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Title Regional Stakeholder Engagement Specialist

Date submitted 19 September 2014

1. Practice area: BDP/EEG

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)

From: 14 to: 18 September

3. Type of mission: Technical backstopping

4. Clients

UNDP CO – Napoleon Navarro (DCD), Moeko Saito-Jensen (Programme Analyst), Ngin Navirak (SGP NC)

PMU – HE Chea Sam Ang (National Programme Director), Anupam Bhatia (CTA), Lun Kimhy (Coordinator), Heang Thy (Communications Officer)

5. Purpose of mission

To assist the RTS to ensure the CG and Gender Group function effectively; to follow up with CBR+ Country Plan development; to mobilise implementation of first targeted support funding (\$10,000).

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

The REDD+ Consultation Group (CG), established through a self-selection process in August 2013, was designed as a platform to represent and provide civil society input to the REDD+ Taskforce (TF) in the development and implementation of a national REDD+ strategy. It has faced challenges in galvanising collective feedback from each of the stakeholder groups, thereby impairing its ability to provide substantive feedback to the TF. Operationalising the information flow and feedback mechanisms particularly for the 3 community networks (Community Forestry, Community Fisheries, and Community Protected Areas) and Indigenous Peoples is a priority.

Cambodia is one of the pilot countries for Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+). The CO has prepared a 'draft zero' of the CBR+ Country Plan, and is currently waiting for the NSC to select a national NGO or consultant to get it ready for national validation.

The Gender Group met for the first time and successfully reviewed its ToR.

9.b Main Findings

- CG
 - The 7th CG meeting on 15 September was a first step towards ensuring members are well-informed and have an opportunity to exchange ideas to overcome challenges.
 - Leadership within the CG remains weak, with the current Chair unable or unwilling to galvanise the experiences and expertise within its membership to play a more strategic role in the national REDD+ readiness processes. However, several CG members have started calling the Chair be more accountable. Peer monitoring within the CG should be encouraged.
 - Recognising that the 3 community networks and IP constituencies needed more financial and administrative support to operationalise their information flow and feedback mechanisms, the remaining CG representatives discussed available options under CBR+ to strengthen their roles as CG members.
 - Key messages relayed included the need to form stronger networks among CG representatives, and preparation to submit proposals for CBR+ grants.
 - Worked with RTS to design further capacity support as well as to operationalize the mechanisms for the 3 community networks and IP constituencies.
- CBR+ Country Plan (CP)
 - Recruitment of a national NGO or consultant to prepare "draft zero" of the CP for national validation was delayed due to

insufficient response during the first round of advertisement. The extension in the recruitment process resulted in 5 applications.

- Attended the NSC meeting on 18 September where all 5 applicants presented their proposals before the NSC.
- Two organizations were shortlisted, with the leading candidate approved with condition: reduce personnel costs, increase and expand sub-national consultations, and strict adherence to deadlines. The target is to have an approved CP by early December 2014.
- Gender Group
 - The group held its first meeting on 12 September where they were introduced to the Cambodia REDD+ Programme.
 - While generally familiar with the concept of gender, ensuing discussions revealed a lack of confidence in the linkage between gender and REDD+.
 - A proposed second meeting on 30 September aims to finalize the action plan and start developing key messages as part of its orientation for the Task Force, CG and Technical Teams. A brief of the draft national REDD+ strategy and key messages extracted from the Communications Strategy will be shared with the group.
 - The third meeting, at end of October, subject to confirmation, will see the GG finalizing its key messages and presentations for the orientation.
 - It was agreed with the Communications Officer that the global gender expert, Beth and the regional SES will provide technical guidance in the coming meetings, whether remotely or in person, schedules permitting.
- Mobilise TS implementation
 - The implementation of the first TS (\$10,000) to support the 3 community networks and IP constituencies was put on hold due to the delay in completing the Consultation and Participation Plan.
 - This support will be used to identify further capacity building needs of the 4 constituencies through 4 sub-national workshops by reconvening participants who attended the 6 provincial and 2 national trainings conducted by RECOFTC. The ToT structure that was established by RECOFTC will be used for further awareness raising and operationalising the information flow and feedback mechanisms.
 - In the meantime, detailed action plan for the second TS (\$40,000) is near finalization, pending input from IP CG representatives regarding potential participants and venues at the district or village levels.

9.c Bilateral Discussions

- HE Chea Sam Ang, NPD
 - Concerned that the CG is not fulfilling its full potential or adequately meeting its mandate.
 - Agreed in principle with the approach to strengthen the capacity of the 3 community networks and IP. He also suggested a LoA with a national NGO who will assist the IP, CF, CFi and CPA CG representatives to organize future sub-national consultations and events.
 - Emphasised that training materials and key messages to these groups must be consistent and aligned with the national REDD+ objectives.
 - Indicated willingness to support international and national NGOs, and CSO to strengthen their networks in order to better function as CG members.
 - Disappointed that the MAFF CBR+ NSC member has not been attending the meetings, and requested ways for an FA official to be designated an alternate.
- Napoleon Navarro, DCD
 - A robust stakeholder engagement process is critical in mitigating potential disputes. Emphasised that the CG needs to be further empowered so that representatives have the ability and confidence to raise substantive issues, especially during the consultation process for the draft national REDD+ strategy. While support to the 3 community networks and the IP is on-going, there must also be similar measures for the NGO and CSO representatives.
 - Upcoming dispute resolution mechanism consultancy needs to provide concrete recommendations as to how existing national mechanisms or systems can be strengthened: link commune to district to province to national. To a lesser extent, and less preferable is a mechanism limited to REDD+ only. The goal is a *prakas* that clearly identifies where disputes should be channelled, and what measures are in place to address them.
 - Suggested a separate but complementary consultancy to conduct a more detailed legal review of Cambodian law. The objective is to ensure the proposed recommendations for dispute resolution mechanism are legally grounded.
 - Cambodian IP representatives need to be linked to regional IP networks for greater exposure to the challenges and solutions other IP groups face in REDD+. A potential activity is a networking workshop, funded by the global programme, between the new Asia-Pacific CSO and IP Policy Board representatives and the national CSO and IP Programme Executive Board members.
- Ngin Navirak, SGP NC

- Follow up with the Minister of MAFF to discuss either a replacement or an alternate for HE Huot Bunnary in the CBR+ NSC.
- Will contact the RTS to provide an orientation to SGP and CBR+ NSC members regarding REDD+ in the country before the CP is validated.
- Teng Rithiny, NGO Forum
 - Recognising that the CG is not making full use of its opportunities to provide focused and strategic recommendations to the Task Force, Rithiny and Yeang Donal (national and international NGO CG representatives respectively) have decided to play more visible roles to support the Chair.
 - Discussions focused on the importance to ensure CG members have sufficient capacity to understand technical aspects of REDD+ while operationalizing the mechanisms. However, the more established networks; national and international NGO, CSO constituencies; should also complement the efforts of the RTS.
 - Urged Rithiny to encourage CG members to form stronger network among themselves, particularly in the funding opportunities presented through CBR+.

9.d Expected Output

- Approved concept note to further strengthen capacity of the 3 community networks and IP constituencies, and operationalise the information flow and feedback mechanisms.

10. Key counterparts

- UNDP CO – Napoleon Navarro, Moeko Saito Jensen, Ngjin Navirak
- PMU – HE Chea Sam Ang (NPD), Anupam Bhatia (CTA), Lun Kimhy (Coordinator), Thy Heang (Communications Officer)

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
Prepare materials for the GG	Beth/Celina	Before 2 nd GG meeting on 30 September
Revise concept note.	Celina	Done
Identify solutions to MAFF's representation in the CBR+ NSC	Ngjin Navirak	Before next CBR+ NSC meeting

12. Distribution list

UNDP UN-REDD, Napoleon Navarro, Moeko Saito Jensen.