

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

Date: 18 December 2012

Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.**Name:** Celina Yong, UN-REDD**Tel No.** +66879246135**Approved Mission Itinerary:**

BKK- Phnom Penh -BKK

**List of Annexes:****Inclusive Travel Dates:**

11 – 13 December 2012

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

- REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat - Lun Kimhy, Heang Thy
- CO - Sovanny Chhum, Giacomo Fedele

**Purpose/Objectives of Mission**

- Establish communication with interim IP and CSO representatives in the PEB;
- Attend 3<sup>rd</sup> PEB meeting;
- Exchange of information with REDD+ Contact Group in Cambodia; and
- Prepare for a mission to pilot UNDP grievance mechanism in January 2013.

**Context**

The IP and CSO networks throughout Cambodia recently undertook an eight-month long (February to September) self-selection process to nominate interim candidates to sit in the Programme Executive Board (PEB). The process culminated in a national workshop held 25 to 27 September 2012. The two elected representatives subsequently attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> PEB meeting on 3 October 2012, where they will serve for an initial six months until permanent representatives are elected.

The REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat is currently coordinating the IP re-selection in 15 provinces, and the REDD+ Consultation Group Selection Committee processes, both of which are meant to be complementary. The former process has been completed in two provinces, while the latter is about to commence. The Consultation Group, comprising 12 stakeholders representing IP, CSO, academia and private sector, is tasked to provide guidance to the national REDD+ Taskforce.

A scoping mission to explore how a corporate-level grievance mechanism can be adapted at the national level is expected to take place end of January 2013. It will be piloted in the context of UN-REDD where the findings will inform subsequent work in Cambodia as the first UNDP FCPF country in Asia-Pacific.

**Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings****A. Meeting with interim IP and CSO representatives in the PEB**

Nok Ven (NTFP-EP) and Chhith Sam Ath (The NGO Forum on Cambodia), the interim IP and CSO representatives respectively, shared their experiences regarding the eight months long selection process, and their participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PEB meeting. They were joined by Teng Rithiny, the REDD+ Policy Monitoring Project Coordinator (The NGO Forum on Cambodia), who spearheaded the selection process.

1. Recommendations for next selection process are:
  - a. Ensure roles and responsibilities of IP and CSO representatives are well-communicated.
  - b. Include more NGOs and adopt more participatory approaches.
  - c. Selection criteria should be independently determined and reflect the existing capabilities of potential candidates.
  - d. Consider a rotational IP representation in the PEB.
  - e. The FA and the Secretariat should remain neutral.
2. Re-selection process
  - a. In the remaining 13 provinces, they have reached out to Nok Ven for his input. He has expressed reservations regarding the length of each consultation and awareness-raising process.
  - b. Corresponding plan for the CSO representative is not entirely clear.
3. PEB
  - a. The expected roles and responsibilities as interim representatives to the PEB are unclear to Nok Ven and Sam Ath.
  - b. They requested that key meeting documents be made available in the Khmer language for easier communication with their constituencies. In addition, a more reasonable time should be allocated to disseminate information to, and consolidate feedback from their constituencies.

**General recommendations**

1. Translation of key national REDD+ documents such as Roadmap into the Khmer language, and be easily accessible from one location.
2. Develop awareness-raising and capacity building materials on specific topics such as benefit-sharing, FPIC, and

safeguards.

3. The Secretariat to communicate more closely with the IP and CSO networks.

*B. 3<sup>rd</sup> PEB meeting*

There seems to be a slight communication gap between the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat and in particular, the CSO representative. More specifically, regarding his role once the interim period expires in March 2013; the IP and CSO reselection processes; and the Consultation Group selection committee nomination. To the Secretariat's credit, however, they had shared the relevant information with him earlier. While these concerns were addressed relatively early in the process, it also highlights the delicate relationships between the CSO, IP and the government, hence, the need to build greater trust between all parties.

Referring to Activities A and B above, in a separate discussion with the Secretariat after the meeting, they clarified that their actions were guided by recommendations provided during the national workshop to select IP and CSO representatives in September 2012. While record of the workshop had been circulated for comments earlier, its finalization has been delayed due to internal administrative procedures. It was decided that this record be finalized and circulated as soon as possible.

*C. Exchange of information with REDD+ Contact Group in Cambodia*

Chhun Delux from PACT shared that he had applied and been accepted as a member of the REDD+ Consultation Group Selection Committee. Conservation International has developed FPIC training materials for community engagement, while Fauna and Flora International is set to build capacity for FPIC among the Community Forestry Networks in Siem Reap.

The introduction to the FPIC repository and the invitation to share their materials on the UN-REDD Asia-Pacific website were well-received by all present. PACT subsequently requested a similar repository for MRV.

*D. Preparation for a mission on grievance mechanism in January 2013*

The mission, to be undertaken by David Fairman from Consensus Building Institute, is confirmed for 28 January to 1 February 2013. Given the sensitive nature of the mission, preparatory discussions with CO mainly focused on measures to ensure government support, and selecting relevant field sites.

**Follow up actions:**

- Identify short-term solutions to strengthen the communication channel between the Secretariat and the IP and CSO networks.
- Explore measures to ensure a greater transparent and inclusive engagement process.
- Continue to preparatory work for mission on grievance mechanism in January 2013.

**Distribution List:**

- UNDP UN-REDD