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| UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMEBDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY Date: 14/3/2013 | | | UNDP_Logo-Blue w TaglineBlue-ENG.png | |
| Name: Tim Boyle, UN-REDD | | **Tel No.** +66819005402 |
| **Approved Mission Itinerary:**  Manchester-Rome-Bangkok | | **List of Annexes**: | | |
| Inclusive Travel Dates: | | **Key counterpart(s) in each location:** | | |
| 22-28 Feb., 2013 |  | * FAO: Christian Mersmann, Tiina Vahanen | | |
| **Purpose/Objectives of Mission**  To participate in Expert Consultation: **Options for Addressing Tenure under REDD+** | | | | |
| **Context**  Addressing tenure under REDD+ is becoming increasingly urgent. There is particular urgency for greater clarity over tenure and the recognition of customary rights to land by indigenous peoples and local communities. In all national REDD+ programmes, land and forest tenure are intrinsically linked to the debate on carbon rights and the equal sharing of benefits at national and local levels. The Country Needs Assessment has been carried out by the UN-REDD Programme of FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), which is hosted by the World Bank. The Assessment has analyzed REDD+ countries’ requests for tenure to be prioritized within REDD+ readiness activities. It suggests immediate actions with regard to "legal frameworks to support the implementation of REDD+ and to resolve land tenure and carbon rights issues in the REDD+ context which is needed in virtually all existing and nascent REDD+ country strategies".  The Expert Consultation, *Options for Addressing Tenure under REDD+,* was initiated to bring together experts and representatives from governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and international organizations to debate the broad range of possibilities for working on tenure in order to become ready for REDD+ results-based payments in a realistic manner. The objectives of the Expert Consultation were to:   * exchange experience and increase understanding amongst REDD+ countries and other stakeholders on how to address tenure and use the *Voluntary Guidelines* in REDD+ implementation; * clarify tenure issues and the scope of work on tenure under REDD+ with consideration give to the range of country-specific contexts; * discuss and evaluate different options on how to address tenure under REDD+ according to the respective settings in forested areas (e.g. national parks, conservation areas, gazetted forests and concessions) and in productive landscapes with forests considered along with agriculture and water management as part of territorial development; * clarify interactions with other land-based activities, and how they affect roles, rights and responsibilities, in particular at the interface of REDD+ and agriculture; and * discuss, clarify and prioritize actions for strengthening the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to tenure at national, sub-national or local levels for the successful REDD+ implementation. | | | | |
| **Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | An opening session described the importance of tenure for REDD+, and reviewed the FAO Voluntary Guidelines, which have a much broader scope than just forests or REDD+. A presentation was also made on the importance of development of carbon rights. Subsequently, in discussion, I pointed out that carbon rights were only really relevant for a project-based approach, and should not divert the meeting from a focus on land tenure. This opinion gained broad support.  Thereafter, the majority of the following two days were spent in 4 working groups, each considering the same set of issues. The most important issues were challenges in addressing tenure for REDD+, opportunities, priorities, and key areas of action for UN-REDD. The final session of the workshop involved an exchange of views among the 4 groups. The organizers undertook to prepare a synthesis of the ideas presented, and produce na integrated proposal on which all participants would be invited to comment. The timeline for this was end of June, 2013.  For the working group in which I participated, the keey conclusions were:  Challenges:   * *International negotiations* are moving slowly – operations of REDD+ are ongoing in many countries, but global guidance, in particular on financial resources and flows is lacking * *Integration*: REDD+ instrument should be fully integrated in development agenda and programming, in particular with regard to tenure. REDD+ serves as a catalyzer for sustainable forest management and carbon mitigation and should be interlinked with all relevant sectors and institutions in rural development * Consensus, conflict resolution mehanisms and management of *power relations* among local stakeholders as well as power relations between (national and international) investors expecting “carbon business” need to be managed and fairness and compliance with REDD+ objectives should be ensured through participation and legislative framework   Opportunities:  Because of substantial financial flows that are expected to be associated with REDD+, it is a catalyst for sustainable management not only of forests (halting forest degradation and deforestation), but of natural resources in general.  There are a number of legal issues to be clarified for REDD+ interventions and equitable benefit sharing, but no very specific stand-alone tenure issues in REDD+.  REDD+, as a catalyst for forest and land tenure work, should be seen as an iterative process. Tenure work under REDD+ needs to be seen as a process leading to revision and improvement of the legal tenure framework which will yield many benefits besides successful REDD+ implementation  Priorities:   * Mainstreaming: a process of mainstreaming REDD+ tenure issues into programmes and policy agendas of agriculture, forestry and rural development at large due to the broader definition of REDD+ as a tool for sustainable forest management in a holistic and comprehensive approach * Effective use of ongoing legal reform processes on tenure or initiation of such reforms based on political will of governments and civil society to engage in REDD+ * Revision of laws and other pieces of legislation to further protect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities based on REDD+ momentum * Empowerment of non-governmental stakeholders, in particular local stakeholders, to ensure that their rights are respected, and that participation of non-governmental stakeholders is effective, transparent and fair.   Key issues for action:  UN-REDD needs to develop a comprehensive and compelling tenure support programme that can be offered to all Partner Countries. This should include:   * Communications and awareness raising materials on why tenure is important (for increased awareness of decision makers), * diagnostic tools to identify where and when tenure is an issue that may need to be fixed * intervention framework linked to diagnostics.   The approach should be to pilot such a programme initially in 6 – 10 countries.  The importance of UNDP’s PGA approach was highlighted repeatedly, and other groups made the same observation | |  | |  |  | | | | | | |
| Follow up actions:  * Comment on draft working group report (achieved, March 4th) * Comment on draft integrated proposal | | | | **Distribution List:**   * Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA   **Cc**   * Tina Hageberg |

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