

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
BDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY**

Date: 5 Aug 2016



Name: Tim Boyle, UN-REDD

Tel No. +66819005402

Approved Mission Itinerary:

BKK - Hanoi - BKK

List of Annexes:

Inclusive Travel Dates:

25-26 July 2016

Key counterpart(s) in each location:

- UNDP CO (Ngo Thi Loan)
- UN-REDD PMU (Fabien Monteils)

Purpose/Objectives of Mission

To attend the 7th meeting of the United Nations Technical Team (UNTT)

Context

The UNTT consists of one or two “core” members from all three agencies, plus the CTA and Planning Advisor, but several additional agency staff are considered to be members of the “extended” UNTT, to be available when called upon.

This 7th meeting of the UNTT had on the agenda:

- National vision and NRAP
- PRAP and SiRAP implementation (including BDS)
- The National REDD+ Information System
- FRL
- Support to MPI with instruments of planning
- Communications
- Risk log review and miscellaneous
- UNTT-PMU dialogue
- Study on transboundary displacements

Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings

Session 1 - National vision and NRAP

Key discussions:

Overall the process is delayed but still has space to reach the annual objective.

- On substance, delayed but under control.
- Key question: bringing sensitive/strategic questions at political level to be adequately digested as part of NRAP revision...

Action #1: Fabien will consolidate a work plan on addressing strategic questions, and circulate for further inputs (UNTT, VRO/PMU, Consultants).

Action #2: Truong will consolidate the review of 8 targeted consultancies including table of content and support methodology and circulate, for everyone to ensure that comprehensive set of background documentation and suggestions on best potential candidates are made (for TC5 to 8)

Action #3: Fabien/Truong: convene the 3 first consultants (TC1 to 4) for a technical meeting to insist on table of content and methodology. Then do it again for the 4 remaining TC.

Action #4: Fabien: Formulate the background support to TC3 and 4 (community forestry and law enforcement), to circulate and complete with references. PM speech in Central Highlands can be a good entry point to prioritize among various possible directions on law enforcement.

Action #5: FAO to keep exploring the possibility to support directly the implementation for forest certification work (possibly with UNDP budget – encourage/illustrate interagency cooperation)

Session 2 - PRAP and SiRAP implementation (including BDS)

Challenges and specific points of discussion:

- PRAP process – some of the comments (particularly from RTAs) were ignored and not mentioned in the response matrix
- M&E of PRAPs need to be improved. This will be done more specifically with selected intervention packages to be implemented
- PRAP quality issue can be addressed through quarterly and annual planning process
- Issue is not only quality but also the process that makes national buy-in of the final outcomes
- What are the differences between technical inputs and what is happening in reality?

- Although PRAPs may not be up to standard that we expected, the process followed guidance, steps...leading to build ownership, and improvement can be done in terms of implementation process such as selecting, implementing and focusing on priority activities
- Currently BDS has no link with national strategy implementation framework, and links must be made and part of NRAP revision process.

Action #6: Documentation on the state of advice from UN-REDD and gaps on BDS (Tim) and PRAP (Ben and Shyam)

Action #7: Initiatives to incorporate BDS/financial allocation in NRAP – Truong to prepare few bullet points and discuss with Richard

Action #8: High potential sites to be finalized and shared with colleagues for their potential involvement (Shyam and Hanoi-based colleagues)

Session 3 - The National REDD+ Information System

Key directions:

- First: work on SIS and MRV is progressing and the information needs is becoming clear. However, for monitoring indicators, there is still limited analysis and conceptualization of the information needs (and purpose of data collection.) Agreed that information parameters under monitoring to cater to benefit distribution is not priority at this stage, considering that the current decree 5339 is a piloting decree applicable only for the scope of the Programme.
- Second: map the information needs and source systems and processes of data production and management
- Third: then only think about a potential IT solution to facilitate how the systems will interact and present national REDD+ information as a whole.

Action #9: Ben to lead on the development of PRAP/SiRAP monitoring indicators for the major PRAP intervention packages (to complement the examples listed in the PRAP guidelines)..

Session 4 - FRL

- Schedule: The Modified FRLs has been submitted as Vn announced to UNFCCC on 20 July. The TA process is 1 month behind standard schedule, but on track and should conclude with the publishing of the final TA report by UNFCCC on 21 Dec.
- The main comment of contention from Assessment Team (AT) was for Vn to combine its FRL and FREL (which would seriously reduce potential RBP for Vn, so politically not accepted by Vn.)
- Based on the TA process, Vn improved its FRLs in the 2 key areas of: 1) updating its P 661 success rate from the expert guesstimate of 75% to, approx. 87%; and 2) replacing “conservation” with “degradation” or “restoration” (or no change) estimated by the difference in EF among 4 NFI cycles. (i.e. Vn now only has 3 REDD+ activities)
- One of the main issues to have been brought to VNFOREST’s attention is that the initial results from the NFIS campaign present issues of incomparability with NFIMAP and if Vn only applies NFIS into the future for its MRV, there is a big chance that Vn will have net-emissions overall (i.e. no RBP.) The reasons for discrepancy require information from the implementers (FIPI, VFU, VAFS) and not clear yet. VNFOREST has determined that for FRLs, NFIMAP should be used. This being the case, VNFOREST will need to take the decision to continue NFIMAP into the future. (On the other hand, VNFOREST has instructed that the ER-P MRV be based on NFIS, and therefore, for the FRLs to be revised based on NFIS-aligned revised-NFIMAP data. Considering the consistency requirements of the CF on FRL, this decision by VNFOREST will most certainly raise issues.)
- Based on the above, the next MRV results comparable to the Modified FRLs of Vn will be available, at the earliest around 2020. Proposition of options, and recommendations

Session 5 - Support to MPI with instruments of planning

Context: Planning law reform; MPI reaching out to partners to support them in (i) improving planning process / tools and (ii) integrating environment into planning processes.

Opportunity to:

- Mainstream forest into development planning through concrete tools & processes
- Reach out to other institutions and make the case for REDD+ (development while achieving REDD+)
- Demonstrate to Norway that REDD+ is widening and is worth continuing supporting

Challenges:

- Collaboration and coordination within and across:
 - o Government institutions
 - o Partners initiatives (though also opportunity...)
- Access to data

Action #9: Ask for green light and support from PMU leaders to support the initiative (support the September workshop and consider joining/co-supporting the implementation in 2017)

Session 6 - Communication

Discussed numerous issues and communication challenges:

- Website content
- Capacity and tasks of communication experts
- Significance of communications
- Communication products not only in Vietnamese – if in English, more key persons can give feedback

Wait for results of the independent review (currently conducted by RECOFTC) that will raise issues because more solid than everyone's individual opinion

Communication strategy review needs to be well prepared to have an impact

A firmer link needs to be established between GOUNH and PMU, including Communications Teams – and should be facilitated including by Theresa. Support with international level, but UN-REDD Communications Team crucial for national and provincial levels

Action #10: Work plan discussion: meeting Tuesday 26 July 2016, 4pm, at PMU

Action #11: Theresa to add COP 2016 side-event idea to UN-REDD Communications Specialist (UNV) work plan

Session 7 - Miscellaneous

- LFA is taking over EG's secretariat role from global UN-REDD Secretariat, the handing over minute is under development and will be shared with all UN agencies soon. Basically, the communication flow between the new secretariat and EG members will be changed as both the secretariat and the UN membership at EG is shifted to country team.
- It is strongly recommended by the global UN-REDD Secretariat that (i) additional staff should be mobilized by LFA to support this role and (ii) as a very preliminary estimation, it would cost the programme about USD40.000 per year if a qualified person is hired to support the programme on part-time basis.

Follow up actions:

- Prepare summary of advice from the UN to GoV on BDS (Boyle)

Distribution List:

- Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA
- Ngo Thi Loan, CO