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Title: Technical advisor, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist

Date submitted: 17 November 2016

1. Practice area: BPPS, Sustainable Development and Resilience Cluster

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days): 14-15 November (Bruno), 13 – 15 November (Celina)

3. Type of mission : Technical support

4. Clients: UNDP CO

5. Purpose of mission:

- Attend the 8th UN Technical Team Meeting
- Provide input for revision of Grievance Redress Mechanism training manual & Meet with Ethnic Minority PEB representative to identify preliminary plans for 2017 (Celina only)

6. Documents, materials, resources
EG Agenda

7. Mission members:

Bruno Hugel, Tim Boyle, Celina Yong

8. Costs: Vietnam Tier 2

9. Brief summary of the mission:

This TT meeting was entirely focused on the preparation of the upcoming EG meeting (29/11-01/12): agenda and management response matrix. The need and way forward re: a GCF proposal was also discussed. It was followed by a restitution session with the PMU leaders, as well as a meeting with UNDP Country Directors and FAO Country Representatives.

From the regional level, Akiko Inoguchi and Tim Boyle will participate in the preparations and in the EG meeting.

9.a Findings

EG Agenda

A field visit was proposed by Norway, but still awaiting their confirmation that the delegation will be able to attend. Preparatory meetings will be conducted on Tuesday/Wednesday, with 1st a meeting with the Vice-Minister and then substantive discussions to prepare the formal EG meeting on Friday morning. The latest agenda is given in appendix. The TT didn't have much particular points on the draft agenda in general.

Preparation of EG Sessions

Section 3a. Overview of progress, results and challenges in 2016, including the annual review findings and recommendations related to programme progress, and management responses

- a. Annual report: Complete the current version with the section 6 of the UN-REDD annual report template. *To do: Akiko, Phuong, Fabien*
- b. Ensure ownership of the report from PMU leaders

Section 3b. Need to liaise with MPTF Office to have presentation and translate by Thursday

Section 3c. Outcome 6: Note on Regional Displacement and proposed action plan

- a. This is the major risk for the discussion with Norway. Encouraged VNFOREST to focus attention on addressing it as far as possible within coming days/weeks. Meanwhile, improve integration of this action in the NRAP.
 - b. Key factors for credibility:
 - i. Complete the work plan (detail, robust...) until and beyond the Nov 17 deadline
 - ii. Engage other Ministries (have at least one preparatory meeting before EG)
 - iii. Show leadership (lead on it during EG, encourage other Ministries to contribute...)
- Agreed with PMU that Dr Dzong will develop a note, focusing on (i) Opportunities/challenges/Risks, (ii) Action plan. Akiko will provide support.

Section 4a. Presentation of findings and recommendations of the annual review on the programme impact and sustainability, and management responses

- a. Review and update of the response matrix (see comments below)

Section 4b. Sustainability – review of the note and discussion on the 7 final points

- a. Most of these points refer to propositions that were already on the table

Section 5a. AWPB2017: Need to be clear that current version excludes carry over, and carry over will not be systematic from 2016 to 2017, decided on a case-by-case basis, to also replenish 2018 budget.

GCF

The UN-REDD Programme believes that it is timely to start framing a proposal (NRAP revised, start detailed investment planning in 2017, complementary/additional to possible Norway support...). The UNTT suggested to the PMU leaders:

- i. To align GCF proposal on the revised NRAP (inter-sectoral scope, driven by needs and gaps)
- ii. To use the GCF proposal formulation as a platform for cooperation among the various REDD+ partners in Vietnam: build on respective competitive advantage, connect/leverage JICA loan, bring in other relevant partners as needed by the expanded NRAP scope.
- iii. FAO, UNDP and UNEP are accredited. One UN Agency could lead the proposal. Specific value added in line with UN-REDD role on REDD+ at national/umbrella level and UN convening power.

The DNP mentioned that they may also consider the World Bank, taking the ER-Programme into account and possible RBPs. The UNTT mentioned that if the government wants to focus GCF investment on the ERPD, then the World Bank would definitely be the most relevant Accredited Entity. However, if the government wants to base the GCF REDD+ proposal on a national approach, using the NRAP as a strong institutional basis, this would allow directing funding towards the ER-Programme while also consolidating PRAPs and work in other areas (e.g. Central Highlands Provinces). This could also help strengthen the overall coordination of the various REDD+ initiatives and partners in the country. Having supported the NRAP revision and working on the Investment Plan, the UN could be a useful wider platform. It would be unlikely that Viet Nam can submit successfully more than 1 proposal for REDD+.

Engagement with Norway

Norway will shortly be making decisions related to their potential (continued) support to Viet Nam, and there is a real risk that Norwegian officials may consider withdrawing support to Viet Nam on the basis of a lack of government commitment and a lack of progress. The UNTT feels however that this view is outdated and fails to account for a number of very important recent developments in Viet Nam, which have been communicated insufficiently or not at all, of which:

- i. The Prime Minister's speech in Dak Lak in June 2016, with very strong positions and far-reaching instructions regarding halting and reversing forest cover loss in the Central Highlands,
- ii. A Directive of the State Bank of Viet Nam to credit institutions to "develop and implement measures to promote green credit growth in order to stimulate business activities which are environmentally and socially friendly",
- iii. The suspension of hundreds of hydropower development licences, mainly related to their negative impact on forests,
- iv. Stronger REDD+ management arrangements: It is now envisaged that REDD+ will be overseen by the "State Steering Committee of Sustainable Forestry Development Target Programme", chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, whose membership consists of relevant ministries and whose mandate extends to all those ministries, as well as a representative from the National Assembly
- v. The thorough revision of the NRAP, which now includes over 35 PAMs based on the direct and indirect drivers, including outside the forest sector. The NRAP also includes all the elements mentioned above.

It will be important that Norway leadership is aware of these developments, and the critical role that Norway can play in accompanying and supporting such structural changes.

High-level REDD+ dialogue

A high-level REDD+ dialogue will be conducted on 18/11 to leverage the commitment of related ministries to the national REDD+ visions and the NRAP. This will be an important contribution to the preparation of

the EG.

Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) for REDD+

Proposed GRM is currently trialled in 17 sites as part of SiRAP BDS pilot. First round of training for the grassroots mediators, Technical Support Group (TSG) members, commune government officials and legal aid officers is completed. A second round of training will be conducted by end of 2017, incorporating lessons from this first round, which are also reflected in the revised draft training manual and training presentations.

A meeting with the consulting firm, DEPOCEN, was organised to receive feedback on the status of the UN-REDD and CO comments for the draft training manual and presentation. It was agreed that the second training will focus more on building participants' skills in diagnosing cases received and relevant legal processes; and mediation skills through role-plays based on anticipated REDD+ related grievances. One issue raised was maintaining the impartiality of the grassroots mediator and TSG members while incentivising their responsibilities. A potential consensus is to cover the direct costs of operations through this output's budget, but not payment for an honorarium or fees.

Strengthening Ethnic Minorities (EM) preparation for the NRAP implementation

One salient point is that the new Minister of EM is committed to improving policy coordination in the development sector through ad-hoc policies on EM; socio-economic development plans; and decision 135 on small-scale EM groups (of which there are 13 groups under 10,000 persons).

The brainstorming meeting between the International Cooperation Department (ICD) of the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), EM PEB representative, Ms Luong Thi Truong, and PMU was fruitful. While CEMA acknowledged the significant contribution from the Programme in terms of EM participation, Mr Ha Viet Quan, the Deputy Director General in-charge of the Department, also pointed out that progress is very slow. Nonetheless, he acknowledged that CEMA also faces difficulties coordinating with other government agencies, and do not have clearly identified avenues to provide input or quality control for the numerous projects. Currently, CEMA's participation in the Programme is through its Policy Department. However, ICD is not interested in replacing the current CEMA representatives, but will focus on providing technical inputs.

ICD intends to raise awareness of government agencies on how EM can be active contributors to development, and not just stereotyped as vulnerable; diversity techniques to ensure authentic participation by EM; and strengthen capacity of locally elected headpersons and respected people. Since these intentions are complementary to the Programme's, ICD is open to collaborating with the Programme and the Ms Truong as EM PEB representative, to provide technical inputs on ways to strengthen EM participation in the development and monitoring of the Action Plan/investment framework.

In a follow-up discussion with Ms Truong, she emphasized the importance of keeping the EM Network operational beyond the lifespan of the Programme. This can partially be achieved by expanding the Network's roles beyond consultation, trainings to include monitoring of the activity implementations and expected results. For 2017 purposes, she will submit a concept that will focus on

- i) Expanding the Network to include representatives from new communes that have recently been added to the Programme;
- ii) Conduct provincial consultations for the remainder 5 provinces, and 2 Network meetings per year;
- iii) Facilitate peer learning among current and soon-to-be selected new commune representatives.

The Programme will facilitate exchange between Ms Truong and ICD on ways to strengthen these approaches.

Forest Protection and Development Law (FPDL) Revision

One of the recommendations from the safeguards PLR review was to include key safeguards issues: criteria/conditions and EIA for natural forest conversion; participation in decentralised forestland use planning; inter-ministry/agency cooperation in the on-going FPDL revision. Since CO is currently funding

consultants to support the revision, these recommendations would be shared with the consultants to determine opportunities and viability. Additional working days could potentially be added to the consultants' contract.

9.b Results achieved (key outputs)

- Preparation of the EG, with a clear common position
- Revised GRM scoping report, training manual and training materials

10. Key counterparts: UNDP CO, MARD, PMU, VRO

11. Follow up action matrix

Action to be taken:	By whom	Expected completion date
Prepare a note with key highlights on recent key Vietnam achievements	Tim B, Ben, Phuong	15/11
Liaise with MPTF-O to have presentation and translate	CTA	17/11
Prepare the High-level forum	PMU	18/11
Finalize annual report	Akiko, Phuong, Fabien	
Finalize review and update of the response matrix		
Prepare note on Regional Displacement and proposed action plan	Dr Dzung (with Akiko)	
Review revised GRM scoping report, training manual, training materials	Celina, Loan, Jen	1 week upon submission
Coordinate exchanges between ICD and EM PEB representative	PMU	On-going
Liaise with consultants to determine feasibility of incorporating recommendations for FPD revision based on revised PLR safeguards report	Truong, Celina	18/11

12. Distribution list:

UNDP/UN-REDD Global Team : Tim Clairs

UNDP/UN-REDD Regional Team: Tim Boyle, Celina Kin Yii Yong

UNDP Country Office: Lai Dao Xuan, Loan Ngo Thi, Fabien Monteils, Vu Thi Truong

Agenda of the mission

Monday 14/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Departure / Arrival. ▪ TT meeting: Review of the EG agenda and management response matrix ▪ Meeting with DEPOCEN on GRM (Celina)
Tuesday 15/11	<p><i>Morning:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with PMU (DNP and colleagues) ▪ Meeting with CEMA and EM PEB representative (Celina) <p><i>Afternoon:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with UNDP and FAO Country Directors ▪ Meeting with PMU NPD (who wasn't available during the morning meeting)

Overview of EG Mission

Date and time	Objective	Participants	Location
Field Trip – 26-27 November 2016?			
TBD in the period Sat. 26 Nov. – Sun. 27 Nov.	Meet local stakeholders and observe the programme context and activities in the field		Bac Kan province
Internal meetings – 28 November 2016			
Mon. 28 Nov.	Internal preparatory meetings	Each EG constituency separately	TBD, Ha Noi
Political meetings – 29 November 2016			
Tue. 29 Nov. morning	Kick-off meeting	MARD Vice Minister, Norway, LFA	MARD office
EG pre-meetings – 29-30 November 2016			
Tue. 29 Nov afternoon	Technical meetings	GoV, Norway, UN, PMU	PMU office, 14 Thuy Khue, Tay Ho, Ha Noi
Wed. 30 Nov morning	Technical meetings	GoV, Norway, UN, PMU	PMU office, 14 Thuy Khue, Tay Ho, Ha Noi
Wed. 30 Nov afternoon 16:00 – 17:00	Review of EG decisions	GoV, Norway, UN, PMU	PMU office, 14 Thuy Khue, Tay Ho, Ha Noi
Forth EG meeting – 1 December 2016			
Thu. 1 Dec. 09:00 – 15:00	EG meeting	EG members and observers	TBD
Follow-up meetings and departure – 2 December 2016			
Fri. 2 Dec. 2016	Follow-up meetings (if necessary)		TBD, Ha Noi

Preparatory EG meetings 29 Nov.-Dec. 1 2016 (Ha Noi, Viet Nam)

Date & time	Objective	Participants	Location
Political meetings			
Tue. 29 Nov. morning	Kick-off meeting: Set the scope for technical discussions on critical issues, including sustainability, impact, NRAP revision, vision, intersectorality and regional cooperation	MARD/VNFOREST, NICFI, LFA	MARD offices
EG pre-meetings – 29 November 2016			
Tue. 29 Nov. – times TBD	Review of progress & AR findings of 2015	MARD/VNFOREST, UN, PMU, Norway	PMU office, Ha Noi
	AR management responses of 2015		
	AR management responses of 2016	UN, PMU, Norway	
	NRAP revision		
EG pre-meetings – 30 November 2016			
08:00 – 09:00	Detailed schedule TBD	MARD/VNFOREST, UN, PMU, Norway	PMU office, Ha Noi
09:00 – 10:00			
10:00 – 11:00			
11:00 – 12:00			
12:00 – 13:00			
13:00 – 15:00			
16:00 – 17:00	Review of draft decisions for EG meeting		