|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMEBDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY Date: 4th April 2013 | | | | UNDP_Logo-Blue w TaglineBlue-ENG.png |
| Name Estelle Fach, UN-REDD/UNDP | | | |
| **Approved Mission Itinerary:**  Kathmandu – Dhaka- Geneva | |  | | |
| Inclusive Travel Dates: | | **Key counterpart(s) in each location:** | | |
| 26 March – 2 April and 4 April-8 April 8 April |  | Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh   * Country office colleagues, environment (Alamgir Hossain, Tarik ul-Islam) and governance teams * Haradhan Banik, UN-REDD focal point, Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forests * Dr Danesh Miah, national consultant * Workshop participants (see list in draft report [here](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10158&Itemid=53)) | | |
| **Purpose/Objectives of Mission**  To initiate the targeted support on the “REDD+ Integrity Study” through training the national consultant, meeting with key stakeholders in the government, academia and civil society, to ensure the overall quality and soundness of the approaches and methodologies and gather consensus on the objectives, scope and methodology for the study | | | | |
| **Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings**  A number of meetings were held to 1) raise awareness about the REDD+ integrity study 2) gather initial substantive inputs and 3) gather consensus about the usefulness of the study and buy-in from key stakeholders.  **Meetings (**Note: some sensitive details are available upon request)  ***With national consultant (recruitment to be finalized)***   * The consultant has limited knowledge on governance issues, but strong knowledge of forest sector, in particular in Chittagong   ***With academic partner (BRAC University, Arannayq Foundation)***   * The selection of participants in the social forestry programme has not always been transparent. Sometimes those rights are bought from the poor for a small sum. There is no rule to define who is a legitimate beneficiary (for example how long must they have occupied the land?) * The Forestry Department attitude towards openness has improved. This is due to the newer generation. * The Transparency International Bangladesh report highlights that the forest department is far from the only ones corrupt. The media is also involved. * BRAC governance department keen on engaging with us   ***With NGO Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)***   * The government in its election manifesto is acknowledging that corruption is a top 5 priority (actually in 3rd position) * The RTI Act us not working well but represents a huge opportunity * The Anti corruption commission is politically controlled * TIB is not working on REDD+ and is considering whether to continue its work on climate finance, but very willing to support and contribute to study * TIB is keen on the idea of creating a separate initiative to track process of climate financing. This would be done by an independent body with ownership by the government. This idea has been recognized by DFID and the World Bank. * Use of social accountability tools citizen report cards, budget tracking, open budget processes that TIB is working on (supported by the World Bank) could be used in REDD+   ***With Chief Conservator of Forests and REDD focal point***   * In general, little openness about governance issues, aside from participation. * Important to have initial recommendations in time for the presentation at the Policy Board in June.   ***With UNDP CO Director and Governance* *Team***   * Need to foster political will at the high level * Important to support the justice system * Important to involve planning commission and Ministry of finance people * The Human Rights Commission could be a good entry point. They have not picked up on the theme of anti-corruption, but are good at advocacy * TIB is a valid partner, but has come under personal attacks after the release of its last report.   **Stakeholder consultation workshop on the REDD+ Integrity study**  The summary of the meeting is available [here](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10158&Itemid=53). Participants agreed to constitute a resource group that would provide feedback at different points throughout the development of the study  **Event about the REDD readiness roadmap**  During the event held on 7 April, a presentation on integrity in REDD+ was provided  **Additional considerations and recommendations**   * It is recommended that, together with the environment team, the UNDP CO governance team advises the national consultant. Recommendations could be developed for example building on the lessons learned in the Access to Information and local governance programmes * Three outputs for the targeted support work on anti-corruption: 1) summary key findings of the study to be produced so that Bangladesh can table it for information at PB11 in June 2013) full study to inform the development of the R-PP (September) and 3) summary table of how/where the study recommendations have been integrated in the R-PP * The two TS studies (anti-corruption and social impacts) need to be coordinated and possibly co-packaged to i) leverage consultant time and knowledge and ii) minimize the potential controversy about the integrity study | | | | |
| Follow up actions:  * Country office to finalize recruitment of consultant and schedule * Country office to coordinate alignment with social impact study * Estelle to provide regular inputs and feedback into the consultant’s work, including interview questionnaire, formulation of online survey etc | | | **Distribution List:**  Country office team in Dhaka  Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA  UN-REDD Global team  Timothy Boyle, UN-REDD Bangkok  Celina (Kin Yii) Yong, UN-REDD Bangkok  UNDP PACDE Team  *Note that the BTOR will also be place on the UN-REDD workspace, access restricted to UN staff* | |