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1. Practice area: PBPS SDC

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days): From: 15-21 November 2015

3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping

4. Clients: UNDP CO, FAO CO, MEGDT (Secretary, and Head, DFPC)

5. Purpose of mission: Stakeholder validation of D&D and institutional arrangement study findings

6. Documents, materials, resources

- Validation inputs for the study report on drivers of land cover change
- Validation inputs for the study report on REDD+ institutional arrangements
- National Programme PEB TOR, first meeting agenda
- National Programme budget structure
- Rough procurement plan/work sequence for 2016

7. Mission members: Aki Kono, RTA

8. Costs: UN-REDD Global Programme Budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

The objectives of this mission were to: 1) oversee the stakeholder validation process for the currently finalised study reports on drivers of forest cover change and REDD+ institutional arrangements, and 2) prepare the newly recruited Programme Management Unit team to go through the programme inception phase as smoothly and quickly as possible.

10. Findings

Validation outcome and finalisation of studies

- Participants indicated that the role of livestock animal grazing was overlooked in the study and could not be delinked in relation to afforestation/reforestation.
- Participants also felt that the study overlooked the role of natural regeneration, as it is accounted for nearly 60% of forest regeneration (but it is related to the potential timeframe of REDD+).
- Participants assessed the validity of drivers and underlying causes identified by the study and proposed minor revisions and additional underlying causes respectively at the local practice, institutional and systemic levels.
- Some recommendations include a need for creating an illegal logging whistle blower protection program, and use of IT to enable local communities to better monitor and make use of forest resources.
- Some recommendations highlighted limited involvement of FUGs but emerging roles of tourism and spiritual rituals in forest destruction.
- Participants had very few inputs for the institutional study, and one of the comments was about the validity of assessment and sampling method (explanations were provided by the team of consultants).
- MEGDT indicated that the validation was very useful, and the inputs received will also directly contribute to the action planning exercise for the Forest Sector Policy.
- Participants were given a little less than a week after the validation meeting to provide addition inputs in writing if they still felt the need to do so.
- Consultants will produce a response table for each study, which will then be annexed to the final report, to indicate how and where participants' inputs have been considered, addressed or rejected, in that case on what basis.
- Both reports will be technically finalised before the end of December and be published in January.

Discussion with the Ministry of GDET

- Mr. Tsengel Tsegmid, State Secretary talked about various benefits of having increased capacities in forest management and a need to better manage forests in locations where extractive activities are taking place.
- Ministry proposes the REDD+ taskforce to be established by the Prime Minister (while acknowledge a high level of commitment, discussed the risk of such a body not meeting frequently and focusing too narrowly on REDD+).
- Forest Sector Policy was officially adopted in June and was prepared with inputs from the REDD+ Roadmap.
- Due to the current financial difficulty in the country, the ministerial budget for 2016 will be 50% of this year.
- Ministry is allocating a decent size office space within its premises, and requesting the Programme to cover the

renovation cost, and at the same time, to look into signing some sort of agreement between the Ministry and UNDP to avoid a sudden loss of office space later on due to leadership shifts or any other reasons.

- Discussion on transportation for the programme activities was settled with an idea to hire a vehicle with a driver on an as-needed basis.

Discussions with RC, and UNDP and FAO reps

- CTA recruitment will be completed within the end of this year.
- Discussed with the RC and UNDP DRR that REDD+ benefits for Mongolia are less visible and much more nuanced compared to those mainstream REDD+ countries (ie. Indonesia), as they would be ensuring the economic and social development bases for a long run (focus is on co-benefits rather than just on RBPs).
- An international MRV (FAO) expert has been recruited, and once this person has moved to Mongolia, a national MRV expert will be recruited.
- PMU staff must become familiar with financial and operational procedures of both FAO and UNDP (also UNEP).
- PMU budget will not cover the salaries and IT equipment costs of MRV experts (FAO) and governance expert (UNDP), while the PMU will provide them with office supplies and desks.

Inception activities and roles and responsibilities

- Discussions over the week focused on AWP preparation, PEB’s ToR, membership and first meeting agenda, 2016 priority activities, and office space.
- For the UNDP part, Outputs 1, 3,4,5, 8, 9 and 11 were identified to be 2016 delivery priorities (Outputs 3, 4 and 5 are sequenced together, and Outputs 8, 11 and 9 are also sequenced together).
- Agreed actions and timelines for pre-and during inception, as follows:

1. PEB TOR/PEB agenda/membership to be finalised after reviewed by Mr. Banzragch, Bunchin and Thomas E	End of November
2. Secure Ministerial decree on PEB membership	Before 15 th December
3. Publication cover page layout	November 27 th
4. Initiation Plan (2015 budget) – computers, offices, stationary, salaries, etc.	End of November
5. Finalisation of TS reports	December 4 th
6. Staff recruitment	December 11 th
7. Annual Work Plan (first draft for review)	December 18 th
8. TORs for Q1 and procurement plan for 2016 (by agency)	December 18 th
9. Procurement of office IT and other items	December 25 th
10. Final Annual Work Plan	January 8 th
11. Circulation PEB materials	January 8 th
12. PEB Meeting	January 15 th
13. Induction Session	January 18 th
14. Internal Inception Session	January 20 th
15. Technical Validation Session	January 22 nd
16. Field Visit	January 23- 24 th
17. NP Official Launch	January 29 th
18. Minutes of PEB Meeting	February 5 th
19. Inception Report - 1 st draft	February 19 th

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
See the above table	Jack (PMU Manager), Bilguun (Gov Expert), Khishgee (UNDP CO), T. Enters, Ben, Celina and Aki	Indicated above.

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