

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
BDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY
 Date: 30 November 2013



Name: Celina Yong, UN-REDD

Tel No. +66879246135

Approved Mission Itinerary:

BKK- Singapore – Port Moresby (POM) – Lorengau – POM – Singapore – BKK

List of Annexes:

Inclusive Travel Dates:

23 – 30 Nov 2013

Key counterpart(s) in each location:

- CO – Gwen Maru
- PMU – Arthur Neher, Lydia Bobola, Lillian Bago
- OCCD – Joe Pokana, Danny Nekitel, Eunice Dus
- WCS – Ezra Neal, Daniel Charles, Grace Dom

Purpose/Objectives of Mission

- Technical backstopping for the FPIC Clinic Session, and overall support for the REDD+ Training Workshop; and
- Revisit next steps for the revised draft Guidelines on FPIC for REDD+ in PNG.

Context

The revised FPIC Guideline was expected to be finalized and ready to be submitted to the National Executive Council for endorsement by early December 2013. A series of activities listed in a schedule developed after an earlier mission in May 2013 had called for input by a group of experts, following which the guidelines will be made available for public comments, complemented by parallel efforts to seek stakeholder comments through 4 proposed regional awareness raising sessions on social and environmental safeguards. However, the proposed regional safeguards workshops were delayed due to difficulties to secure consultants who were expected to commence the work on safeguards information system.

Adding to this was the challenge of securing more time from the OCCD focal point to develop a guideline that is not only robust, but also practicable. Feedback from the FPIC experts workshop held in Port Moresby on 30 August 2013 had also indicated that the guideline is too text-heavy, and the operational steps ambiguous.

Meanwhile, the work to revise an earlier version of the REDD+ Training Manual developed by TNC and OCCD, had commenced. The test training conducted in Lorengau, Manus from 26 – 27 November, attended by over 25 participants from various provincial government agencies, was intended to validate the contents before handover to OCCD. Manus was chosen as a training venue in consideration of an AusAid-funded Village REDD project managed by WCS. The FPIC clinic session in the afternoon of 27 November started with WCS's experience with FPIC in the Village REDD project, followed by break-out groups, led by OCCD/UN-REDD to identify legitimate representation of resource or land owners with clear mandate for decision-making beyond the project activity site; and consider the inclusion of women.

Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings

A. *Guidelines on FPIC for REDD+ in PNG*

a. *Authentic representation of resource or land owners (RO) beyond project sites*

- Given that PNG has a very diverse background with over 800 groups, each with its own customs and practices, there is no single entity that is able to genuinely represent all 800 groups at national and provincial levels. Representation of RO interests has thus far been organized with the main intention to allow RO to enter into agreements with government agencies to develop their customary lands; Incorporated Land Group (ILG) and LOC. Both have been widely abused.
- The administrative structure of government agencies at provincial, district, local level government (LLG)

and village levels is clearly set out. In some cases, these civil servants are also RO.

- The National Constitution mandates good faith consultation, but application has been inconsistent. Although there is strong interest from some provinces to become autonomous, they currently lack the resources to realize that ambition. Caution should be taken to ensure provisions for consent are not taken as a veto right to national aspirations.
- Given that traditional RO form 97% of the population, a probable recommendation would be to strengthen measures for good faith consultations at national and sub-national levels, with greater provisions to ensure genuine free, prior and informed consent where REDD+ activity occurs.

b. Inclusion of women

- There was strong rejection to the suggestion that women needs to take on more visible roles and responsibilities in the decision-making processes at village and clan levels. This was widely seen as a challenge to the traditional roles of men and institutions in patrilineal clans, imposed by the international community. WCS' own experience had indicated that some clans may choose to boycott the project if this traditional patrilineal structure is challenged.
- Caution is required in terms of how greater inclusion of women can be advocated. As a next step, it will be useful to review processes taken by the mining and in particular the LNG industries such as Exxon Mobile as to how women are included in decision-making processes through the setting up of LNG pipeline across the Highlands. Options may include a softer approach, e.g., capacity building and mentoring program.

Findings and observations from (a) and (b) above have been discussed with Danny Nekitel, focal point in OCCD, with a focus on how they can strengthen the operational section of the guidelines.

B. REDD+ Training Manual

- Most of the participants came from different agencies of the Manus Provincial Government (MPG). Basic understanding of climate change exists, but there is less familiarity with MRV, REL and RL.
- Future trainings should allocate at least 3 working days, with more interactive training approaches incorporated. In particular, break-out group discussions and the introduction of a "Parking Lot" for questions helped.
- Handouts and background documents should also be prepared and circulated to supplement the actual training.
- Although OCCD has indicated they will take ownership of the manual, it is yet unclear who the designated person will be.

C. General observations

- The rocky relationship between OCCD and PNG FA was evident when the provincial forestry officer in Manus was not present, without prior warning, to give a presentation even after his agreement earlier.
- With a view that OCCD will soon become an authority with greater powers, all OCCD staff have been requested to reapply for their posts which will be subjected to an open recruitment process. As such, it is unclear if the current OCCD team will remain in the organization or their current designations. This will have implications for the roles and responsibilities between OCCD and the Programme, including progress on the FPIC guidelines.
- Communication between national and provincial government agencies remains sporadic, even though powers have supposedly been decentralized. MPG was unaware of the latest development regarding the National Climate Change Policy currently with the Parliament or the status of the national REDD+ strategy. MPG has expressed strong interest to develop a provincial REDD+ strategy.

Follow up actions:

- Technical backstopping for FPIC guidelines – review revised guidelines prior to (i) circulation to experts who attended the FPIC expert workshop (Jan – Feb), (ii) public consultation period (Feb – March), and (iii) a national validation workshop (end of May or June).
- REDD+ Training Manual – send training observations and recommendations to PMU and consultant by week of 2 December.
- Inclusion of women – work with Grace Dom, co-chair of Social and Environmental Safeguard TWG to review approaches and lessons from mining and LNG industries in PNG.

Distribution List:

- UNDP UN-REDD
- PNG CO