

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

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REDD

**Approved Mission Itinerary:**  
BKK- Phnom Penh – BKK

**List of Annexes:**

**Inclusive Travel Dates:**  
2–5 April 2013

**Key counterpart(s) in each location:**

- REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat – Peter Iversen (Technical Advisor), Lun Kimhy, Thy Heang, Bun Racy, Ly Sophorn

**Purpose/Objectives of Mission**

- Follow-up with on-going stakeholder engagement processes such as the reselection process of the Indigenous Peoples' representative to the Programme Executive Board (PEB);
- Resource person for the session on "UN-REDD Programme: The role of FPIC in REDD+ and Lessons Learned" during an Orientation Workshop on Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+, 4 to 5 April

**Context**

Currently, stakeholders, especially CSOs/NGOs and local communities, have a limited understanding of the concept of FPIC and safeguards in the context of REDD+. Wider understanding of safeguards is needed to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effective implementation. Addressing of safeguards is important to prevent social and environmental harm, respect rights of IPs and other forest-dependent communities, reduce risks and promote good governance. The CSO REDD+ Network of the NGO Forum on Cambodia organized an orientation workshop on "Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+" in order to raise awareness and build capacity of CSOs/NGOs who are working on forestry and climate change issues.

The objectives of this workshop were to:

- raise awareness of the CSOs/NGOs regarding the concept of REDD+ safeguards, in particular the role of FPIC.
- build capacity of national and sub-national CSOs/NGOs on the REDD+ safeguard for their further engagement in REDD+ and assistance to local communities; and
- initiate a discussion on the perspectives of NGOs on national safeguard guidelines and their further engagement and to identify additional capacity building needs.

**Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings**

A. *Follow up on reselection process of the IP representative to the PEB*

- The reselection process had been completed in 7 provinces, with a remainder of 8 provinces. The process had stalled as the person in charge of the process, Mr Bun Racy from the Fisheries Agency had been caught up with other work priorities. Part of the challenge is also due to the ability to pin down dates for the pre-selection and selection meetings with provincial authorities.
- One way forward was to create an additional team to conduct the process. However, this can only be done by the National Programme Director, H.E. Chea Sam Ang from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in consultation with the other implementing agency, General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) from the Ministry of Environment. However, there has been on-going internal conflict between both ministries which had a bearing on internal communication.
- One of the gaps to be addressed was to obtain a letter of recognition from provincial authorities in sites where IP nominees had been elected. This was an important follow-up to counter future allegations from these authorities that they do not recognise the candidates selected.
- There was also a need to ensure minutes and name lists from each of these provinces are collated, and

converted into electronic files for safe-keeping, as well as for upload to the national REDD+ website.

**B. Orientation Workshop on Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+**

- The workshop was conducted in Khmer language, and participants were mostly national and international NGOs, CSOs, project developers, donor agencies, community forestry networks, and indigenous peoples.
- Shared the UN-REDD Programme’s experiences with FPIC pilots in Lam Dong, Viet Nam and Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, and the key contents of the Programme’s Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
- Ensuing discussions focused on how to set up grievance mechanisms; what should and should not be done during the FPIC process; and how evaluation of FPIC can be carried out.
- The presentation from Edna Maguigad of Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme and a member of CoDe REDD Philippines, shared the practical challenges of implementing FPIC as stated in their Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act (IPRA). Even though institutions such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples were established to oversee the implementation of the Act, the reality of administrative and bureaucratic procedures, as well as vested interests diminished the ‘spirit’ of the Act. The notion of ‘consent’ given or withheld is to be determined by customary laws, but that varies among the different groups.
- Kim Narong of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) shared their experience seeking consent from communities residing in the Seima Protected Forest, the second REDD+ pilot site in Cambodia. He noted that consultation and participation processes need to be designed well, regardless of whether consent is given or withheld at the end of the day. His recommendations call for national guidelines on FPIC to be developed, in conjunction with greater clarity over roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in REDD+, especially sub-national administration.
- In subsequent break-out group discussions, participants requested that the process of developing the national safeguards guidelines, as well as FPIC guidelines should be open, transparent, and be as inclusive as possible. Some groups also call for a broad-based stakeholder group to be involved in the development process, including the private sector, in addition to the government agencies, local communities and CSOs. Local communities also requested to play a role in the monitoring and evaluation of safeguards implementation.

**Follow up actions:**

- Follow up with Bun Racy about the 8 remaining reselection process, letters of recognition from the provincial authorities, and documentation from the provinces;
- Prepare a concept note on national FPIC guidelines for potential broader discussion with implementation agencies and REDD+ Secretariat in the future.

**Distribution List:**

- UNDP UN-REDD