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Title Regional Stakeholder Engagement Specialist

Date submitted 24 June 2014

1. Practice area: BDP/EEG

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)
From: 7 to: 14 June

3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping

4. Clients
OCCD – Danny Nekitel, Gwen Sissiou
UNDP CO – Gwen Maru
PMU – Arthur Neher, Lillian Bago

5. Purpose of mission
To provide technical assistance to Office of Climate Change and Development (OCCD) to ensure timely and coordinated progress, as well as the delivery of a finalized national FPIC guideline for endorsement by the PNG National Executive Council (NEC) (Cabinet).

6. Documents, materials, resources
Annex 1:

7. Mission member
Celina Yong

8. Costs
UNDP/UN-REDD national programme budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

9.a Background

The draft National FPIC Guidelines had undergone significant revisions after field scoping missions (May 2013), received technical guidance from the Technical Working Group on Social and Environmental Safeguards (May 2013), and an FPIC Expert Group workshop (August 2013), subjected to several regional consultations (November 2013 – June 2014), and an online public comment period (April – May 2014). The first of two missions, it specifically focused on reviewing progress and comments received to date; made preparations for the National FPIC Validation Workshop on 9 July 2014; while providing technical input and guidance for the FPIC session during the regional safeguards consultation workshop in Madang in June 2014.

The draft guidelines was welcomed by participants in the Madang workshop that mainly comprise of provincial authorities. However, only a handful of written non-substantive comments have been received to date. In the remaining time before the workshop, OCCD will double their efforts to ensure key stakeholders provide comments. At the same time, OCCD and the Programme have identified measures to ensure the new Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Minister John Pundari is briefed about this progress, and will be willing to politically support having the guidelines endorsed by the NEC.

9.b Main Findings

• Draft National FPIC Guidelines

- A review by an external international expert on FPIC flagged 2 key points that may be problematic in application and securing broader government support: definition of “landowners”, and when FPIC is required. The former covered a very broad range of stakeholders, and the latter was the inconsistency of when it should it take place.
- Initial response from the provincial authorities at the workshop did not view the broad definition of “landowners” as a problem. Overall, they strongly supported the guidelines as an invaluable safeguard for development activities in Madang. Nonetheless, OCCD will consult the State Solicitor’s Office and CELCOR, an NGO working on legal environmental issues.
- The new Minister is known to openly express strong views, and thus far has not been entirely supportive of REDD+, for inconclusive reasons. In discussions with OCCD, Gwen Sissiou and Danny Nekitel, it was agreed that OCCD will need to canvas for his support. This will be done by preparing a short brief of the guidelines, followed by an Information Paper that will be presented to the Cabinet. To do this, the Executive Director of OCCD, Varigini Badira will need to be fully briefed and updated.
- OCCD needs to build alliances with key national agencies and provincial authorities who will be willing to champion the guidelines. The current review of the Forestry Act, supported by USAID LEAF project, provides an avenue to strengthen institutionalization of the guidelines, specifically in reference and by building on Forestry Administration’s 34-steps to apply for a timber permit.
- For the upcoming national validation workshop on 9 July, and in conjunction with that national safeguards consultation

workshop on 8 July, OCCD communications team will prepare a press release aimed to create wider visibility for the both guidelines.

- Regional Consultation on Social and Environmental Safeguards
 - Feedback for the PLR gap analysis focused on weak implementation and enforcement beyond the national level. While there is the Organic Law on Provincial Government and Local Level Government, national government still retain most of the control, e.g., issuance of Special Agricultural and Business Leases (SABL) that has mainly been utilised to convert natural forests into palm oil plantations. In most cases, landowners' land rights have been impaired. The Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill had [indicated](#) in April that SABLs will be cancelled if found to be used for extracting timber. However, there is no further update since this statement was made.
 - Discussion for proposed principles and criteria did not go beyond semantics mainly because there was very limited understand of REDD+.

9.c *Bilateral Discussions*

- Gwen Maru
 - The Minister of Environment and Climate Change had proposed a Climate Change Trust Fund with the intention of creating a resource pool that will build the national capacity to take on these issues. It was proposed that inflow funds of below \$1 million will be directed and governed by GoPNG. However, this is still a proposal with implementation in the foreseeable 2 to 3 years. Nonetheless, it may affect future REDD+ funds.

9.d *Expected Outputs*

- Response matrix to all comments received.
- Revised draft guidelines.

10. Key counterparts

- OCCD – Danny Nektel, Gwen Sissiou
- UNDP CO – Gwen Maru
- PMU – Arthur Neher, Lillian Bago

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Prepare list of activities to be completed before validation workshop	Celina, Danny	14 June
Prepare key briefing points for the Minister	Danny, Celina	27 June
Review comments, prepare response matrix	Danny, Celina	7 July
Prepare press note	OCCD Communications, Lillian, Danny, Celina	4 July

12. Distribution list

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Annex 1: List of Actions to be taken before National FPIC Guidelines Validation Workshop

No.	Activity	By	Deadline
1	Double check with State Solicitor's Office (Ruel) regarding Guideline's definition of 'landowners': what are the legal implications?	Danny	16-Jun
2	Share 4 Regional Safeguards Workshop participants' list	Lillian	16-Jun
3	Send email reminders to all on mailing list to provide comments by 27 June	Danny	17-Jun
4	Finalize participants' list	Danny / Arthur / Celina	18-Jun
5	Finalize tentative agenda	Danny / Celina	19-Jun
6	Call FPIC Expert Working Group members to submit comments	Danny	20-Jun
7	Call WCS and FORCERT to submit comments	Danny	20-Jun
8	Secure persons identified for Welcome Address, Opening Speech, Closing Remarks	Danny / Gwen S	20-Jun
9	Secure facilitators for workshop	Danny	20-Jun
10	Confirm venue for workshop	Arthur	20-Jun
11	Prepare invitation letter for workshop	Leilani / Danny	20-Jun
12	Make copies of guidelines and send to Heads of National Agencies with invitation letters to Workshop	Danny / Leilani	23-Jun
13	Send invitation letters to all participants	Danny / Leilani	23-Jun
14	Brief OCCD Executive Director	Danny	25-Jun
15	Receive all comments	Danny	27-Jun
16	Prepare short brief for Minister	Danny / Gwen S / Celina	27-Jun
17	Prepare press statement about Safeguards for REDD+	Danny / OCCD Communications team / Gwen S / Lillian	1-Jul
18	Finalize press statement and media list	OCCD Communications team / Lillian	4-Jul
19	Send press statement to media	OCCD Communications team / Lillian	7-Jul
20	Compile comments into response matrix	Danny / Celina	23 June - 4 July
21	Prepare presentations	Danny / Celina	4 - 9 July
22	Finalize guidelines	Danny / Celina	11 July - 13 July
23	Prepare Information Paper for Cabinet	Danny / Gwen S / Celina	End of July / August?