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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: 26 to 29 October 2015

3. Type of mission: Capacity building and technical backstopping

4. Clients

UNDP CO – Lat Lat Aye, Saw Doh Wah

PMU – Peter Iversen (Start-up Advisor), Khin Hnin Myint (National Programme Coordinator), Aung Kyi (Communications Officer)

5. Purpose of mission

- a) Deliver capacity building through Myanmar REDD+ Academy on Day 5 for modules 11: Stakeholder Engagement, and 12: Good Governance
- b) Provide guidance to the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Stakeholder Engagement and Safeguards
- c) Work Planning for the remainder of 2015 and 2016

6. Documents, materials, resources

7. Mission members

Celina Yong

8. Costs

UNDP/UN-REDD global budget

9. Brief summary of the mission

9.a Background

As the Programme prepares to support Myanmar through an upcoming National Programme, it was imperative that key stakeholders have good knowledge of REDD+ under the UNFCCC, develop the skills and abilities to engage in the readiness phase to develop an equitable and efficient national REDD+ strategy. It was timely as Myanmar is receiving multiple support in its REDD+ initiatives. As experiences from other countries have shown, there is often a misunderstanding between a national vis-à-vis a project approach. The REDD+ Academy has been designed to develop capacity in REDD+ for the former.

9.b Main Findings

a) The lack of fluency in English and basic familiarity with REDD+ are some barriers to a sound capacity building through the REDD+ Academy

In spite of efforts to ensure the right participants attend the train-the-trainers (ToT) event, there were still challenges which resulted in different levels of learning at the end of the event. While overall feedback was positive, some expressed disappointment at not being able to participate fully as they were not able to express themselves in English. A few expressed uncertainty over their roles as trainers in the future, mainly due to securing official approval but reassurance was given by the REDD+ Office. Moreover, not all the participants are existing trainers, and while they may be adequate to transfer knowledge about REDD+, it is not certain that they will be able to build skills and abilities in REDD+. This is a limitation as selection of participants by national counterparts are often decided even when a preferred set of criteria for trainers has been shared.

b) Members of the TWG on Stakeholder Engagement and Safeguards have not been officially nominated

At least 80% of the unofficial TWG members are new, with only 2 organisations: EcoDev and POINT, having joined as members of the initial that was involved in the roadmap process. While the government representatives wait for official nomination, civil society members are keen to participate and contribute. Not surprisingly, civil society members emphasise that local communities should be involved, and if possible at the TWG level. However, caution was raised against creating undue expectations of the roles local communities can play in addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, while the scope and scale are yet to be determined.

In a related point, the Government of Myanmar had signed the national ceasefire agreement with 8 out of 15 armed rebel groups. However, the detailed work of dividing roles and responsibilities between federal and state governments have only just begun. Now

that a national ceasefire agreement is in place, it will be useful to explore more closely with CO how further collaboration can take place between the Programme and its peacebuilding initiatives.

9.c *Expected Outputs*

- Concept Notes for (i) Competency Framework; (ii) Institutional Capacity Building Needs Assessment; (iii) Grievance Redress Mechanism.

10. Key counterparts

- UNDP CO – Lat Lat Aye, Saw Doh Wah
- PMU – Peter Iversen, Khin Hnin Myint, Aung Kyi

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Develop concept notes for (i) Competency Framework; (ii) Institutional Capacity Building Needs Assessment; (iii) Grievance Redress Mechanism	Celina	30 November
Discuss with CO regarding programs to support peace process, and collaboration with the Programme	Celina	On-going

12. Distribution list

UNDP UN-REDD, UNDP CO – Lat Lat Aye, Saw Doh Wah, Khin Hnin Myint