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Title Regional Stakeholder Engagement Specialist

Date submitted 4 July 2016

1. Practice area: BPPS, Sustainable Development and Resilience Cluster

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)

From: 27 June – 1 July

3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping

4. Clients

UNDP CO – Visaka Punyawana Hidellage, Ramitha Withanage
PMU – Alexis Corblin (CTA), Nalin Munasinghe (NPM), Prasad
Attygalle (Technical Specialist), Raushan Kumar (MRV Expert)

5. Purpose of mission

- a) Follow-up training workshop on the application of the principles of consultation, participation and consent in REDD+ and beyond
- b) Technical backstopping in the design and implementation of engagement process for the boundary demarcation activity and capturing lessons learnt

6. Documents, materials, resources

7. Mission member

Celina Yong

8. Costs

UNDP/UN-REDD global budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

The follow-up training to the introduction to FPIC was focused on applying the principles of free, prior and informed consent in the REDD+ context. It was decided PaMs with high probability and impact of social risks will be the subject for the clinic sessions during the training workshop. In relation to the engagement process for the boundary demarcation activity, a field visit to Matara was conducted to understand the practical challenges.

9.a Findings

Training workshop to apply the principles of consultation, participation and consent in the context of REDD+ and beyond

- In spite of efforts to ensure the first batch of participants attend this follow-up training, less than 10% were present. Given that 90% of the participants who attended this workshop did not undergo the introductory workshop in March, there was a substantive theoretical gap that prevented participants from fully grasping how FPIC would work in the field. The low attendance may also be attributed to conflicting commitments as well as a lack of interest as the subject is supposedly well-understood in the country.
- Earlier discussions with PMU had agreed on using the PaMs with high social risks for clinic sessions where the key components of FPIC will be used to determine where improvements can be introduced. However, the PaMs and safeguards benefit and risk report was not of a quality that could provide more information for this clinic. Nonetheless, 10 PaMs with high social risks were identified, as well as corresponding leading agency’s focal person who could provide an overview of existing guidelines and engagement processes.
- The clinics yielded mixed results, especially for PaMs that require inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination. There were also a number of national efforts either to harmonise standards or processes. In some groups, and in spite of efforts to reiterate the learning objectives of the event, the purpose of the clinic was misunderstood and the focal person resisted analysis.
- The exercise to estimate the costs of the recommendations was not fully completed for PaMs requiring inter-ministerial coordination. Participants from the affected ministries did not want to speculate and provide costs that may not align with official information.

Field visit to Matara to scope feasibility of boundary demarcation activities

- The communities in **Killadeniya Village** had lived on the land adjoining to the forest reserve for 60 years without any titles, deeds or permits. Furthermore, 12 years ago, boundaries were demarcated. Key point of contention was that the earlier demarcation points cut through tea plantations, amounting to 8 acres, some 25 families in the village are cultivating. According to the villagers, there was no resolution prior to demarcation. Tea cultivation in those 8 acres within the boundaries continue to this day.

- Villagers wanted to resolve this encroachment issue, but are adamant that the 8 acres be included in any permit that the FD will extend to them. There is no clear preference whether this be done through a mediator or other methods.
- The communities in **Kandawathukonda Village** are mostly private owners of land adjoining to “Other State Forests”, having settled there almost a century ago. However, over time, they were unclear where the boundaries of their lands are. As such, this exercise will be useful to clarify, identify and secure boundaries.
- From this brief visit, it was clear that collecting background information, potentially available from Forest Management Plans, and drafting an initial engagement plan that touches on representation, information, participation, access to justice and rule of law, are key to a conflict prevention and management approach.

9.b Results achieved (key outputs)

- Revised engagement steps for boundary demarcation activity
- Section on stakeholder engagement, FPIC and gender in the national REDD+ strategy

9.c Expected outcome and impact

- Key stakeholders in the REDD+ process demonstrate knowledge of good engagement that builds on the principles of FPIC and are able to apply these principles in their interaction with REDD+ and beyond

10. Key counterparts

- UNDP CO – Visaka Punyawana Hidellage, Ramitha Withanage
- PMU – Alexis Corblin (CTA), Nalin Munasinghe (NPM), Prasad Attygalle (Technical Specialist), Raushan Kumar (MRV Expert)

11. Follow up action matrix

| Action to be taken | By whom | Expected completion date |
|---|---------|--------------------------|
| Field mission report and revised engagement process for boundary survey and demarcation | Celina | 8 July |
| Training workshop report | Sumedha | Mid July |
| Section on SE, FPIC and gender in the national REDD+ strategy | Celina | Early August |

12. Distribution list

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