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1. Practice area: BDP/EEG	
2. Mission period (incl. of travel days) From: 23 to: 28 March	
3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping	4. Clients UNDP CO  PMU – Pham Manh Cuong (National Programme Director), Nguyen Huu Dung (National Programme Coordinator)
5. Purpose of mission To facilitate selection of permanent NGO and ethnic minority representatives for the PEB; To facilitate technical discussions of Outcome 5 with CIP; To enhance the awareness of VNFOREST officials on Cancun safeguards; and To integrate national FPIC guidelines into Phase 2 activities	6. Documents, materials, resources
7. Mission members Celina Yong	8. Costs UNDP/UN-REDD national budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

UN-REDD Programme Phase 2 in Viet Nam officially commenced in August 2013. Interim NGO and ethnic minorities (EM) representatives for the Programme Executive Board (PEB) were nominated in October 2013. Following a south-south learning exchange to Cambodia in October/November 2013, the PMU and VRO have been open to self-selection of permanent representatives by their constituents.

In the gap between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Programme, the global Programme contracted 3 national consultants to develop a national FPIC guideline for REDD+. The final draft has been completed, but is currently only available in the Vietnamese language. It needs to be integrated into planning, consultation and participation activities in Phase 2.

One of the solutions in order to accelerate implementation in Phase 2 was entering into agreements with Co-Implementing Partner (CIP) for specific outputs. The Forest Protection Department (FPD) was originally expected to be the CIP for the entire output 5, but has since only agreed to output 5.1. The Viet Nam REDD+ Office (VRO) is now expected to be the CIP for the outputs 5.2 to 5.4. One of the main tasks was to develop an annual work plan for each of the activities, further broken down into quarterly work plans.

As part of its initial work to develop measures and approaches for safeguards, the afore-named Sub-Technical Working Group (STWG) had overseen a gap analysis of national policies, laws and regulations against the Cancun safeguards. Results and recommendations have not been widely shared. There is, however, greater urgency to promote a wider understanding of safeguards and the UNFCCC requirements to develop a safeguards information system.

9.a Main Findings

PEB NGO and EM representatives

- a. The interim NGO and EM representatives were reselected as permanent PEB representatives during a [workshop](#) attended by 15 NGOs and 20 EM.
- b. Hop (official NGO rep) and Dzung from Pan Nature (alternate representative) will hold a meeting with core NGO members and develop a charter consisting of roles and responsibilities, information sharing mechanisms and a work plan. They might need assistance from PMU and CO to do this.
- c. Truong (official EM representative) will use the upcoming National EM Dialogue in May to nominate an alternate representative to the PEB. There was a discussion to form a STWG on EM to institutionalize their participation for the national REDD+ process. Celina will develop and share the ToR for comments with CO who will discuss further with Cuong,

the NPD.

- d. In a separate discussion with Cuong, he has indicated that there is opportunity to pool funding from several sources beyond the Programme to develop CIP Agreements with the VNGO and EM. However, both groups will need to draft work plans. This is still a preliminary discussion, but it should be explored further, anticipating country and regional offices to provide support to both representatives to develop the work plans. CO should start looking for possible areas from the Programme to co-fund the CIP agreements.
- e. Also a request from Cuong that all UN agencies and PMU coordinate to convey a consistent message to the EM and NGOs.

#### National EM Dialogue in May

- a. Truong will share a draft agenda, dialogue objectives and participants list by 4 April for CO and regional comments. This will ensure the outcomes from the dialogue are mutually beneficial for both the Programme and EM in REDD+ processes.
- b. Discussed the probability of co-funding from the national programme budget to support the EM participants (at least 20 participants) from the 6 pilot provinces. The budget Truong's organisation, CSDM, receives from AIPP will be used to support EM participants from other provinces. CO to identify activity line for co-funding.

#### Draft FPIC guidelines

- a. Prepare ToR to recruit an editor to work with Thoa to standardize the terminologies, and a translator for the Vietnamese to English version, to be completed in April.
- b. CO will circulate edited and translated guidelines to other UN agencies and encourage uptake in relevant activities.
- c. Thoa will embed and test steps proposed in the guidelines in site-based planning, PRAP development guideline, and draw lessons to revise guidelines.
- d. Cuong was resistant to the having the draft guidelines publicised, but has conceded that it should be tested in ensuing planning activities, with the agreement to draw lessons for future revision of the guidelines by 2015.
- e. He does not see it as necessary for VNFOREST to endorse the guidelines. But there is internal agreement with CO that that VNFOREST should endorse this as an 'interim' guideline so that it can be adopted and implemented by the pilot provinces. Loan from CO has agreed to raise this proposal with Ngai at the next Joint Coordination Group meeting.

#### Output 5 Co-Implementing Partners (CIP) Agreement with FPD and VRO

- a. An initial meeting was conducted to assist the CIP draft annual work plan. There is limited capacity within VRO to lead the tasks in outputs 5.2 and 5.3, thereby relying on external consultants to conduct the initial tasks. Further support from CO will be needed to strengthen the draft annual work plan and develop quarterly work plans with FPD and VRO.

#### Safeguards

- b. Limited familiarity with what Cancun safeguards are and how to develop a national safeguards information system among the broader VNFOREST staff.
- c. Response to the initial policies, laws and regulations gap analysis study led by SNV and coordinated by the STWG on Safeguards were defensive. The main resistance was the absence of a VNFOREST staff that should have been contracted to be part of the consulting team. It was deemed that the results did not reflect favourably on Viet Nam, and that might jeopardise donor confidence in the country.
- d. Dzung has proposed that FPD, as CIP for output 5.1 will present the results and the recommendations of the gap analysis in a matrix.
- e. Both Dr Cuong and Dr Dzung were open to the potential use of CAST as a means to broaden participation in the next step of developing safeguards and an SIS.

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

- ToRs developed for activities
  - 5.2.1 – Conduct study on the traditional knowledge and practices on forest management and sharing the study results with a set of recommendations on the measures to replicate good practices and knowledge
  - 5.3.1 – Finalize and disseminate the national FPIC guidelines
  - 5.3.2 – Conduct studies and disseminate available reports/information on the roles of women, ethnic minorities and local communities in forest sector
  - 5.3.3 – Support to develop gender equity action plan for forestry sector and support gender equity strengthening when and where appropriate
  - 5.3.4 – Develop roadmap / guidelines to ensure full and effective stakeholder participation in REDD+, especially the local communities and ethnic minorities people based on appropriate consultation manner
- ToR for STWG on EM developed.
- Draft annual work plans for Outputs 5.1 to 5.3 developed.

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

- Implementation of Outputs 5.2 and 5.3 in 2014.
- Draft national FPIC guidelines are tested and improved within duration of the Programme.
- VNGO and EM participation strengthened to contribute to the Programme.

10. Key counterparts

- UNDP CO – Dao Xuan Lai, Ngo Thi Loan, Pham Minh Thoa
- PMU – Pham Manh Cuong (NPD), Nguyen Huu Dung (NPC)
- VNFOREST – Nguyen Ba Ngai
- VRO – Nguyen Phu Hung, Le Ha Phuong
- EM – Luong Thi Truong, The Center for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM)
- VNGO – Vu Thi Bich Hop, Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Develop and/or revise ToRs for Activities 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3 and 5.3.4	Celina	30 April
Develop ToR for STWG on EM	Celina	4 April
Revise annual and quarterly work plans in CIP Agreement with FPD and VRO on Outputs 5.1 – 5.3	Loan and Thoa	Q2
Identify funds from Programme budget for co-funding participants from 6 pilot provinces for the National EM Dialogue in May	Loan, Thoa and Celina	21 April
Support NGO PEB representative to conduct co-ordination meeting	Loan and Thoa	On-going
Identify potential budget to co-fund CIP Agreements for VNGOs and EM	Loan, Thoa and Celina	Q2
Seek Dr Ngai support to endorse the draft national FPIC guidelines	Loan and Thoa	April

12. Distribution list

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