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Submitted by Celina Yong, UN-REDD
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: 18 to 23 May 2015	
3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping	4. Clients UNDP CO PMU – Nalin Munasinghe (Manager), Prasad Ranjan Attygalle (UNDP Technical Advisor to the PMU), Sumedha Amarasena (Stakeholder Engagement Officer), Alexis Corblin (Chief Technical Advisor)
5. Purpose of mission To provide technical assistance to UNDP-led activities: grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) for REDD+; private sector engagement plan; Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+); non-carbon benefits; Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines. It also includes a review of current and upcoming activities with the national Stakeholder Engagement Officer.	6. Documents, materials, resources
7. Mission member Celina Yong	8. Costs UNDP/UN-REDD global programme budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

9.a Background

In earlier part of the Programme, stakeholder engagement has focused on ensuring representative platforms for the civil society organisations (CSO) and indigenous peoples (IP) are established, functional and contributing to on-going REDD+ discourse in the country. This has not been without challenges as REDD+ is a relatively new, and potentially complex topic. This mission mainly focused on ensuring the GRM activity starts on a conceptually and practically sound basis; private sector engagement actions are prioritized for follow-up; and stakeholder engagement related activities are reviewed with the national Stakeholder Engagement Officer.

While national level policy discussions regarding the value and relevance of REDD+ in Sri Lanka are taking place, CBR+ provides an avenue for indigenous and non-indigenous forest dependent communities to be involved in activities that will contribute to efforts to address deforestation and forest degradation, barriers to sustainable management of forests, enhancement and management of carbon stocks. A total of 63 expressions of interests (Eol) were received, 15 shortlisted, and at the time of this mission, 7 field appraised. At the 14th UN-REDD Policy Board Meeting from 21 to 22 May in Washington DC, the global IP and CSO representatives to the Board praised efforts to operationalise CBR+, noting that Sri Lanka is among the first of the six global pilot countries to have completed its Country Plan (CP) and issued an Eol.

9.b Main Findings

- **Grievance Redress Mechanisms for REDD+**
 - The first mission by the international and national consultants sought to identify existing and emerging patterns of disputes and corresponding GRMs that are operational and effective. Preliminary findings from initial discussions with government and civil stakeholders have pointed to land-related disputes. While it is not yet clear which REDD+ actions Sri Lanka will adopt and which national development goals it will help to achieve, these patterns of disputes are potential indicators of upcoming challenges during implementation.
 - On paper, Sri Lanka has a number of GRMs that are impressive, but it remains to be seen how effective these are in addressing and resolving grievances. Furthermore, the recent change in government has resulted in the merging of some ministries, a change of personnel and unclear work division. The political situation is expected to stabilize in the next few months, but until then, there is hesitancy to politically commit to any major decisions. This is a crucial factor in order to introduce credible GRMs that are able to address disputes or complaints from REDD+ implementation.

- Nonetheless, the newly appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils, Local Government and Democratic Governance, Mr J. Dadallage, is a potential champion and collaborator for the REDD+ process in the country. He has appointed a committee to explore options to establish more robust GRMs. He is also open to the findings from the GRM assignment as a means to extract lessons for better policy-making.
- Upcoming work will assess the effectiveness of existing GRMs to address REDD+ related grievances, followed by recommendations to strengthen existing (preferable) or establish new GRMs. A final report is expected towards the end of September 2015.
- A presentation of the GRM scoping mission in Cambodia was shared with the PMU to promote better understanding of the concept and practical application. The PMU requested for more case study-based presentations of different work areas vis-à-vis conceptual presentations.
- CBR+
 - A meeting was held between the PMU, SGP and the two teams of knowledge management consultants recruited by SGP for CBR+. It is anticipated that 8 to 10 CBR+ proposals may be selected. Each knowledge management team will provide technical support for 4 or 5 projects, starting with expanding the Eols into full proposals with targets, indicators and milestones. This will be done through a knowledge management clinic, tentatively end of June or early July.
 - It was agreed that the PMU Manager, national SE officer and national communications officer will organise an informal awareness raising meeting with these consultants to ensure a good understanding of REDD+ as per UNFCCC requirements, and the linkages between CBR+ and the national REDD+ programme, particularly the work on the national REDD+ strategy.
 - The PMU will also organise a meeting with TAG members to consolidate results from the field appraisals.
 - It was agreed that the proposal from the Veddhas needs to be expanded to include more clans. Although there were suggestions to target other Veddha clans to develop a separate proposal, it may not be advisable given that the date to submit an Eol had passed.
 - Some CSO members still expressed concerns about partnering with SGP, which in part, could have stemmed from previous engagement with the programme. However, they acknowledged that the Programme had introduced mitigation measures: REDD+ CSO and IP representation in the National Steering Committee; UN-REDD funded CBR+ CP; REDD+ presence in the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).
- Private sector engagement plan
 - By order of priority, the three entry points are: (i) technical training for private sector in relation to carbon and biomass estimation; (ii) development of REDD+ strategy options through offers from the private sector in the areas of technical assistance, ensuring environmentally sound financial compliance; and pursuing public private partnerships in sustainable forest management including with the civil society and communities; and (iii) PMU to facilitate policy discussions between private sector and the Forest Department.
 - The MRV team has agreed to lead the first entry point, and in return will request companies to bring inventory data, e.g., canopy cover, diameter at breast height, biomass, that will further the MRV work.
 - However, more clarification is required to identify which private sector actors need to be engaged for what, how (terms of engagement), and when they need to be engaged.
- Review of stakeholder engagement activities with national officer
 - Activities thus far have focused on supporting CSO Platform and CSO Convening Committee meetings, as well as district level awareness raising for District Forest Departments and CSOs.
 - For the former, the CSOs are leaning towards forest carbon projects as a potential source of income for the soon-to-be established private company. Alongside that is the request for the national officer to develop and maintain a registry of carbon projects in the country.
 - For the latter, a total of 19 district level awareness raising activities have been planned, with 10 completed to date. Partly to assist the CSO obtain a space in the district level Vigilant Committee, and partly to identify district level drivers of deforestation and forest degradation with corresponding measures.
 - The officer is also supporting Sri Lankan participants who have been sponsored to attend REDD+ training courses to develop training modules that can be shared with respective constituencies.
 - There is growing concern that the PMU is increasingly pulled into activities that do not fully contribute to the objectives of the Programme, and yet there is reluctance to address this discrepancy. There could be repercussions for the Programme, especially if it is perceived as another generic capacity building project, instead of one intending to influence the policy process related to REDD+.
 - For a start, the officer will develop a plan for on-going and planned engagement with the CSO, IPs, private sector and government counterparts.
 - Building on this work, the regional specialist will also develop a consultation and participation plan for the development of the national REDD+ strategy, identifying methods to engage, information required and expected timeline.

- Upcoming assignments: Non-carbon benefits and National FPIC guidelines
 - Non-carbon benefits: The CSO Platform is in the midst of establishing a consulting company that will bid for assignments, one of which is non-carbon benefits. The ToR was finalised and is expected to contribute to prioritizing policies and measures for REDD+.
 - National FPIC guidelines: Requests to differentiate the tasks between international and national consultants. Ramitha will assist to identify potential national consultant.

9.c Bilateral discussions

- UNDP CO
 - Lovita Ruanguttee
 - Ensure linkages between the Programme's private sector engagement plan with other CO initiatives, such as development of microfinance options with the banks, smallholder business modalities, community forestry and biomass projects are strengthened.
 - In light of the global attention on CBR+ by international and regional CSO and IP representatives in the UN-REDD Policy Board, ensure CBR+ projects are well-selected and contribute to the broader REDD+ objectives.
 - Visaka Punyawana Hidellage
 - The Forest Department, through the PMU, has contacted RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forest based in Thailand, to organise a training for FPIC in Viet Nam, funded by the Programme. This was done without the knowledge of, and consultation with regional advisors, who had earlier recommended that the training is more suitable once a national FPIC guideline has been developed to suit the Sri Lankan context. At the moment, the training is likely to be based on broad FPIC principles. Furthermore, the selection of Viet Nam for a field visit is not suitable, given that its political and social structures are very different from Sri Lanka's.
 - CO will respond to the Forest Department's request on this matter.
 - Ramitha Wijethunga
 - Concerns raised that stakeholder engagement activities to date have been narrowly focused on the CSOs and IPs. More effort should be made to engage with relevant government agencies and private sector across the outputs. A plan will be developed to ensure critical actors are embedded in the on-going consultation and participation process.
 - Awareness raising materials presented during the district level activities may not be technically accurate and the impact of these activities are not measured. These materials should be reviewed by regional colleagues.

9.d Expected Outputs

- Finalised ToRs for national FPIC guidelines
- Consultation and participation plan for the development of the national REDD+ strategy

10. Key Counterparts

- UNDP CO – Lovita Ruanguttee, Visaka Punyawana Hidellage, Ramitha Wijethunga, Shireen Samarasuriya
- PMU – Nalin Munasinghe, Prasad Ranjan Attygalle, Sumedha Amarasena, Alexis Corblin

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Revise ToRs for national FPIC guidelines	Celina	Completed
Respond to FD regarding FPIC training in Viet Nam	Ramitha/Visaka	As soon as possible
Complete mapping of the CSO Platform membership; develop a plan for engagement with CSO, IPs, private sector and government counterparts; share results of district level drivers	Sumedha and Prasad	June
Organise TAG meeting; awareness raising for SGP/CBR+ knowledge management consultants	Nalin, Sumedha and Malaka	June – July
Develop a consultation and participation plan for the national REDD+ strategy	Celina, Sumedha, Prasad	June
Review Sumedha's monthly progress report	Ramitha and Celina	Monthly
Prepare case study-based presentations on different work areas, e.g., FPIC, gender, etc	Celina	In preparation for future missions

12. Distribution list

UNDP UN-REDD, UNDP CO