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**Title** Regional Stakeholder Engagement Specialist  
**Date submitted** 9 November 2015

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

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)  
From: 3 to 18 October 2015

3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping

4. Clients  
UNDP CO – Niamh Collier-Smith (DRR), Nawaraj Chhetri (Portfolio Manager, Climate Change Mitigation and Energy)  
  
WMD – Dr Pema Wangda (CFO), Sigyel Delma (Deputy CFO/REDD+ Focal Officer), Samten Wangchuk (Sr FO)

5. Purpose of mission  
To provide technical support during the national workshop on REDD+ safeguards (5 – 9 October) and delivery of REDD+ Academy (12 – 16 October)

6. Documents, materials, resources

7. Mission member  
Celina Yong

8. Costs  
UNDP/UN-REDD global budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

*9.a Background*

In January 2014, Bhutan requested for TS from all 3 UN-REDD agencies. In the context of REDD+ readiness, the focus for WMD from 2014 onwards is the continuation of its work to ensure that REDD+ safeguards are addressed and respected, as elements of the National REDD+ Strategy. Technical support from UNDP includes work on anti-corruption measures, which has since been completed, and measures for the full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders through the development of a National Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Guidelines for REDD+ Program (national guidelines).

Technical support from UNEP consists of ensuring REDD+ safeguards are addressed and respected. Building on an initial safeguards workshop in 2012, and an initial review of PLRs, a “National Workshop on REDD+ Safeguards” was held from 5 – 9 October in Paro. The objectives were to create a better understanding of UNFCCC decision on safeguards and its application in Bhutan; develop a country approach to safeguards; undertake benefit and risks analysis of REDD+ actions; and review gaps in the PLR analysis.

In order to build capacity in and for REDD+, WMD also requested for REDD+ Academy, consisting of both a Train-the –Trainers (ToT) and general training. This was conducted concurrently from 12 – 16 October in Paro.

*9.b Main Findings*

**a) National Workshop on REDD+ Safeguards, led by UNEP**

- Exercises on benefit and risks analysis as well as corresponding PLR review confirmed the value of having earlier developed a National Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Guidelines for REDD+ Program. Key issues associated with safeguards b, c and d such as representative structures, decision-making, were highlighted in the national guidelines, as well as guidance to establish and implement. As such, the guidelines is useful as a policy to mitigate socially-related risks in the implementation of REDD+ actions. It is also a valuable resource on how to engage with communities on safeguards. WMD will continue to seek assistance from UNDP in the implementation of the national guidelines.
- While the workshop was generally on target in raising awareness and building understanding of a country approach for safeguards, it could have been more effective if sequenced after a clearer set of PAMs are identified from a yet-to-commence drivers study. However, the workshop had already been postponed for a year, and further delay was not a feasible option.
- Participants were primarily members from the TWG on Safeguards, Governance and Benefit Distribution. Several earlier attempts were made to include participants beyond the TWG, e.g., legal experts, but were unsuccessful, mainly due to their unavailability.

- It was generally agreed that Bhutan understood the link between CAS and the World Bank/FCPF's SESA/ESMF. In particular results from BeRT could complement the SESA process.

#### b) REDD+ Academy

- The degree of understanding about REDD+ differs quite significantly between the ToT and general awareness raising group. Earlier information regarding the background and expectations of each participant, especially the latter, could have resulted in better preparation leading to better delivery of the awareness raising training. However, it was difficult for WMD to receive confirmation, or even to retain all participants for the entire week. This is an on-going challenge with no immediate solution.
- It was a challenge to reconcile different expectations between the ToT and the general awareness raising group. The latter, especially had less expectations on how to influence the policy process, but more on gaining tools to enhance their current jobs, e.g., modules on NFMS, FREL, safeguards, stakeholder engagement, governance.
- Overall, both trainings were well-received with useful recommendations for improvement: facilitators to provide more critical feedback for the results of the breakout groups; designing more interactive sessions; more examples from countries with similar contexts.

#### 9.d Expected Outputs

- National Workshop on REDD+ safeguards report
- Country approach to safeguards roadmap

#### 10. Key counterparts

- UNDP CO – Niamh Collier-Smith, Nawaraj Chhetri

#### 11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Review national workshop on REDD+ safeguards report	Elina, Thomas, Jen, Celina	Completed
Review country approach to safeguards roadmap prepared by national consultant	Elina, Thomas, Jen, Celina	November 2015

#### 12. Distribution list

UNDP UN-REDD, UNDP CO – Niamh Collier-Smith, Nawaraj Chhetri