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| UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**BUREAU FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY (BDP)** | MISSION REPORT SUMMARY**Date: 8 Nov. 2012** |
| **Name:** Silje Haugland | EEG | **Phone :** +41-212-906- 5190 | **Travel Authorization #:**  |
| **Approved Mission Itinerary:**New York-Kinshasa-Brazzaville-New York | **List of Annexes**: * Presentation held at the [Information Session on Gender](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8634&Itemid=53) 25 October
* Presentation held at the ninth [Policy Board 27 October](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8544&Itemid=53)
* [The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+ report](http://unredd.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1151:-integrating-gender-considerations-in-redd&catid=98:general), distributed in Kinshasa and at the events in Brazzaville (also available in [French](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=6968&Itemid=53)and [Spanish](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_details&gid=6832&Itemid=53))
* [Supporting document](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8368&Itemid=53) which outlines some ways to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment principles into UN-REDD’s work and REDD+ strategies, distributed both in Kinshasa and at the events in Brazzaville (also available in [French](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8415&Itemid=53) and [Spanish](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8374&Itemid=53))
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| **Inclusive Travel Date**21-28 October 2012 | **Key counterparts in location*** **In Kinshasa:** Members of the National Thematic Coordination group on gender and rural organization (“Coordination Thématique Politique genre, organisation paysanne et locale (CT 14)”); Rubin Rashidi (UNEP/UNDP); and colleagues in the Coordination Nationale (CN-REDD), including Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, Leslie Ouarzazi, Bruno Hugel, and others.
* **In Brazzaville:** Members and participants at the ninth UN-REDD Policy Board meeting, working particularly with Elizabeth Eggerts and Solange Bandiaky from the UNDP Gender Team and Albertine Ebengo from the National Thematic Coordination group on gender and rural organization (“Coordination Thématique Politique genre, organisation paysanne et locale (CT 14)”) to prepare for the Information Session on Gender on 25 October and the presentation at the Policy Board 27 October. Additional meetings and informal conversations were held with colleagues, government representatives and stakeholders.
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| **Purpose/Objective of Mission:** **The mission was in two parts;**1. **Mission to Kinshasa;** where the main objective was to follow up on the UNDP Targeted Support to the National Thematic Coordination group on gender and rural organization (“Coordination Thématique Politique genre, organisation paysanne et locale (CT 14) »), and also to meet with colleagues in CN-REDD and discuss safeguards work and other developments.
2. **Mission to Brazzaville;** where the main objective was to attend and participate in the UN-REDD Policy Board, and organize an informal Information Session on Gender on 25 October, and a presentation about the UN-REDD Programme’s work on gender equality and women’s empowerment on 27 October, in addition to meeting up with colleagues, government representatives and stakeholders in other countries.
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| **Summary of Mission Findings:**1. **Kinshasa mission:**
2. **Meeting with « Coordination Thématique Politique genre, organisation paysanne et locale (CT 14) »**
* The CT 14 group has approximately 30 members from different ministries, civil society and NGOs, and the private sector.
* Rubin Rashidi is the UN focal point facilitating the support to this group (including the UNDP Targeted Support).
* The meeting was well attended and members were active in expressing their views on women’s role in REDD+ in DRC.
* The members were very positive to receiving technical support to their work.
* Representatives from the group presented the CT’s work so far, and I presented UN-REDD’s work on gender and REDD+ and distributed reports and resource materials (see list of annexes above).
* The CT discussed REDD+ developments in DRC and how the CT’s work can support the integration of gender considerations in national REDD+ policy. The group also discussed how to ensure best use of Targeted Support budget and minimize delays in the implementation of activities.
* The members of the CT expressed hope that the funds would be delivered in a timely manner, seeing that the situation in DRC is very dynamic.
1. **Meetings with Coordination Nationale REDD (CN-REDD)**
* Informal bilateral meeting with Leslie Ouarzazi to discuss the latest REDD+ developments in DRC, such as in relation to the REDD+ fund, the system to address and respect safeguards, and the dynamics between the standards, the register, the SIS, the role of civil society, etc.
* Several talks with Rubin Rashidi, the focal point for facilitating the Targeted Support to the « Coordination Thématique Politique genre, organisation paysanne et locale (CT 14) », as well as for the development of SIS and other work. Separate meeting specifically on the environmental and social standards and the development of SIS.
* Informal meetings with Tosi Mpanu Mpanu to discuss the REDD+ developments in DRC and how the UN-REDD Programme is providing support to DRC, specifically with regards to the Targeted Support to the « Coordination Thématique Politique genre, organisation paysanne et locale (CT 14) ».
* Informal meeting with Rubin Rashidi and Albertine Ebengo, a civil society representative from the DRC National Thematic Coordination group on gender and rural organization (“Coordination Thématique Politique genre, organisation paysanne et locale (CT 14)”), chosen by the CT to present the group’s work to the Policy Board meeting in Brazzaville. Developed the presentation jointly.
1. **Brazzaville** **mission:**
2. **Information session on Gender, 25 October;**
* [The Information Session on Gender](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8634&Itemid=53) was moderated by Charles McNeill.
* Veerle Vandeweerd held an introductory speech, followed by presentations from Elizabeth Eggerts, Solange Bandiaky, and myself.
* The Session was held on one of the pre-meeting days of the Policy Board and was informal in nature.
* The Session was very well attended, with approximately 75 participants, including governments, civil society and UN agencies.
* Participants shared experiences from different countries and discussed how integration of gender considerations in REDD+ can strengthen the efficiency, efficacy and sustainability of REDD+.

**Presentation at the Policy Board, 27 October;*** A [presentation about UN-REDD’s gender work](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8544&Itemid=53) was held at the Policy Board 27 October.
* The presentation was in two parts: First, I presented the UN-REDD Programme’s work on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Presentation included references to the relevant international framework, such as UNFCCC guidance on gender, and outlined the main achievements under the UN-REDD Programme. Secondly, Albertine Ebengo, a civil society representative from the DRC National Thematic Coordination group on gender and rural organization (“Coordination Thématique Politique genre, organisation paysanne et locale (CT 14)”), presented the country’s work to integrate gender considerations and women’s empowerment into the National REDD+ Strategy. Ms Ebengo stressed the central role of women in sustainable management of forests and the importance of including women to ensure the success of REDD+.
* A [supporting document](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8368&Itemid=53) which outlines some ways to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment principles into UN-REDD’s work and REDD+ strategies had been posted online and was shared with participants.
* Feedback from the Policy Board: The Board strongly appreciated the Programme’s increased focus on gender. Gender analysis was considered critical in the development of REDD+ strategies, and Viet Nam noted that it has included gender analysis in its readiness work. The Board stressed that women have unique knowledge and dependency on forests and are often among the first to be affected by forest degradation and deforestation. Participants also highlighted the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous women, including in seeking FPIC, and that the most effective entry points for gender-responsive activities should be carefully considered. A number of countries, such as Nigeria, Panama, PNG, Sudan, Viet Nam as well as an indigenous peoples’ representative expressed their support for the integration of gender considerations into REDD+ during the discussion session. Norway was encouraged in seeing countries implementing gender considerations and looks forward to seeing this work progress.
1. **Additional meetings and conversations:**
* Discussions with colleagues, government representatives and stakeholders in countries. A number of individuals took initiative to bilateral conversations and meetings, both government representatives, IP representatives and civil society members.
* Discussions with Norway on gender/REDD+.
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| **Recommendations / Action to be Taken:**Make [announcement on the UN-REDD workspace](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1408:-un-redd-policy-board-gives-emphasis-to-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-in-redd&catid=98:general) and on [Teamworks](https://undp.unteamworks.org/node/285454) and possibly on the UN-REDD webpage about the gender events at the Policy BoardStay in contact and provide technical support to the “Coordination Thématique Politique genre, organisation paysanne et locale (CT 14)” in DRCStay in contact with CN-REDD colleagues in DRC and provide technical support to the National REDD+ Strategy (stratégie-cadre) under developmentSeek swift access to TS funds Share the latest developments on safeguards and SIS in DRC with UNDP members of the safeguards coordination group Continue to move forward with the work to strengthen integration of gender considerations in UN-REDD supported REDD+ readiness processes Stay in touch with gender focal points in Norway as they strongly supported this workFacilitate linkages/interaction between the UN-REDD global mainstreaming work and the persons involved in regional and national level gender workStay in contact with and provide technical support to individuals who were particularly interested in contributing to the community of practice on gender and REDD+. (This could include persons such as Cecile Ndjebet, President, The African Women’s Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF); Odigha Odigha, Chief Executive, Forestry Commission Headquarters, Nigeria; Pasang Dolma Sherpa, National Coordinator, NEFIN, Nepal, The Center for People and Forests and Dr. Mey Eltayeb Ahmed, Government of Sudan, as well as others.) Consider how lessons learned and success stories on REDD+ and gender equality and women’s empowerment can be shared among stakeholders in different countries and regions. The considerable participation among participants in the Gender Information Session at the Policy Board indicated a strong interest for this.   | **Distribution:** * UNDP / UN-REDD global team
* UNDP Gender Team colleagues
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