

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

Date: 2 November 2013

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:**

29 October – 2 November 2013

Key counterpart(s) in each location:

- CO – Moeko Saito Jensen
- REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat – Peter Iversen (Technical Advisor), Lun Kimhy, Thy Heang

Purpose/Objectives of Mission

- Support study tour in Cambodia by participants from Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam as well as Asia Pacific CSO and IP Policy Board members

Context

The Cambodia REDD+ Programme had recently established its self-selected Consultation Group, an advisory body to the REDD+ Taskforce, a government-only set-up. In parallel, the Programme had been collaborating with multi-partners to develop a set of common REDD+ communication materials for Cambodia.

Both experiences therefore provide valuable lessons and challenges to partner countries that are in early stages of REDD+ Readiness. It also provided Viet Nam, who recently commenced Phase 2 of the Programme, an opportunity to consider the innovate ways to operationalize stakeholder engagement through close integration with communications and awareness raising. Concurrently, it was an orientation for regional CSO and IP Policy Board (PB) members.

Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings

1. Establishment of the Voluntary Facilitation Committee (VFC) and the Consultation Group (CG)
 - While the institutional structure for stakeholder engagement in relation to REDD+ in the 4 countries – Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam - were somewhat similar, the concept of an independent group (VFC) to guide the process was relatively new. Some countries had expressed interest to replicate this model, notably Sri Lanka. However, country teams also recognized that it might be too early to evaluate the effectiveness of the CG.
 - Seeing the challenges from the operationalization of the principles of self-selection, broad representation, accountability and transparency had provided useful lessons for countries in various stages of their stakeholder engagement.
 - On hindsight, greater attention should be paid to ensuring gender balance throughout the whole process. One the major lesson learnt was the lack of female candidates in the CG selection process even though the VFC was predominantly female. One recommendation was to deliberately
 - Country teams were suitably impressed at the support the Royal Government of Cambodia extended to the process, and was motivated to encourage their respective governments to do likewise.
 - However, each team had to decide how to balance the need for full and effective participation with time, cost and resource considerations within specific country contexts. Suggestions included building on existing mechanisms, and cultivating strategic partnerships with civil society.
 - Pasang Dolma Sherpa was impressed by how clearly Cambodia is ahead in REDD+ and vows to share lessons with her constituents and Policy Board members.
2. Standardising a common set of REDD+ communications materials
 - The concept of a multi-stakeholder working group to evaluate existing communications materials, identify gaps and prioritise the production of key materials in relevant formats was very useful.
 - In particular, the glossary of REDD+ terminologies Cambodia produced will be a useful resource as country teams progress with their respective awareness raising and communications plans.
 - Proposal to set up a regional group of the Programme's communications officers to exchange resources, tips and

lessons is welcomed. In addition, this might be extended to other areas such as RL/REL, MRV.

Bilaterals

1. Sri Lanka

- Discussed the upcoming advertisement to invite applications from the public to be members of the PEB, and the next steps to organize a national workshop to establish a CSO Platform, tentatively slotted for 20 November. Celina will arrange a mission to coincide with the dates of the workshop.
- Nalin, the PMU Coordinator will convene a meeting on Monday, 4 November to discuss the national workshop, and will share the objectives, expected outputs, draft agenda, and anticipated challenges for comments with the regional team in Bangkok.

2. Myanmar

- Discussed the proposal by Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact (AIPP) to organize national dialogues between IP and government. Pasang had also suggested a similar event in support of her role as PB member. The key message was to ensure these events can be streamlined to effectively contribute to the implementation of the roadmap.
- Inform Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, the DG of Forest Department, of the proposed activities once the proposal from AIPP is available.

3. Cambodia

- The Non-Timber Forest Product – Exchange Program (NTFP-EP), a CSO, had established an IP REDD+ Working Group with a recently concluded funding provided by AIPP. Discussions focused on how this group can be assimilated into upcoming activities to support the 15 provincial IP representatives, notably establishing feedback and information mechanisms to the respective provincial constituencies. The 2 IP representatives in the CG are also part of this working group, but thus far have not done much to bridge both processes.
- NTFP-EP will share a concept note with the PMU and the regional team with a proposal to arrange an initial introductory dialogue between the provincial representatives and the working group.

Follow up actions:

- Cambodia – Work with PMU to evaluate a concept note to be sent by NTFP-EP with a view to potentially support the proposal, if in line with the National Programme (Celina)
- Myanmar - Work with Pasang to integrate her proposal with AIPP's. Share AIPP's proposal with Myanmar for comments, and inform the government focal point of the proposed activities (Celina)
- Sri Lanka – Support the national CSO Platform workshop (Celina)

Distribution List:

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