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Title Regional Stakeholder Engagement Specialist
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1. Practice area: BPPS / Sustainable Development and Resilience Cluster

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)
From: 21 to 25 March 2016

3. Type of mission: Joint mission with Asia-Pacific CSO (Tek Vannara) and IP (Grace Balawag) Policy Board Members; technical backstopping

4. Clients
UNDP CO – Nick Beresford, Khurshid Alam
PMU – Md Rakibul Hasan Mukul (National Programme Director), Nasim Aziz (National Programme Manager), Santu Dus (Communications Officer), Sayeed Mahmud Riadh (Governance Officer)

5. Purpose of mission

1. Strengthen existing participatory approaches for REDD+ readiness, through the sharing of regional and international experiences and best practices that can serve Bangladesh well.
2. Provide guidance on how to structure multi-stakeholder dialogues for the development of a national REDD+ strategy in Bangladesh, positioning REDD+ as a catalyst for sustainable development.
3. Provide guidance to the civil society (CSO) and EM constituencies on options for organisational strengthening, particularly, to prepare for the self-selection and full and effective participation of their CSO and EM representatives in the Programme Executive Board (PEB) of the forthcoming UN-REDD Bangladesh national programme and other readiness management structures such as the NRSC, TWGs and the REDD+ Stakeholder Forum (RSF).
4. Develop a detailed sub-activities work plan for Outputs 1.1 (Public Awareness) and 1.2 (Consultation and Participation Plan).
5. Discuss UN-REDD reporting and risk management requirements, and revise AWP.

6. Documents, materials, resources
Concept note with itinerary

7. Mission members
Celina Yong

8. Costs
UNDP/UN-REDD global budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

9.a Background

Bangladesh NP was signed in May 2015, with completion expected in April 2018, but faced delays in implementation due to additional administrative requirements by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB): adapting the national programme document to the government template for approval. After a few months of minimal progress, the GoB identified a National Programme Director, who is ensuring the Programme is brought up to speed.

This joint mission with regional CSO and IP Policy Board/Executive Board members was designed to galvanise different interests between and among national CSO and EM/IP institutions in order to fulfil the four elements of the Warsaw framework: national strategy; NFMS; FRL; safeguards and SiS. It built on the participatory nature of developing the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, and ensuing engagement with the EM/IP during the transition between roadmap to national programme. Specifically, the mission will kick start the self-selection of CSO and EM/IP representative institutions to sit in the PEB and the RSF.

Unfortunately, Grace Balawag, the regional IP representative was barred from entering the country and was subsequently returned to the Philippines. A letter issued by UNDP CO, requesting the OC of Immigration to provide Grace, a Filipino national, with a Visa on Arrival (VoA) was not recognised by Immigration. This issue was brought to the attention of senior management in the CO who has initiated an internal investigation. In addition, the global Programme issued a letter of regrets regarding the incident. In spite of this unexpected turn of events, and due to Grace's prior coordination with the key national EM/IP contacts: Raja Devasish Roy, a UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues member, and Uchaha-A-Chak, coordinator of the EM/IP National Coordination Committee (NCC), the meeting with the EM/IP on 22 March proceeded smoothly.

9.b Main Findings

Ethnic Minorities/Indigenous Peoples' and CSO representative institutional members selected for the PEB

The EM/IP representative institutions are Mr Goutam Dewan, Ex-chair of Rangamati Hill District (Member), and Mr Shaktipada Tripura, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum (Alternate). The CSO representative institution is Arannayk Foundation, headed by Dr Farid Uddin Ahmed, and an alternate from the Foundation's network, will be identified by Dr Farid as and when the need arises. Because PEB is only expected to convene at least twice a year, Dr Farid will endeavour to attend all the meetings.

Additionally, the EM/IP also identified Mr Ajay A Mree, Chair Adivasi Cultural Development Forum and Mr Gidison Pradhan, Member, BIPNet and Greater Sylhet Indigenous Peoples' Forum as members of the RSF. The NCC, established through 2014 collaboration between AIPP and the Programme, led preparatory discussions on 21 March. As a result, members nominated for the PEB, RSF represented EM/IP from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, plains and coastal areas. This was in response to one of the recommendations from the NCC/AIPP/UN-REDD Programme's dialogues in 2014.

While the CSOs did not nominate an organisation or network for the RSF, they tentatively identified the Nishorgo Network as most relevant representative. Further discussions will be led by Arannayk Foundation.

Programmatic support required to strengthen EM/IP and CSO networks to effectively and strategically engage in multi-stakeholder development of a national REDD+ strategy

In a bilateral discussion with Dr Farid, Tek Vannara shared experiences from his organisation's engagement with REDD+ in Cambodia. One of the emerging recommendations is for the Foundation to meet with network members, strategize and develop a work plan for their REDD+ engagement. Emphasis was to ensure a robust channel to share information and obtain feedback. The NPD has expressed interest to support a network similar to NGO Forum in Cambodia.

While the NCC, chaired by Raja Devasish Roy, has been established since 2014, it has not been active. Given that the Programme has commenced, there needs to be coordination with the NCC to ensure it is able to guide members sitting in various capacities in the Programme. Synergies with other programmes, such as UNDP's CHTDF needs to be explored, with a focus on joint capacity building and communications activities in preparation for the participation in the technical components of the Programme.

While the Programme may not be significant from a financial perspective, it is influential in terms of the political weight it brings to coalesce global, regional and national actors towards a common goal. In Bangladesh, the emphasis on full and inclusive participation of all key stakeholders, particularly IP and local communities, provides an opportunity to strengthen the space for civil contribution in national level policy formulation process. A robust grassroots movement may well counter the shrinking space at the national level. Furthermore, the Programme may be able to demonstrate, at a small scale, how good environmental governance can be carried out effectively while conserving remaining forests.

9.c Expected Outputs

- A mission report synthesizing the discussions held and advice provided by Tek Vannara.
- A summary report of the CSO and EM meetings with the National REDD+ Focal Point and National Programme Director with names of representative institutions for the PEB and RSF.
- A detailed work plan for Outputs 1.1 and 1.2.

10. Key counterparts

- UNDP CO – Nick Beresford, Khurshid Alam
- PMU – Md Rakibul Hasan Mukul, Nasim Aziz, Sayeed Mahmud Riadh, Santu Dus

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Mission report	Tek Vannara	7 April 2016

Report of meetings with EM/IP and CSO for PEB selection	Santu	31 March 2016
Finalise ToR for Stakeholder Mapping and Analysis, Consultation and Participation Plan and complete preliminary internal mapping	Santu, Riadh, Celina	9 April 2016
Revise Communications Strategy based on results from stakeholder mapping and analysis, consultation and participation plan	Santu, Celina	By end of June
Develop introductory awareness materials, website ToR, establish social media platforms, translate glossary and other materials to Bengali	Santu	On-going, website by June
Share glossary from Myanmar and info brief on Misconception of REDD+	Celina	Immediately upon availability
12. Distribution list		
UNDP UN-REDD, UNDP CO, PMU		

BANGLADESH: UN-REDD Support Mission on Multi-Stakeholder Participation

Mission with the participation of the Asia-Pacific CSO and IP Representatives to the UN-REDD Policy Board and the UN-REDD stakeholder engagement specialist

Concept Note

Dates:

21 – 24 March 2016 (Grace Balawag and Tek Vannara)

21 – 25 March 2016 (Celina Yong)

Background

As part of the country's long-term strategy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has taken initial steps to prepare for the implementation of REDD+ activities. The REDD+ Readiness Roadmap was officially endorsed in December 2012. As a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme, the Government of Bangladesh has signed the UN-REDD National Programme Document in July 2014 to assist with the implementation of Bangladesh's REDD+ Readiness Roadmap.

The overall goal of the Bangladesh UN-REDD National Programme (NP) is to support the GoB to initiate the implementation of its REDD+ Readiness Roadmap by establishing necessary REDD+ management processes, identifying strategic readiness options for completing its National REDD+ strategy, and developing the capacities required to begin implementation of REDD+.

This objective will be secured through the following four outcomes:

1. Improved stakeholder awareness and effective stakeholder engagement;
2. National REDD+ strategy preparation supported;
3. Preparation of national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level supported; and
4. Establishment of national forest monitoring system supported

Situation Analysis

The Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP 2014) stated that stakeholder consultation and participation in forest sector projects is not new to Bangladesh, but the experience has often highlighted challenges with the institutional capacity to deal with multi-stakeholder processes. Among the challenges highlighted by the USAID-funded Nishorgo project are lack of resources or skills in the Forest Department to coordinate multi-stakeholder participation. As a result, time allocated for consultations are often underestimated. Stakeholder consultation also generally does not proceed beyond information sharing to more decision-making, when the latter is required. The Programme, therefore, can provide qualitative and practical advice on how to improve the structure, design and implementation of a more functional and fruitful multi-stakeholder consultation processes.

Furthermore, multi-stakeholder consultation for national level policy processes vis-à-vis projects is not common in Bangladesh. There is no equivalent of the current REDD+ Readiness process in the forest sector. Through REDD+, there are opportunities to ensure full and effective participation in operationalising the principles of free, prior and informed consent.

Status of Ethnic Minorities and Civil Society Organisations

Ethnic Minorities (EM)¹

The 15th amendment to the Constitution of Bangladesh (Article 23A) stipulates that the State shall undertake responsibility to protect and develop the unique local culture and tradition of tribal and ethnic communities. The Small Ethnic Groups Cultural Institutions Act, 2010 was also enacted to preserve and promote the cultural heritage, language, religious practices and traditional lifestyle of all ethnic communities living in the hill districts and plan lands. However, the implementation of these

¹ Terminology used by the Government of Bangladesh that includes tribal and ethnic communities.

laws, including the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord 1997, as well as greater recognition of EM, their identities, roles and functions by the GoB remain challenging.

By contrast, there is a relatively robust civil society. According to the NGO Affairs Bureau, in 2013, there were 2170 NGOs operation in the country, engaged in a wide range of activities such as disaster management, protection of environment, vulnerable groups such as children, women and persons with physical and mental disabilities, advocacy on protection and promotion of civil and political rights and good governance. The civil society is generally recognised by GoB in complementing its development efforts.

Stakeholder engagement activities to date

The roadmap preparation process, which took place from August 2011 to March 2012, was supported by the UN-REDD Programme. It included at least 3 national consultations and 5 regional workshops, the latter of which mainly consisted of local communities and indigenous peoples. The R-PP was later endorsed by the REDD+ Steering Committee in December 2012.

From 23 to 24 October 2013, Pasang Dolma Sherpa, the Indigenous Peoples (IP) representative for the Asia-Pacific region in the UN-REDD Policy Board from 2012-2014, together with UNDP Bangladesh and UN-REDD Programme Bangkok, organised a [national level consultation of IP on REDD+ Readiness](#) in Dhaka. The aim was to create a platform for the EM and GoB to discuss coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the roadmap prior to the R-PP validation workshop in November 2013. One of the key outputs was a [set of recommendations](#) prepared by the EM on the REDD+ process, which was welcomed by GoB.

From 16 to 19 June 2014, the UN-REDD Programme in Bangkok supported Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and its local partner, the National Coordination Committee (NCC) of IP², to organise a [series of preparatory meetings and national dialogue with the Forest Department](#). Other than raising awareness, these events also assisted the IP to outline an engagement strategy with GoB in REDD+, as well as creating a platform for dialogue between both parties. In addition to a statement prepared by the EM, 50 participants urged the NCC to facilitate the self-selection process for the National REDD+ Steering Committee (NRSC), Technical Working Groups (TWGs) as well as the Programme Executive Board (PEB). They also nominated Raja Devasish Roy as the REDD+ contact point on behalf of EM.

The UN-REDD Programme organised a [regional exchange](#) in Bangkok from 7 to 8 May 2015 in order to facilitate discussions on best practices and lessons learnt on stakeholder engagement, as well as develop regional approaches and collaborative arrangements for IP and civil society engagement in the REDD+ processes. Bangladesh, whose National Programme was about to commence, was represented by Arannayk Foundation and Maleya Foundation. Both representatives shared the challenges the civil society in general faces, but also the opportunities the REDD+ processes had provided for more strategic engagement. For instance, the Forest Department held a meeting with the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Network for Climate Change and Biodiversity to openly discuss issues related to the implementation of laws and policies such as the Bangladesh Forest Policy 1994, and proposed changes to the Forest Amendment Bill 2012. In part, this platform partly arose from the activities listed earlier in this section.

Objectives of mission

6. Strengthen existing participatory approaches for REDD+ readiness, through the sharing of regional and international experiences and best practices that can serve Bangladesh well.
7. Provide guidance on how to structure multi-stakeholder dialogues for the development of a national REDD+ strategy in Bangladesh, positioning REDD+ as a catalyst for sustainable development.
8. Provide guidance to the civil society (CSO) and EM constituencies on options for organisational strengthening, particularly, to prepare for the self-selection and full and effective participation of their CSO and EM representatives in the Programme Executive Board (PEB) of the forthcoming UN-REDD Bangladesh national programme and other readiness management structures such as the NRSC, TWGs and the REDD+ Stakeholder Forum (RSF).

Outcomes

² The National Coordination Committee of IP consists of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Network on Climate Change and Biodiversity, Bangladesh Land and Forest Rights Movement, Maleya Foundation, Kapaeeng Foundation and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

At the end of this mission, some of the key stakeholders for REDD+ in Bangladesh (particularly government agencies in charge of forest affairs, civil society organisations and EM representatives) understand the added value of a robust participatory and inclusive process in REDD+, and organise better a consultation and participation path (or road map) to underpin it, particularly for 2016 (or 2016-2017).

Outputs

1. A joint mission report synthesizing the discussions held and advice provided.
2. A summary report of the CSO and EM preparatory meetings and meeting the FD representatives. The report will, among others, contain potential representatives for the PEB and RSF, and a roadmap of key events and milestones.

Mission members

The mission will be composed by:

- Celina Yong (Mission Leader) – Stakeholder Engagement Specialist for the Asia-Pacific Region, UN-REDD Programme (Bangkok)
- Grace Balawag – IP representative for the Asia-Pacific region in the UN-REDD Policy Board (Philippines)
- Tek Vannara – CSO representative for the Asia-Pacific region in the UN-REDD Policy Board (Cambodia)

Funding

All travel-related costs for Grace Balawag, Tek Vannara and Celina Yong are supported by the UN-REDD Programme global budget.

All transportation and meeting-related costs in Bangladesh are *proposed* to be supported by the Bangladesh UN-REDD Programme budget.

Proposed Mission Agenda

tbc = to be confirmed

Date	Agenda	Key partners	Venue	Remarks
Day 0 Mon, 21 Mar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrive in Dhaka 2. Briefing with UNDP security team 3. Briefing with Programme Management Unit (afternoon) 4. Meeting with NPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP Security • UN-REDD PMU • Forest Department 	UNDP Level 12 Level 14 (ERF meeting room)	The possibility to hold the suggested meeting depends on time of arrival.
Day 1 Tues, 22 Mar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meetings with EM constituencies 2. Meeting between FD and EM 3. Debrief with UN Agencies (tbc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP • EM constituencies 	UNDP: Level 19 (Village Well Conference Room)	One half-day meeting for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Balawag with the National Coordinating Committee chaired by Raja Devasish Roy and other relevant IP stakeholders. • Grace to share their experiences on

				<p>stakeholder engagement in REDD+ in other countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with discussion points from meeting. (Refer to agenda)
<p>Day 2 Wed, 23 Mar</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings with CSO constituencies Meeting between FD and CSO Meeting with CCF Debrief with UN Agencies (tbc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO constituencies National Programme Director UN-REDD PMU 	<p>UNDP: Level 19 (Village Well Conference Room)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tek Vannara with CSOs involved in the Roadmap process as well as other relevant UNDP programmes. Consider the Civil Society Forum established under the Social Forestry Rules & Co-mgt rules. Vannara to share their experiences on stakeholder engagement in REDD+ in other countries.
<p>Day 3 Thurs, 24 Mar</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Depart Dhaka (Grace and Vannara) Meeting and work planning with PMU (Celina) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN-REDD PMU 	<p>UNDP: Level 14 (ERF meeting room)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celina to work with Santu and Riadh
<p>Day 4 Fri, 25 Mar</p>	<p>Depart Dhaka (Celina)</p>			

1.1 Tentative meeting agenda

Background

The proposal is to organise separate meetings: Vannara with the CSO constituency, and Grace with the EM constituency. Given the complexity and delicate relationship between the GoB and EM, creating a safe environment for focused discussion to strategize and identify entry points for engagement is vital in allowing EM to participate fully in the REDD+ process.

The key objective of this meeting is to:

1. Enable the CSO and IP constituencies to identify strategic entry points for their engagement in the national REDD+ process.
2. Share key discussion points with representatives from the Forest Department

Venue: Village Well Conference Room (19th Floor), UNDP, Agargoan, Dhaka

Date: 22nd March & 23rd March 2016

Time	Item	Person-in-charge
8:30 am	Registration	19 th Floor: Village Well
9:00 am	Welcome remarks	Mr. Rakibul Hasan Mukul Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests & National Programme Director, UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme
9:05 am	Synopsis of the international REDD+ framework	Celina (Kin Yii) Yong Stakeholder Engagement Specialist UN-REDD Programme Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP
9:15 am	Overview of the National Programme Introduction to the National Programme Executive Board (PEB)	Nasim Aziz Programme Manager UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme
9:30 am	Challenges and opportunities for engagement Entry points for engagement Identify representative to the PEB to present to government	On 22nd March: Grace Balawag Asia Pacific IP representative On 23rd March: Tek Vannara Asia Pacific CSO representative

10:30 – 11:30 am	Group discussions IP (22 nd) / CSO (23 rd) IP group at 19 th Floor	CSO and EM
11:30 am	Presentation by EM (22 nd March) Presentation by CSO (23 rd March)	National EM representative National CSO representative
12:00 pm	Discussion between FD and EM (22 nd) / CSO (23 rd)	Facilitation by Uchacha A Chak , Research Coordinator Maleya Foundation
12:45 pm	Conclusion & closing remarks	Nasim Aziz Programme Manager
01:00 p.m.	Lunch	Facilitation by PMU