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Title RTA
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1. Practice area: PBPS SDC

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days): From: 22- 26 February 2016

3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping

4. Clients: UN-REDD PMU, Forest Department, other national institutions, UNDP CO, CSOs, private sector and academia.

5. Purpose of mission: To support the inception of safeguards work and planning for the development of Sri Lanka's National REDD+ Strategy.

6. Documents, materials, resources

- Safeguards work plan and methodological note
- Outline of National REDD+ Strategy

7. Mission members: Aki Kono, RTA together with Steve Swan, Global Safeguards Advisor

8. Costs: UN-REDD Global Programme Budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

The objective of this mission was to support the PMU and consultants in the design of REDD+ safeguards and the development of Sri Lanka's REDD+ Strategy.

10. Findings

Policies and Measures (PAMs) being a critical backbone of National REDD+ Strategy

- Due to certain weaknesses in the assessment of drivers (while understanding the socio-political limitations and the context in which the drivers were assessed at the time), the current list of PAMs needs further refinement, and the PMU is currently addressing this issue through conducting additional analyses and facilitating discussions with three ad-hoc technical working groups (TWGs) under the Task Force on National Policies and Strategies– i) Forest, wildlife and watershed, ii) Land use planning, and iii) Other forested lands.
- Having well defined PAMs is essential, as that will to a large extent define the overall quality of Sri Lanka's REDD+ Strategy, and without them, the scope and scale of REDD+ interventions, resource requirements, associated risks/benefits, as well as expected impacts will not be understood and defined clearly.
- Relatedly, this will help establish a strong link between PAMs, FREL/FRL and NFSM.
- PMU expects the refinement of PAMs to be completed by end-April.

Assessment of PLRs/Integrated Action Plan for PAM Implementation

- Much more structural analysis of PLRs is needed – against each prioritised P/M, are there any existing relevant PLRs? What state are those PLRs in (e.g. just on paper, implemented partially)? Can anything be done to improve their effectiveness? What new PLRs might be required (and how difficult to establish such)?
- For each refined PAM, a detailed profile describing its cost, carbon and non-carbon impacts, associated risks and means of delivery will be prepared, and their key features will be pulled together to establish an integrated action plan for implementing the PAMs, which will be matched against relevant national institutional budgets and development assistance initiatives to increase national ownership and eliminate unnecessary duplications.
- Design of integrated action plan must be checked with relevant national institutions for ensuring close alignment with the national planning process and procedures.
- Initial detailed profiling of PAMs and integrated action planning to be completed by end-August.
- A resource mobilisation strategy linking to the action plan might be required.
- For integrated action planning, a national consultant will be engaged to do the matching of relevant national institutional budgets (TOR to be finalised by June).

Safeguard Work

- It is important to define goals, scale and scope of safeguards beyond REDD+ (e.g., to increase the overall accountability, transparency, participation, and capacity to implement the rules of law in order to improve the quality of environmental governance across Sri Lanka's forests) – PMU will work with the TF on this.

- The 44 criteria used for PAMs prioritisation will be matched against the seven Cancun safeguards, and a list of guiding questions from BeRT will be used as a reference material to cross-check and add any necessary additional criteria in order to ensure that the Cancun safeguards are interpreted to meet the context of Sri Lanka.
- Once the Cancun safeguards have been interpreted, relevant PLRs will be identified and assessed in terms of whether and to what extent they address and respect the safeguards through a desk review and expert consultations.
- For the PLR assessment, a qualitative method will be used (e.g., full, partial, limited, no compliance), and to provide narrative descriptions including limitations, recommendations/options for improvement.
- In parallel, the identification of risks and benefits associated with each P/M will be identified, and this work must be well sequenced with the refinement of PAMs.
- RLR review to assess whether and to what extent the existing PLRs address and respect the safeguards might become slightly contentious, particularly with regard to rights related matters, as the process must balance between subjective and legalistic judgements, while taking into account certain international expectations.
- In identifying and assessing risks associated with the PAMs, the process must pay careful attention to who should define them – it must be traceable and defensible.
- SIS will include institutional arrangements (government and non-government), a coordination function, sources of information, means of verification, etc.
- During the inception meeting for the safeguard work– Hemantha, CSO Rep. shared his concern about the country's agricultural investment decisions being often political ones, which seem to easily override any safeguards, and how such a challenge might be dealt with through this work.
- Deliverables agreed are (also in the attached diagram) Sri Lanka's approach to Safeguards and SIS (PAMs risks/benefits assessment/SIS, analytical framework, indicators/info sources, and institutional arrangements).

National REDD+ Strategy Development

- PMU team meeting was held to talk about the strategy development process, particularly with regard to who does what and by when.
- An outline of the strategy was discussed through a brainstorming session led by the CTA – an Excel table with a detailed outline and assigned responsibilities with a tentative timeline of deliverables will be shared within a week.
- There is another work stream that still needs to be dealt with to identify clear institutional arrangement and coordination and monitoring mechanisms/capacity development actions to fulfil the expected international requirements through the implementation of Sri Lanka's REDD+ Strategy (national consultant ToR to be prepared by June).
- Draft National REDD+ Strategy for public review and comments to be made available by January 2017.

Outline items discussed during the brainstorming session (the aim is to limit the length of the document to 50 pages):

- 1) REDD+ and its global objectives and expected outcome
- 2) Process of REDD+ readiness in Sri Lanka
- 3) Four elements of Cancun and Warsaw Framework – what is required by Sri Lanka to implement REDD+
- 4) Role of forest in Sri Lanka
- 5) Drivers of D&D and forest governance
- 6) FREL – future emissions projection based on past and current emission profiles and national circumstances
- 7) Sri Lanka's INDC, REDD+ vision, objectives, and outcomes (which of the 5 REDD+ activities)
- 8) List of Policy to towards meeting the vision, objectives and outcomes (also expected development contributions, eg. SDGs, Harita Lanka)
- 9) List of Measures towards meeting the above (also expected impacts – CO2 eq and NCB)
- 10) Costed action plan, roles and responsibilities, etc.
- 11) Expected results – FREL projection with PAMs,
- 12) NFMS – PAMs results in CO2 eq through any of the 5 REDD+ activities chosen
- 13) REDD+ RBPs management plan, who manages, how to reinvest, etc.
- 14) Risk management and grievance redress framework (safeguards, stakeholder engagement (gender, GRM, FIPIC) information dissemination, etc.
- 15) Institutional arrangements and capacity development plan for implementing the four elements of Cancun and Warsaw (information provision, reporting, etc.) – NS/AP, FREL, SIS, NFMS and PAMs coordination including finance.
- 16) Process of revision and updating – step-wise process

Other issues:

- TOR for the SE specialist position – the PMU staff including the CTA felt that the prolife suggested by the regional colleagues was more for a policy analyst.
- MCA software comparison table and comparative analysis done by an intern at the PMU will be shared with Nepal, and there might be a further opportunity for South-Sough cooperation between the two countries.

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
CTA to circulate a strategy outline with assigned responsibilities and a timeline of deliverables.	CTA	Within a week
Safeguard consultants to finalise the work plan	Consultations and PMU	Within two weeks

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

Expected Outputs: Proposed CAS and SIS

