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1. Practice area : UN-REDD

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)

From : 16 March to : 20th March 2015

3. Type of mission :

Scoping Mission to Lusaka

4. Clients

UNDP Zambia, Zambia Department of Forestry

5. Purpose of mission

Scoping and preliminary KM Assessment

6. Documents, materials, resources

National REDD+ Strategy

7. Mission members

Ela Ionescu, Regional KM Specialist (UNDP)

Anne Martinussen, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist (UNDP)

Thais Narsisco, Associate Programme Officer (UNEP)

Philippe Crete, Forestry Officer (FAO)

8. Costs

9. Brief summary of the mission

The UN-REDD programme was finalised officially on 31st December 2014 for Zambia. Moreover, Zambia has developed a draft REDD+ Strategy, anchored on widespread stakeholder consultations, communication and knowledge management at national and provincial levels. The Strategy provides the overall vision, measures and actions to address deforestation and forest degradation. It demonstrates the country's global and national commitments to promote REDD+. The strategy provides the framework to facilitate stakeholder consultations, ensure buy-in of the strategy as well as consensus building on how to address drivers of deforestation. Given the significant progress made to date in the Zambia's implementation of the readiness programme, a UN-REDD team retreat took place from 16th to 20th March, 2015 to discuss the REDD+ strategy and how Zambia intends to transition from REDD+ strategy to implementation. It aimed to discuss how the Government envisions the future support of UN-REDD in light of the overall transitional arrangements from readiness to implementation noting the end of the UN-REDD readiness phase by 30th June, 2015. It was equally focused on reviewing and planning for programme closure arrangements. Thus, in light of the above the mission had two major objectives: 1) to participate in the UNREDD retreat to present and lead discussions on stakeholder engagement and knowledge management; 2) conduct bi-lateral consultations with government and civil society on assessing KM needs and setting up the stage for stakeholder mapping.

9.a Findings

1. The joint UNDP, FAO, UNEP mission took place to Zambia from 16th to 20th March 2015 to participate in the UNREDD retreat comprising of high-level government officials from Department of Forestry –where the UNREDD Coordination unit currently resides. During the retreat participants agreed on a common direction and appropriate approach from REDD+ readiness to implementation and the UN-REDD support to Zambia post June 2015. There were information sharing sessions on private sector engagement, FREL/FRL, MRV, stakeholder engagement, knowledge management and programme evaluation. The government had the opportunity to discuss the draft REDD+ strategy, share the vision for the future support of UN-REDD in light of the overall transitional arrangements and identify areas requiring support from the UN-REDD programme. Participants agreed on a specific timeline for the programme closure arrangements including the end of term evaluation and end of programme reporting.
2. While the REDD+ Strategy for Zambia, it is anchored in widespread stakeholder consultations, communication and knowledge management at national and provincial levels the mission provided direct support for the development of a strategy for civil society on how they can be active participants in the national REDD+ process in the coming phase. However, the success of a REDD+ program is influenced by its ability to respond to the knowledge and information needs of stakeholders, as well as its ability to capture, share and capitalize on the knowledge derived

from REDD+ implementation. Thus, Zambia National REDD+ strategy will benefit from a Knowledge Management Strategy which will provide the framework for capturing how knowledge can be addressed at the country level that can lead to the improvement of communication and knowledge sharing among REDD+ stakeholders through an emphasis on capacity-building. During the mission these two work streams were discussed at length with the government and the civil society and thus agreed that both the stakeholder engagement strategy and knowledge management strategy are planned to be completed by July 2015.

Knowledge Management :

1. KM needs assesment was conducted with the participants of the UNREDD retreat in an attempt to identify the main knowledge users as well as their needs and strengths, knowledge/information priorities and expertise in terms of knowledge and information. The discussions with government officials revolved around the lack of a culture of knowledge sharing with communities and the inability to capture knowledge derived from communities to feed into district/provincial and national level policy. Knowledge management and communication was identified as an absolute priority moving forward from readiness to implementation.
2. There were discussions around the provincial level counterparts (there are 10 provinces, and 3-4 key stakeholders Committee members responsible to the Dept of Forestry on the implementation of REDD+). It was agreed that there is a need to strengthen knowledge and communication capacities of these potential KM champions who can constitute the link between communities and national level government. This critical group of people can become the community of practice that can generate knowledge and share it on one hand from communities to Dept of Forestry and vice-versa as well sharing knowledge, challenges and solutions amongst the diferent provinces. There is a lack of formalized structure that encourages sharing of knowledge amongst actors in diferent districts/provinces and the chain of continous learning from one another is non-existent.
3. The meetings with civil society (around 20 participants) raised similar concerns- there is no knowledge feeding from communities –who are the main actors in REDD+ implementation – to higher levels in addition of a lack of a platform to share amongst themselves regular challenges faced in the process of REDD+ implementation. There is no linking between provincial level and the capital and as the concept of REDD+ is relatively new there is little information that can be shared. They hope to see more easily accessed, concise and well-targeted on what REDD+ is. And also to explain the value added of REDD+ to their respective communities.
4. In terms of next steps, an online KM survey would be send to targeted stakeholders- from government, civil society, academia and private sector. A follow- up mission to conduct a more in-depth KM assesment- one day at the provincial level and district levels with different sub-comittees to assess knowledgge and communication gaps to be able to propose targeted steps moving forward. Based on this assesment a KM strategy will be developed in sync with the stakeholder engagement strategy. Finally, a national 2-3 days capacity building workshop on KM and Communication to be conducted in June/July with the participation of KM champions from the provinces- and thus creating a knowledge sharing platform to be sustained through TS proposal.

9.b Results achieved (key outputs)

5. Participation in UNREDD retreat and contribution to discussions
6. Preliminary KM needs assesment conducted and identification of KM immediate needs.

9.c Expected outcomes and impacts

Smooth, effective and efficient delivery of Stakeholder Engagement and KM strategies by July 2015.

1. **Key counterparts:**

Lusaka: Elsie Attafuah

Lilongwe: UNDP CO: Carol Flore (DRR/P), Etta Mmangisa (Senior Program Analyst), Henry Sibanda (CC/NRM Advisor) Sarah Mcivor (Program Analyst);

Government: Stella Gamma (National REDD+ Focal Point), Alinafe Chibwana (MRP/DoF), Yoel Kirschner (MRP/DoF/USFS), REDD+ Communication Group

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
KM online survey to be sent	KM Specialist	15 th April 2015

Preparation of follow-up mission for KM assessment in the Eastern Province and preparation of National Workshop for KM Champions (province level)	KM Specialist	April/May –to be agreed upon
Provide feedback to TS proposal –related to KM and communication activities	KM specialist	May
<p>12. Distribution list: UN-REDD global: Tim Clairs, Josep Gari, Nairobi: Fabien Monteils, Elsie Attafuah, Lusaka: UNDP Winnie Musonda</p>		