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Title Regional Stakeholder Engagement Specialist
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1. Practice area: BPPS, Sustainable Development and Resilience Cluster

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)
From: 27 March – 1 April

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 on recommendations from the TS on gender to determine mutually agreed entry points in the development of the national REDD+ strategy
b) Strategize and plan for the piloting of boundary demarcation under Output 4.3 based on a revised boundary demarcation manual that reflects the principles of free, prior and informed consent
c) Assess and determine potential entry points to mainstream FPIC principles in national REDD+ process

6. Documents, materials, resources

7. Mission member
Celina Yong

8. Costs
UNDP/UN-REDD global budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

There is tentative understanding that a Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines for REDD+ implementation that embodies the principles of FPIC may be more relevant and mutually acceptable than a standalone FPIC guidelines. There is also an opportunity to demonstrate good engagement practices through the boundary demarcation exercise, in collaboration with FAO, possibly leading to a revision of Forest Department's Boundary Demarcation guidelines. Through both these activities, gender considerations can be mainstreamed as the recommendations proposed through the TS did not add significant value to existing knowledge or practices.

9.a Findings

Demonstrating how engagement processes that build on clear representation institutions, well-defined roles and expectations for men and women that are fundamental to seeking consent, if and when it is required during REDD+ implementation, is key to clarifying misconceptions regarding FPIC.

- There are prevailing misconceptions regarding FPIC, the key of which is that consent is required for all activities, at every stage, and to be given by every affected stakeholder. Furthermore, consent is generally understood as a "Yes", without considerations for a "No".
- An initial training workshop to build a good foundation through understanding the concepts of FPIC was generally well-received, but would require follow-up in learning how to apply these concepts. Participants of this training will be referred to as the FPIC Resource Group members for future activities. During the training, there were requests from representatives of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and Land Use Planning and Policy Department (LUPPD) for support to design their engagement processes based on FPIC principles.
- There are two potential streams of support to mainstream FPIC: through the design of the engagement process for the boundary demarcation exercise; and indirect support to CEA and LUPPD through capacity building. The former will yield lessons that can be embedded into the NRS and a potential revision of FD's Boundary Demarcation Guidelines. The latter will provide a safe environment for CEA and LUPPD to mainstream good stakeholder engagement with FPIC considerations into their planning processes. This can be done through a peer review-mentoring approach with the broader FPIC Resource Group members. Furthermore, a SE guidelines for REDD+ implementation may be more relevant than a FPIC guidelines.

Demonstrate a bottom-up approach for gender inclusion through integration in proposed REDD+ engagement processes.

- Recommendations from the TS on gender were generally weak and not cognizant of the latest development in the REDD+ process, in spite of numerous efforts to guide the consultants. It was initially proposed that the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs is an obvious champion, but a follow-up meeting with the Secretary revealed a lack of interest currently. Their priorities lay in reducing domestic violence against women through proposed model villages and eco-tourism efforts to expand the livelihoods of women.
- As such, gender inclusion will be embedded into the boundary demarcation activity, and potentially SE guidelines. Where possible, it will draw on good field practices identified through TS support. This is in addition to an existing section in the NRS on cross-sectoral considerations that cover gender, FPIC, grievance, engagement.

Adopt a conflict-sensitive approach to design an engagement process for the boundary demarcation activity.

- Given that this activity will take place in the northern part of the country, CO flagged that a precautionary and conflict-sensitive approach should gird the design on an engagement process. Discussions with PMU colleagues also point to building on similar experiences and lessons from Mahaweli development.
- Pending further background information for the 300km demarcation activity, considerations are in place to ensure scoping exercises with unearth information related to significant existing and/or underlying conflict. This is crucial to determine if the activity should commence in that particular area. Where feasible, linkages will be made to existing mediation support, such as the community mediation boards. Other considerations will look into the pillars of existing representative institutions, if any; capacity to engage in the discussions and/or demarcation activity; documentation of the process, among others.

9.b Results achieved (key outputs)

- Preliminary engagement steps for boundary demarcation activity
- Concept note for revised FPIC/SE activities

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
Preliminary engagement steps for boundary demarcation activity	Celina	19 April
Concept note for revised FPIC/SE activities	Celina	5 April

12. Distribution list

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