

Multiple Benefits and Safeguards Technical Team

Terms of Reference

1. Background¹

A future mechanism for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) being developed through the UNFCCC provides an opportunity to support Cambodia's efforts to reduce levels of deforestation and help to maintain and protect this natural forest.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has shown early support for the development of approaches to REDD+ with the approval of two pilot projects in 2008 and 2009. Since then a number of other pilot projects have started development and are at differing stages of progress. In 2010, with support from UNDP Cambodia and FAO Cambodia, the RGC prepared a REDD+ Readiness planning process, which led to the development of the Cambodia Readiness Plan Proposal on REDD+ ("Roadmap"), a document outlining how the country will develop policies and measures to become 'REDD+ ready'.

Safeguards for REDD+ are included in the Cancun Agreements to ensure that REDD+ actions do not cause negative social or environmental impacts. Safeguards can be broadly understood as policies and measures that aim to address both direct and indirect impacts on communities and ecosystems, by identifying, analyzing, and ultimately working to manage risks and opportunities. If designed and implemented appropriately, safeguards can help REDD+ provide a suite of multiple benefits. While safeguards can be viewed as the "do no harm" principle, the idea of multiple benefits provides opportunities for benefits to be gained beyond what would have been the status quo when undertaking REDD+ activities. For example REDD+ related activities not only protect a forest area they also help to improve the quality of water flowing into nearby rivers and reduce the risk of flash flooding from rapid run off.

Each country must develop nationally appropriate systems of social and environmental safeguards and approaches to ensuring capture of multiple benefits that are consistent with international agreements. Such a process will involve extensive consultative processes so as to achieve public acceptance in minimizing social, environmental and governance risks while avoiding too high a cost of implementation.

2. Objectives

The objective of the Technical Team is to support the assessment of and development of approaches to safeguards and multiple benefits within the Cambodia REDD+ programme.

3. Membership

Membership will be limited to 12 members, and consist of representatives from:

- The REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (3 members, to be nominated by the National REDD+ Taskforce); one of the Taskforce Secretariat members to be nominated as Secretary to the Team
- Relevant offices within line agencies (4 members, to be nominated by the line agencies)^[t1]
- Key non-governmental stakeholders with skills and experience within relevant technical areas (5 members, to be nominated by the Consultation Group)

¹ Text adapted from IISD 2011 Safeguards and Multiple Benefits within a REDD+ Mechanism available at http://www.theredddesk.org/sites/default/files/resources/pdf/2011/redd_safeguards.pdf

All members must designate alternates to attend if they are not available. Additional representatives may be invited to meetings as temporary participants as required.

4. Operations

The Technical team should meet on a monthly basis. The Secretary will ensure that a notification of each meeting is sent out at least one week ahead of the meeting, accompanied by any relevant documents to be discussed at the meeting. The Secretary will also circulate draft minutes of each meeting within three working days. All members of the Team (or their alternates, if they attended the meeting) will provide comments on the draft minutes within three further working days, after which the Secretary will circulate the final minutes. The minutes will include the date, time, location, and subject matter of the following meeting. The final minutes will be widely circulated to REDD+ stakeholders, including through the Consultation Group and by posting on the REDD+/Cambodia web-site.

5. Decision-making

The Technical team will not be a decision making body but will provide recommendations to the REDD+ Taskforce and Taskforce Secretariat on a monthly basis. Recommendations will be developed based on a consensus approach

6. Responsibilities

The Technical team is responsible for working with the REDD+ Secretariat to support the development of approaches to social and environmental Safeguards, securing Multiple benefits, and designing the consultative process required to achieve broad acceptance of these approaches. This will include:

- Undertaking or commissioning assessments of existing international and national approaches to safeguards
- Undertaking or commissioning assessments of potential REDD+ co-benefits
- Developing proposals for elements of a national approach to REDD+ safeguards and multiple benefits
- Designing a consultative process on those elements, which builds on existing consultative mechanisms for REDD+ in Cambodia and ensures effective broad-based stakeholder participation
- Based on feedback from the consultative process, submit to the REDD+ Taskforce a proposal for a national system of safeguards and measures to capture multiple benefits.

Specific responsibilities of Team members include:

- Attending monthly meetings
- Reviewing documents and presentations and providing comments and input to them
- Providing assistance to consultants and REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat Personnel in carry out their assignments
- Attending training events and workshops

6. Reporting

Technical working group members are responsible for reporting to and consulting with their respective line agencies and constituent groups. Members can request additional time on specific issues if they feel it is of high importance to their line agency and further discussion is needed.

The Technical team will report directly to the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat directly through the Secretary of the Technical team.

7. Duration and timing

It is expected that members will be required to work between 3 and 5 days per month, depending on activities.

8. Funding

Financial support will be provided to cover expenses incurred during the implementation of tasks related to the role.
