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Submitted by Aki Kono
Title RTA
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1. Practice area : PBPS SDC

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days) From: 20 -24 September

3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping

4. Clients: REDD+ IC, and Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) and UNDP CO

5. Purpose of mission: Technical backstopping and monitoring of progress on TS work and technical

6. Documents, materials, resources
- PAMs prioritization result table
- REDD+ finance assessment work plan
- Recommendations for the revision of National REDD+ Strategy

7. Mission members: Aki Kono, RTA with Phil Cowling, International Consultant for REDD+ finance

8. Costs: UN-REDD Global Programme Budget/Tier 2 Japan Regional REDD+

9. Brief summary of the mission

The objectives of this short mission to Kathmandu included the provision of technical backstopping support to the team working on PAMs prioritisation and the initiation of the second work stream under TS on REDD+ finance. Given the essential linkage between the two work streams, it was also intended to ensure that the two teams of consultants are linked to work collaboratively.

9.a Findings

Meeting with new Head of REDD+ IC - Dr. Sindhu Dhungana and national REDD+ experts

- Merger of Min of Envi and Min of Forestry and Soil Conservation is in discussion.
- Nepal's FRL will be submitted for assessment to UNFCCC in January 2017
- ERPD's provincial benefit sharing discussion is problematic, especially given the transition to a federal model of governance.
- National REDD+ Strategy needs major revisions before it can be officially adapted by the Government; the current document is still substandard.
- Disjuncture between the national approach and CF's sub-national approach, or conflation of the two processes by stakeholders poses a risk.
- With the support from UN-REDD through the PAMs and finance work, the revised Strategy should focus on instigating a wider cross-sectoral development approach, rather than taking a narrow approach focusing on the forest sector.
- Relations between FRL, PAMs and REDD+ finance need to be strengthen and made visible – currently very weak.
- Given the public pressure against making any drastic amendments to the current Strategy, should these structural alignments be done in the context of a national REDD+ action plan instead?
- A RBPs management architecture should be developed later, while more urgent is to consider options for mobilizing resources for REDD+ implementation.
- Finance work should therefore look at the current investment by the Government into the prioritised PAMs to determine the level of baseline investment, and financial gaps that need to be filled by external sources.

Discussion on PAMs Prioritisation

- Policies are too general to be useful in prioritisation; they will not be prioritised.
- Measures that directly result in carbon emission reductions or ensure critical enabling conditions to be separated from the rest, as many are not result oriented or implementable.
- Those directly impactful measures will be further broken down into matching actions, which will then be prioritised.

- High priority actions will be matched with existing PLR and any other details (e.g., geographical focus, status, performance).
- Provide an additional chapter on voices from the stakeholders during the criteria weighting process.
- Criteria weights by group can be further analysed to contribute to the safeguards work in Nepal.

Discussion on Finance Work

- The team will focus on linking proposed PAMs to existing expenditure by government agencies.
- The team will focus on linking proposed PAMs and expenditures with potential future targets within government strategies at sector and national level.
- The team will review where cost estimates can be made of how much existing government targets and potential PAMs will cost to implement and what level of domestic financing could be committed to achieve PAMs and government targets.

Discussion with the CO ACD and Programme Officer

- After the existing two work streams come to a close, the remaining TS funds must be returned to the UN-REDD/UNDP HQ.
- CO has been requested to provide further support to REDD IC with the revision of National REDD+ Strategy and district level safeguards under ERPD – since the current process has been financed and supported by FCPF (Nepal has also just been granted the top-up of US\$ 5 million), ensuring quality through such support would be extremely difficult, and it could become a reputational risk for the global programme.
- UN-REDD should therefore not commit to supporting REDD+ IC beyond the current scope of TS.
- CO has no immediate plans to scale-up its support to the Government in this area through e.g., GEF or GCF; it should therefore justify this position.

A participants list in Annex

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
• PAMs – list of actions to be prioritised	Naya	End-September
• Final work plan –finance	Phil	End-September
• (optional) additional cost extension of Forest Action’s contract to accommodate the expanded scope of work	Apar	Mid-October

12. Distribution list:

UNDP UN-REDD, CO