Kono
Title RTA
Date submitted: 1 August 2015

1. Practice area: PBPS SDC

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)
From: 19 – 25 July 2015

3. Type of mission:
Technical backstopping

4. Clients: Forest Department, UN-REDD PMU, UNDP CO, CSOs and other stakeholders

5. Purpose of mission: to initiate a work stream on REDD+ finance architecture, and to support the identification of criteria for prioritizing PAMs.

6. Documents, materials, resources
– Work plan for REDD+ finance work
– List of potential PAMs
– List of criteria

7. Mission members: Aki Kono, RTA

8. Costs: UN-REDD Global Programme Budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

The objective of this mission was to work with national and international consultants, working on PAMs prioritization and REDD+ fund management for quality assurance.

10. Findings

REDD+ fund management

- Held intensive discussion sessions with the international and national consultants on the finance work to agree on the scope and scale of work, specific deliverables and timeline of the deliverables.
- Discussed a number of directions towards which REDD+ finance work can explore in terms of how REDD+ can be framed and situated within Sri Lanka's overall governance structure.
- Agreed that the consultant team will identify and assess several viable options and through a stakeholder consultation select the most suitable option for which an implementation plan will then be developed.
- Discussed how this work stream should also consider the outcome of PAMs prioritization.
- Identified a key challenge to be the current uncertainty regarding REDD+ finance globally and lack of donor support/interest in this area in Sri Lanka.

PAMs Prioritisation

- Agreed to amend the traditional MCA methodology to accommodate the context specific and perception-based nature of the current PAMs debate - both the criteria identification and scoring of PAMs will be done by a wide range of national and sub-national stakeholders, while at the same time expert scoring will be done to supplement and compare against the stakeholder-led periodization outcome.
- Agreed that MCA criteria, which follow the Cancun safeguards, will be used for setting indicators for monitoring safeguards and PAM implementation performance.
- Recognised that stakeholders needed more time to identify criteria as they could be politically sensitive matters, and a wider range of stakeholders needed to be involved in this exercise, especially those from communities and IPs, based on the recommendations from the representatives of the CSO Platform.
- Agreed to reach out to a wider range of stakeholders and give an adequate review and feedback timeframe for the review of the list of PAMs and identification of criteria.
- Identified a need for providing a public information session at the start of this work stream to increase stakeholders' buy-in and reduce the risk of misunderstandings, confusions and contentions. Case in point, the MCA workshop was largely misunderstood by many people since the explanation regarding the whole prioritization exercise beyond the MCA was neither fully described nor understood.

Others

- Work on GRM seemed to be missing an assessment/overview of the formal policing and judiciary systems. For instance, there is environmental police at the district level, but this mechanism was not accounted for. Therefore, a more balanced assessment of the existing mechanisms, their current capacities, functions and capacity gaps is still needed.
- GRM work should be aligned closely with the work on PAMs and finance to identify some key areas of contentions and how those would be best addressed.
- FD is already working with the private sector to release pieces of degraded forest or abandoned land for restoration and reforestation.
- General population of Sri Lanka do not wish to engage in tree planting and other labour activities, and often some migrant workers are brought in for those activities.
- Ban on export of medicinal and cosmetic products from forests has been lifted – there is an increased interest in implementing effective forest and forest resources management.
- Professor Buddhi's original ToR were split into two – the PLR review work will be handled by someone else.

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Inception report on REDD+ Finance	Jan, Chula and Sudarshan	1 August
MCA schedule (indicated below)	David, Buddhi and PMU	See below

12. Distribution list:

UN-REDD, and the CO

MCA Work Schedule

Task	Date	Person Responsible
Finalized PAMS list Redrafted criteria list Instruction note to stakeholders (re their review of the criteria list ... to be returned to Buddhi by August 5)	To be sent to PMU for final check by July 29	David
PMU to forward PAMS list and criteria list to Buddhi	July 29	PMU
Email finalized PAMS list, redrafted criteria list, and instruction note	July 30	Buddhi
Redrafting of criteria list based on stakeholder comments/clarifications	Done between August 5 (when stakeholder comments on original list are returned) and August 7	Buddhi
Send redrafted criteria list of PMU for quick review	August 7	Buddhi
Email criteria list to July 24 attendees for weighting. Allow stakeholders 2 days to do weighting	August 10	Buddhi
Criteria lists collected and weightings averaged (for all respondents ... and for identified interest groups)	By August 14	Buddhi
Weighting lists sent to David	August 15	Buddhi
Structuring of MCA matrix (combined policies and measures) Production of instructions for matrix emailing	By August 21	David
Matrix emailed to July 24 stakeholders (and others) for scoring. Instructions identify Sept 14 as latest return date.	August 21	Buddhi
Additional stakeholders identified with help of CSO Forum (and sent MCA matrix for scoring)	August 21 – August 29	PMU and Buddhi
Scores analyzed and final MCA matrix developed	September 14 -21	David
MCA training	September 22-23	David
Second MCA workshop	September 24	All