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Briefing Note – Moving forward on Governance for REDD +

UNDP
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Good and effective governance of forest resources will be central to the success of REDD policies and measures. It will enable an environment conducive to the predictable and lasting delivery of emission reductions, ensure that REDD policies provide sufficient incentives and minimize negative social impacts, and promote structures of service delivery and payments geared towards sustainable development and poverty reduction outcomes. In addition to strengthening structures that will enable such development shifts, REDD countries may also need to enact reforms to align with governance principles established by countries that will allow REDD credits into their carbon markets. Governance challenges are many: unenforced land tenure systems, elite capture, marginalization of stakeholders, uncoordinated mechanisms or corruption are often cognized, and can be met with coordinated, cross-sectoral development strategies.

While the practicalities of adequately monitoring emission reductions have been the initial focus of "measurable, reportable and verifiable" parameters (MRV), governance, livelihood and ecosystem services are now emerging as requisite elements of MRV systems. REDD governance outcomes will have to be measured against a set of indicators and reported and verified through transparent processes, effectively resulting in building a "Governance MRV Framework". Based on this concept the UN-REDD Programme presented its "Governance Scope of Work – Towards an MRV for Governance" in June 2009 at the 2nd Policy Board meeting. UNDP, as the lead agency on governance for the UN-REDD Programme, has since moved forward in elaborating its approach on MRV Governance for REDD+. Using indicators of good governance for REDD, the approach seeks to support country assessment of REDD governance baselines, support evidence-based governance policy reforms conducive to effective, inclusive and equitable REDD national policies and measures, monitor progress and report best practices. This approach is further elaborated in a series of working papers.

The UN-REDD Programme's *Proposal for Country-led Governance Assessment for REDD+* builds on UNDP's approach to governance self-assessments developed by the Oslo Governance Center. Matching international standards and rooted in local ownership, these assessments will be guided by principles of country ownership, conditional to inclusive mechanisms (with a focus on Indigenous and vulnerable

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communities) and with a strong focus on capacity building. The initial steps of governance assessments, which relate to identifying stakeholders, establish steering committees and identifying host organizations , may have already been undertaken by Quick Start UN-REDD countries or those preparing an R-PP plan. Through UNDP country offices, the UN-REDD Programme will provide technical assistance to selected countries in 2010 to conduct these self-assessments. The country-led assessments will therefore benefit from UNDP's in-house expertise and input on human rights, gender issues and in countries in conflict. They will be tailored to assist countries in establishing a REDD governance baseline and determining priorities in undertaking evidence-based governance policy reforms. Institutionalized and conducted at regular intervals, assessments can also be used to measure and report progress. A **Policy Brief** emphasizes the relevance of country-led governance assessments within the broader context of MRV for governance for REDD activities currently proposed.

The country-led assessments will be informed in each country by a conceptual ***Framework of Governance Indicators for REDD+*** *(zero draft available)* that builds on a mapping and assessment of overall good governance and forest governance indicators for application to REDD+ developed by World Resources Institute Governance of Forests Toolkit, The Forest Dialogue on REDD Finance Mechanism, the IIED pyramid diagnosis for forest governance, the World Bank's *Roots for Good Forest Outcomes* and other partners.

The Framework is structured around the key governance issues of:
- tenure and property rights;
- capacity and effectiveness of government;
- corruption control;
- participation transparency and accountability; and
- rule of law and regulatory quality.

Under each issue are proposed actionable indicators. Taken together, the governance issues and indicators seek to provide a framework that is a) comprehensive so it addresses different aspects of forest and REDD governance, b) targeted enough so it can be used by national and local actors with different capacity development needs, c) adaptable to different phases of REDD readiness, d) adaptable to ongoing governance assessment so duplicate demands on countries are limited.

Complementing and informing the country-led governance assessment will be an ***analysis of the governance implications of ongoing 'Quick Start' activities in UN-REDD Programme pilot countries***. This analysis, to be presented at the next Policy Board meeting in March 2010, will examine the

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governance activities that have been undertaken in countries whose early readiness activities are supported by the UN-REDD Programme, with the objective to identify commonalities and gaps..

To conduct this work and fully draw from in-house expertise, UNDP has initiated the recruitment of a Programme Officer, based in UNDP's Oslo Governance Center. The Programme Officer will advise and support the delivery of country-led assessments in REDD countries and the reforms identified as priorities. The UN-REDD Programme is also coordinating with global NGOs that have initiated REDD-related governance initiatives at the national level, such as Global Witness, Imazon, Social and Environmental Standards for REDD +, WRI and others.