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| UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMEBDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY Date: 27 November 2012 | | | | | UNDP_Logo-Blue w TaglineBlue-ENG.png |
| Name Kimberly Todd | | | **Tel No.** + 1 212 906-5686 | |
| **Approved Mission Itinerary:**  New York –Rome– Cambridge-New York | | **Documents/Resources**:   * CD-REDD workshop/training event page: <http://cdredd.org/content/2012#booknode-254> (includes links to presentations) * UN-REDD Presentation on National Approaches to Safeguards (powerpoint file attached to email)  Agriculture and Land Use (ALU) National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Software: <http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/ALUsoftware/index.html>  * UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) training materials (includes ALU Software): http://unfccc.int/national\_reports/non-annex\_i\_natcom/training\_material/methodological\_documents/items/349.php * UNEP workshop page on UN-REDD workspace (includes all presentations): http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com\_docman&task=cat\_view&gid=2649&Itemid=53 | | | |
| Inclusive Travel Dates: | | **Key counterpart(s):** | | | |
| 3 Nov. – 16 Nov. 2012 |  | -Rome: FAO (Adam, Maria); CD-REDD technical team (Coalition for Rainforest Nations, vTi); GHG inventory experts from UN-REDD participant countries (Nigeria, Zambia, Guyana)  - Cambridge: UNEP WCMC; other Un-REDD colleagues in attendance (HQ and regional); country representatives | | | |
| **Purpose/Objectives of Mission:**  **Rome:**   1. Participate in opening and closing days of the CD-REDD regional data processing workshop (and deliver welcome/opening statements) with the main objective to have up-to-date knowledge of the CD-REDD approach to GHG inventory capacity-building as well as the status of the countries’ inventory work under this initiative. 2. Participate in ALU training for FAO/UN-REDD staff in order to enhance familiarity with the ALU software and workbook and, therefore, be in a position to provide technical support to UN-REDD countries either already using or interested in using the ALU “toolbox” to preparing GHG inventories (depends on countries identifying this as an area of interest)   **Cambridge:**   1. Present on National Approaches to Safeguards during the workshop 2. Increase knowledge of portfolio of ongoing and planned work on environmental safeguards and multiple benefits being led by UNEP. 3. Building on interagency work through the safeguards group, improve understanding of the synergies between the safeguards and multiple benefits work and help to facilitate interagency work planning in this area. 4. Receive feedback by countries on key needs, to inform safeguards work planning for 2013. | | | | | |
| **Context**  ***CD-REDD Data Processing Workshop***  **Purpose of workshops/trainings:**   * The main objective was to assist the participant countries, working with the CfRN and vTi, under the CD-REDD project, to process the GHG inventory data that had previously gathered and compiled under the project (through national and regional trainings) in order to generate the GHG inventory estimates in the form of UNFCCC reporting tables, by entering the data into and running the ALU software. * In addition, based on the progress made at this workshop, countries also developed and presented workplans for 2013 to “fine-tune” their GHG inventory estimates and work on other “advanced” inventory components.   **Participants:** 2-3 GHG inventory experts from each of the following countries (UN-REDD: Guyana, Nigeria, Zambia; non UN-REDD: Dominican Republic, Liberia); UNFCCC, UN-REDD (FAO, UNDP), Colorado State University/ The ALU Group, GIZ, and CD-REDD's project team (CfRN and vTi technical experts)  ***Workshop on GHG emission calculations to support national reporting using the Agriculture and Land Use (ALU) Greenhouse Gas Inventory Software***  **Purpose of workshops/trainings:**   * Inform FAO and UNREDD staff about the ALU software as an example of the many tools for national GHG calculation and reporting for agriculture and forestry sectors. * Improve knowledge of the processes and data requirements and to assist in providing advice to support countries as part of capacity-building efforts, particularly for non-Annex I parties to the UNFCCC. * Discuss opportunities for better use of FAO data and links between systems   **Participants:** Primarily FAO staff (UN-REDD/Forestry Department, MICCA, FAO-FRA); Dr. Stephen Ogle (Colorado State University/The ALU Group); Karen Galles (ALU Group)  ***REDD+ Beyond Carbon: Safeguards and Multiple Benefits***  **Purpose of workshops/trainings:**   * Share country experiences on planning for multiple benefits and safeguard implementation, and to provide an opportunity for South-South learning. * Learn about the decision-support offered by the UN-REDD Programme. * Assist UN-REDD Programme partner countries to address multiple benefits, safeguards, and their inclusion in national REDD+ strategies. * Evaluate what further work is needed on these topics to meet national needs within the framework of the UN-REDD Programme.   **Participants:** representatives from 14 UN-REDD countries; UN HQ and regional staff; NGOs (e.g., Flora and Fauna International, WWF, ClientEarth)  **Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings:**  ***Rome: CD-REDD/ALU training***   * A number of UN-REDD countries are already using the ALU workbook and software to prepare their GHG inventories for the either the forest sector, or in some cases, for agriculture as well. In addition to those participant countries listed above, the additional CD-REDD project countries are: Ecuador, Ghana, Guyana, Suriname, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, and South Africa. Other UN-REDD countries participating in regional GHG inventory capacity-building projects (either through UNFCCC and/or US support are: PNG, Malaysia, Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, as well as Peru and Ecuador. * Dominique Revet, UNFCCC Secretariat (**Technical Support for Developing Countries, National Communications Unit),** presented to both the CD-REDD workshop as well as the ALU training for staff. The National Communications Unit of the UNFCCC Secretariat is encouraging the use of ALU because it can be used to cover all AFOLU source categories comprehensively, it’s consistent with IPCC GPG and it can be used for Tier 2 (other reporting software only capable of Tier1). The software is included in the recent update of the UNFCCC CGE compilation of training materials for development of National Communications (see link above). * In bilateral conversations with FAO as well as Dr. Ogle, it seems there are some concerns that the CD-REDD approach is not sufficient, in that the project is not prioritizing collection of robust activity data where it doesn’t already exist (encouraging “best guess” rather than facilitating expert surveys, for example). Such prioritization of activity data collection is a major element of the approach to GHG inventory capacity-building applied by the US EPA under the UNFCCC projects. In addition, there is the concern that the project is not being sufficiently embedded in the broader National Communication reporting processes in the countries. In this regard, the UN-REDD Programme, and UNDP specifically, could offer support that does help to ensure a linkage to this broader inventory work. In addition, The National Programme context under UN-REDD, in those countries where applicable, would provide a better context for this work to fit within and take it further. * CD-REDD is characterizing several components of GHG inventory work as “optional, advanced components,” including a QA/QC system, key category analysis, archiving system, etc. These are really considered essential elements of a robust, sustainable GHG inventory management system. UN-REDD can provide support on these elements, particularly through UNDP and collaboration with the Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme. This is the focus of the GHG inventory component of the UNDP LECB Programme. Related to the ongoing collaboration with the LECB Programme on GHG inventory capacity-building, I also had a meeting with Maria and Adam to start planning this area of work for 2013. I communicated interest from UNDP (after having discussed this with the LECB team) to hold a joint workshop on GHG inventories, and FAO was interested I moving forward with this approach. There was agreement, in these discussions, that the region to prioritize for such a workshop would be Africa, based on a number of factors, including the number of African LECB countries prioritizing inventory management systems in their project documents, and that the timing (targeted for first half of 2013) would be ideal for the region, given countries are not at the very start but not too advanced in regards to this area of work. * In the closing session of the CD-REDD workshop, countries presented on their progress during the week as well as 2013 workplans. Generally, the country participants did complete all or most of the UNFCCC reporting tables (the main output of the ALU software). Most of the countries are using a combination of defaults as well as some country-specific emission factors. Zambia was an exception in regards to both of these points – they are no country-specific EFs being applied (all factors are being pulled from the IPCC Emission Factor Database) and were not able to complete their reporting tables during the week. This was a bit surprising given the extent of technical support Zambia is apparently receiving on GHG inventories. Given this, it may be particularly useful to follow up with the Zambia “case study” or “test case” (described below). Another interesting highlight of the final country presentations was Guyana’s report that running the ALU software led them to discover an inconsistency with the estimates submitted in the country’s last National Communication. They stressed the need for consistency between their National Communication and REDD+ MRV work. * Generally, challenges were demonstrated in terms of institutional arrangements as well as consistency/comparability of data over time and across subnational jurisdictions. There were concrete examples presented, however, of projects and efforts underway or planned that would lead to improvements. * The 3 day training on the ALU workbook and software, organized and facilitated by Adam Gerrand, FAO NR and delivered by Dr. Steve Ogle with his ALU Group colleague, Karen Galles, provided an excellent hand-on learning opportunity covering the major functionalities of the ALU software approach, including use of the ALU excel-based workbook to compile the necessary activity data and use of the ALU software to enter data, including import of GIS data, manage data, run QA/QC, and finally generate GHG estimates for AFOLU. * On the final day, Adam Gerrand also organized a meeting for UN-REDD staff and other FAO teams with Dr. Ogle to discuss compatibility of FAO data and monitoring systems with the ALU software tool. UN-REDD Forestry team had particular interest in further work to seek compatibility between the web-based monitoring systems they are supporting countries on and ALU. The National Forest Monitoring Assessment (NFMA) and FAO-FIN teams were also represented and synergies were discussed between all of these. It was agreed that Zambia would be a good “test case” country to look at these linkages, given that it is part of UN-REDD, CD-REDD, and NFMA. In particular, it was suggested to look into whether NFMA data had been used in ALU in Zambia and other countries where there is NFMA and ALU project overlap and if not, why. There is a GHG inventory “stock-taking” meeting planned in Zambia for Feb/Mar 2013, under the UNFCCC/USEPA ALU projects so it could be good timing for such an exercise.   ***REDD+ Beyond Carbon: Safeguards and Multiple Benefits***   * Regarding the presentation I gave on national approaches to safeguards, there was particular interest in the suite of UN-REDD tools/guidelines/methodologies available or in development, and how these fit together. Given this, the initial efforts that have been made to map these to elements of a national safeguards approach can be seen as a useful one and it should be a priority to continue improving how we communicate the “package” that the Programme can offer to support country-level work on safeguards and SIS. * The workshop limited presentations in plenary and included a number of practical exercises in small breakout groups on topics such as information needs for addressing/respecting the Cancun safeguards and other related issues. These exercises were well-planned and really helped to “unpack” the Cancun safeguards and translate to practical considerations in REDD+ planning and implementation. * It was clear that maps can be very useful for facilitating REDD+ decision-making and related processes, but these need to be supplemented by sufficient context communicating what’s represented as well as the complex factors not captured on these mapping products. * It’s difficult to consider social and environmental dimensions of multiple benefits separately. The strong connection between the social and environmental dimensions of safeguards and multiple benefits was raised a number of times by participants; this was reflected in UNEP’s wrap-up of the meeting where a recognition that this will require even closer collaboration among the agencies going forward. * According to country participants, characteristics of an SIS that should be prioritized are simplicity, participatory approaches to collection of data, and harmonization/building off of existing institutions and processes operating in the country. * The lack of an international/national definitions for “natural forest” and the need to have such definitions at the country-level, in order to effectively address/respect the safeguard, was highlighted a number of times. This is already being highlighted by UNEP-WCMC in discussing their future work plans to respond to this demonstrated need. * The most appropriate national focal points for each of what could be considered the two core elements of a national approach to safeguards (addressing/respecting through policies, laws, etc. and SIS) are not necessarily the same people (mapping experts not necessarily prepared to discuss legal frameworks). This may pose a challenge, and therefore it will be useful to consider for future workshops/capacity-building efforts. * Participated in a meeting with Julie and Barney to have an initial discussion of planning safeguards group efforts and related work for 2013 (see below for specific follow-up item from that discussion). | | | | | |
| Follow up actions:  * Develop a proposed agenda for a joint UNDP LECB/UN-REDD GHG inventory workshop in Africa in early 2013 (Kim, consulting with LECB and Josep) to facilitate further discussion and decisions on whether to move forward with such an event. * Facilitate discussions within UNDP team about framing current and planned work in terms of enhancing social co-benefits. (initially raised this with team, based on this mission, but needs more discussion prior to and during UNDP team planning meeting to inform safeguards planning meeting to be held immediately after the UNDP planning meeting). * Work with UNEP to plan concrete activities in 2013, specifically the sub-regional workshops UNEP is already planning, in order to improve the integration of the social dimensions of safeguards and co-benefits with the environmental, in the Programme’s work. | | | | **Distribution List:**   * UNDP/UN-REDD * UNDP LECB HQ team * FAO: Adam, Maria | |