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|  | BACK-TO-OFFICE REPORT  REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC |

**Reporting Officer:** Ben Vickers, Regional Programme Officer (UN-REDD)

**Country Visited:** Pakistan

**Dates:** 16-22nd February 2013

**Purpose of Visit:** REDD+ Readiness Roadmap Strategy Development

**Project/program:** UN-REDD FOMDD.TF5C350211682

**Date of Report:** 18th March 2013

**Executive Summary:** This officer conducted a mission to Islamabad, Pakistan to co-organise and facilitate the official initiation of the Pakistan REDD+ Readiness Roadmap process. The mission followed the approval of a request for UN-REDD Targeted Support for the Roadmap process and included discussions with key national partners, including Office of the Inspector General of Forests (IGF), ICIMOD, WWF, civil society organisations and academia in order to determine appropriate arrangements for the Roadmap process over the coming months. The Roadmap launching workshop on 21st February was organized successfully, yielding agreement among representatives from government and non-government stakeholders, from all six provinces, on the structure and roles of four multi-stakeholder working groups to develop content for the Roadmap. This mission also served to introduce Eveline Trines, the international consultant recruited to coordinate the Roadmap process, to national stakeholders.

**Key words:** UN-REDD, Pakistan, REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, IGF, One UN JPE, ICIMOD, WWF

**Operational clearance:** …………………………………………………………………………………………….

Maria SanzSanchez;

**Approving Officer:** …………………………………………………………

Patrick B. Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, Asia and Pacific (On behalf of Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)

**Date**…………………………………………………………

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Registry (PR )

# Main Activity: Support to Pakistan REDD+ Readiness Roadmap process

### Background:

This mission followed directly from an earlier mission by the same officer in November 2012, the development of a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap work plan with in-country partners led by ICIMOD, and approval of a Targeted Support request by the Office of the Inspector General of Forests (OIGF) for support to implement this work plan. This work builds on the achievements of the ‘Pakistan REDD+ Preparedness project’ since May 2012, funded by the One UN Joint Programme on the Environment (JPE) and implemented by ICIMOD and WWF Pakistan on behalf of the OIGF.

This officer worked with ICIMOD and OIGF to identify an international consultant, Eveline Trines, and develop her ToR for coordination of the Roadmap process. The ToR drew on past experience of UN-REDD Roadmap development, particularly in Bangladesh and Myanmar. As part of the negotiations between FAO/UN-REDD and the One UN JPE, Ms Trine’s initial contract will be covered by the Pakistan REDD+ Preparedness project, not the TS funds. This mission was planned as her introduction to the Roadmap process, and the key stakeholders involved, and to conduct a national workshop to launch the Roadmap process. ICIMOD and WWF Pakistan prepared the schedule for the mission and the logistical arrangements for the workshop. FAOR Pakistan provided essential transport and security facilities, office space and logistical support for this officer and Ms Trines.

### Mission Objective:

To conduct a national Roadmap launching workshop, to initiate multi-stakeholder discussions on Roadmap strategy and to orient the international consultant.

### Mission Account:

The mission began with a brunch meeting with FAO representative Kevin Gallagher. Wazeem Farooq, who was previously assigned as the national FAO counterpart for the REDD+ Roadmap process, is no longer in his former position and Mr Gallagher will now take over this function.

Subsequently, a meeting at ICIMOD country office with Mohammad Sohail, the One UN JPE project coordinator and Dr Wahid Jasra, ICIMOD country representative, was held to develop a draft Letter of Agreement (LoA) between FAO and ICIMOD as the disbursement mechanism for the UN-REDD Targeted Support funds. On Monday, this officer participated in the FAO Pakistan office weekly staff meeting and joined Mr Sohail in meetings at the OIGF to finalise the strategy and invitations for the national workshop. This was followed by a meeting at the One UN JPE office to discuss the coordination of their project (which is due to conclude in May 2013) and ongoing activities through UN-REDD Targeted Support.

Ms Trines arrived early morning of Wednesday 20th and joined this officer for a security briefing at FAO country office before visiting ICIMOD for final planning for the national workshop and the rest of her mission schedule. The afternoon was taken up with a briefing and discussion session with senior officials from the MoCC, chaired by the OIGF.

The national REDD+ Roadmap launching workshop was conducted from 09:00 to 17:00 on Thursday 21st, according to the agenda attached. The programme began late but concluded on time, with lively question and answer sessions and highly constructive group work. A dinner was organized in the evening to allow for stocktaking of the workshop outcomes, involving OIGF, ICIMOD, WWF, Ms Trines and One UN JPE.

Ms Trines’ programme of introductory meetings began on Friday 22nd with a morning appointment with the Aga Khan Foundation, followed by a meeting with the Rural Support Programme Network. An earlier meeting with the SDPI, an NGO which is currently the elected representative of Asia-Pacific CSOs on the UN-REDD Policy Board, was cancelled due to unavailability of their senior staff. A lunch meeting and debrief with the FAOR was followed by an afternoon appointment with forestry academic staff of the University of Arid Agriculture in Rawalpindi. A debrief and planning session in the FAO country office with Mr Sohail and Ms Trines, from 16:00 – 18:30, was followed by a dinner meeting with Mr Gulnajam Jamy of UNDP Pakistan to discuss potential coordination between the Roadmap process and an upcoming UNDP GEF project. After this officer returned to Bangkok on evening of Friday 21st, Ms Trines continued her mission until Wednesday 26th.

### Summary of Outcomes:

The LoA and annex was broadly agreed, based on the decision of FAO to divide the request of USD 109,000 between the years 2013 and 2014. An LoA of 59,000, covering completion of the Roadmap development process and MRV Action Plan, including national consultation. Approval of OIGF, ICIMOD HQ and signature of FAOR Pakistan is pending.

One UN JPE are exploring the potential extension of the REDD+ Preparedness project contract with ICIMOD for several months beyond the current end date of 3rd May 2013. Ms Trines’ current contract with One UN JPE is bound by this date, which is insufficient to complete the objectives outlined in her ToR. One UN JPE requested Mr Sohail to write two justification letters; one to justify the extension of the current project deadline in order to allow Ms Trines to complete her work, and a second for a new phase of the REDD+ Preparedness project. This new phase would concentrate on ‘administrative’ costs, including the salaries of Mr Sohail and Mr Mohammed Ibrahim Khan of WWF Pakistan as core project staff. In combination with the UN-REDD TS funds, this would allow both Mr Sohail and Mr Ibrahim to continue in full-time work on REDD+ Readiness activities until at least the end of 2013.

Ms Trines’ expertise was highly appreciated by the OIGF and MoCC staff and her engagement bodes well for the future success of efforts to complete the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap.

The national REDD+ Roadmap launching workshop included representatives of all six Pakistani provinces and over 70 participants in all. This was much more successful than anticipated, after the bombing of a Shia community in Quetta on 16th February, killing 94, led to nationwide protests and blocking of roads and airports. The level of interest and enthusiasm was very encouraging.

This officer made two presentations (on REDD+ background, and on UN-REDD, both attached), and led introductions to the breakout group discussions, facilitating the group on ‘Policy and Governance’. This group was recommended in addition to the three groups established in Bangladesh and Myanmar (MRV; Stakeholders and Safeguards; Drivers and Strategies), in the light of the particularly difficult governance context in Pakistan resulting from the decentralization of forestry and other sectors from the central to provincial level in 2011.

Misunderstandings of the nature of REDD+ continue as a result of further development of forestry VCM projects. Two more agreements have been signed between VCM developers and provincial forest authorities since the last mission in November 2012.

The group discussions yielded constructive suggestions on the draft ToRs, work plans and membership of the four working groups, which will be developed further by Ms Trines and ratified at the first WG meetings, scheduled for the second half of March 2013.

The Aga Khan Foundation is a potentially crucial internal investor in REDD+ Readiness, particularly in the Khan’s home province of Gilgit Baltistan in the north. The Foundation’s current understanding of forest carbon issues is coloured by the VCM. Contact should be maintained, and the possibility was raised of holding the national Roadmap consultation workshop (scheduled for mid-June 2013) in Gilgit, partly in order to promote the potential for investment.

The Rural Support Programme Network represents a number of different ventures to establish local-level microfinance and development institutions across Pakistan. These networks offer a promising channel for negotiating local-level agreements for pilot demonstration activities under REDD+ Readiness, piloting FPIC approaches, and many other opportunities. The forestry staff at the University of Arid Agriculture have already initiated work on allometric equations for forest tree species in Pakistan, and are seeking ideas for MSC student theses.

UNDP has proceeded further with their GEF 5 PIF to access the SFM/REDD window under GEF 5. They will engage a consultant to complete the job from March to May 2013. Ms Trines should coordinate with him.

### Follow-up:

* Finalise draft Working Group ToRs, plan and hold first WG meetings during March 2013
* Finalise LoA with ICIMOD, in consultation with OIGF
* Second mission of Ms Trines, to cover WG meetings and provincial workshops, in April 2013
* Coordination with UNDP APRC and UNDP Pakistan consultant during GEF PIF preparation
* Text, photos and material for UN-REDD Programme Pakistan country page

### Attached documents:

* National REDD+ Roadmap launching workshop agenda
* Draft LoA and Annex between FAO and ICIMOD
* Final draft Roadmap work plan, budget and timeline

## Mission itinerary

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| **Date** | **Description** |
| 16th Feb, Saturday | 23:00: Arrive in Islamabad |
| 17th Feb, Sunday | 10:00: Brunch with FAOR  12:00 – 15:00: Briefing at ICIMOD office, review of draft LoA |
| 18th Feb, Monday | 10:00: FAO Pakistan office team meeting  11:00 – 14:30: Meetings with IGF, Ministry of Climate Change  15:00 – 16:00: Meeting with One UN JPE |
| 19th Feb, Tuesday | Teleworking, FAO Pakistan office |
| 20th Feb, Wednesday | 08:30 – 09:00: Security briefing with Eveline, FAO office  09:30 – 11:00: Strategic planning, ICIMOD country office  13:30 – 16:00: MoCC meeting |
| 21st Feb, Thursday | 09:00 – 17:00: Roadmap launching workshop  19:00: Reception dinner |
| 22nd Feb, Friday | 10:30 – 11:30: Aga Khan Foundation  12:00 – 13:00: Rural Support Programme Network  13:00 – 13:30: Lunch with FAOR  14:30 – 15:30: University of Arid Agriculture, Forestry staff  16:00 – 18:00: Debrief in FAO office  18:30 – 19:30: Meeting with Gulnajam Jamy, UNDP  23:00: Return to Bangkok |