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**Title** Regional Stakeholder Engagement Specialist  
**Date submitted** 3 April 2014

1. Practice area: BDP/EEG	
2. Mission period (incl. of travel days) From: 17 to: 22 March	
3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping	4. Clients UNDP CO  NPD – Anura Sathurusinghe PMU – Nalin Munasinghe (Manager), Prasad Ranjan Attygalle (UNDP Technical Advisor to the PMU)
5. Purpose of mission To provide technical oversight and backstopping to ensure timely and coordinated progress of UNDP-led activities and the delivery of quality outputs in the implementation of Sri Lanka’s UN-REDD National Programme	6. Documents, materials, resources
7. Mission members Celina Yong	8. Costs UNDP/UN-REDD global budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

The MoE signed the NPD in December 2012, and the National Inception Workshop took place 7 June 2013. The PEB met for the second time in January 2014 since inception to approve the 2014 annual work plan and to review the progress made during 2013. No major issues were raised at that meeting. However, the IP reps, who also attended the PEB meeting for the first time as official members, raised eight-point expectations, to be considered by the PEB. One of the main purposes of this mission is to prepare a response for further discussion, and where possible, delegate follow-up responsibilities between the NPD, PMU, Co-Chairs of the PEB, UNDP CO and regional teams.

In the process of sequencing UNDP-led activities for 2014, it was necessary to review, re-strategize and reprioritising some activities, specifically under Output 3.2. This mission also focused on finalising ToRs for private sector engagement, a CSO information network analysis, and reviewing the work plans and operational framework of the CSO Platform.

In addition, the Community Based REDD+ (CBR+), a joint initiative of the UN-REDD Programme and the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), is expected to commence soon. Designed to familiarize stakeholders at the community level with REDD+, CBR+ is also expected to support their learning, engagement and influence with on-going REDD+ readiness process in Sri Lanka.

9.a Findings

Discussion with UNDP CO

- The Ministry of Land and Land Development has started land demarcation exercise “Bim Saviya” since 2012, and is expected to continue until 2016. Regarding the expectation of resolving land tenure issues proposed by the IP, it was strongly advised that a representative from this ministry be invited to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> PEB meeting, provide updates and answer queries. The Secretary from the Ministry of Environment will need to send an official invitation to his counterpart in the aforementioned ministry.
- CO has developed strategy to address invasive species. There needs to be closer coordination to ensure there is linkage between the strategy and potential responses to the IP expectations.
- Strategised with SGP NC for the next steps in forming the CBR+ NSC. Recognising the limited capacity of NGOs to develop a country plan, so it is likely that a consultant may be recruited. However, this person will receive guidance from SGP and the Programme to ensure REDD+ objectives and thematic areas are aligned with the Programmes’.

Discussion with Forest Department

- NPD was briefed about the next steps for CBR+, the most immediate of which is the formation of the CBR+ NSC which will consist of one representative each from the government agency, CSO Platform and IP Forum. The NPD indicated he may

nominate Vasantha Disanaï from the Planning and Monitoring Division.

- NPD emphasised the need to focus on creating a sustainable value chain as a means of securing additional incomes for local communities. Previous projects have been unable to create and sustain a market for the products. Strengthening value chains and creating a marketing strategy should be considered in the CBR+ Country Plan.
- NPD agreed to the proposal to table CBR+ as an agenda item in the 3<sup>rd</sup> PEB meeting.
- NPD proposed to create a Drivers TWG under the Biodiversity Taskforce as a means to inject fresh perspective into suitable approaches to addressing drivers.

#### Discussion with PMU

- The analysis of the 8-point expectations raised by the IP representative during the 2<sup>nd</sup> PEB meeting revealed that a majority of the expectations cannot be addressed within the scope and duration of the Programme. Therefore, a key response is to craft an awareness raising plan that clearly communicates the difference phases of REDD+ and its intended outcomes, highlighting that the Programme is focused on phase 1: readiness. This is seen as an entry point into further discussion as to complementary roles that could be played by the IP Forum. CBR+ is another entry point, particularly in documentation of IP knowledge, and potentially participatory mapping of land. There needs to be a clear and consistent effort to ensure these areas are reflected in the CBR+ Country Plan.
- Reiterated that 2014 will focus on ensuring and strengthening a robust consultation and participation process for the CSOs, IPs and the private sector. This meant events and activities have to clearly align and contribute to relevant outputs.

#### CSO Platform

- CSO Platform convening committee discussed in-depth their roles and those of the broader membership. There was a clear distinction and different expectations between members who are focused on advocacy and practitioners in the field. The convening committee now clearly recognised their roles as those who will advocate for policy reforms in the course of REDD+ readiness. Given that situation, they will have to review how they will relate and communicate with practitioners who may not be as involved in the early stages.
- The convening committee will review the work plan, ToR of the Platform and the committee to ensure they are able to contribute more strategically and effectively. This includes a review of the membership.
- The committee also received news regarding a nomination for the CBR+ NSC, and will select a member when the official invitation letter is issued. It was also communicated that NSC members and their organisations will not be eligible to bid for grants under the CBR+.

#### *9.b Results achieved (key outputs)*

- Terms of reference for private sector engagement, CSO policy network analysis; and
- Proposed response to the 8-point expectations by the IP representative in the PEB

#### *9.c Expected outcomes and impacts*

- Realistic expectation between IP and Programme regarding what can and cannot be achieved with the duration of the Programme; and
- CSO Platform will be more strategic in their engagement with, and contribution to the Programme.

#### 10. Key counterparts

- NPD/Conservator General - Anura Sathurusinghe
- FAO Rep – Beth S. Crawford
- UNDP CO – Ananda Mallawatantri (ACD), Ramitha Wijethunga (Env.Prog), Shireen Samarasuriya (SGP)
- PMU - Nalin Munasinghe, Prasad Adattiygalle, and others
- CSO Platform – Hemantha Withanage (Centre for Environmental Justice), M.Renuka Badrakanthi (Weligepola-Balangoda), and others

#### 11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Finalise response to 8 expectations raised by the IP representative in the PEB	Celina and PMU	April - May
Finalise ToR to contract development of private sector engagement strategy and commence procurement	Celina and Prasad	April
Develop questionnaire for Policy Network Analysis	Prasad and Celina	April - May

Commence recruitment process for national stakeholder engagement officer	Ramitha and Prasad	May – June
Establish CBR+ NSC and commence CBR+ Country Plan	Shireen, Ramitha, Prasad and Celina	Q2 – Q3
12. Distribution list		
UNDP UN-REDD		