



Minutes

Programme Executive Board Meeting

08.30 – 12.00 hrs, Friday, 8 January 2010

Sofitel Plaza, 01 Thanh Nien Street, Ha Noi

Meeting Chair: Mr. Hua Duc Nhi, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Meeting Co-Chair Mr. John Hendra, United Nations Resident Coordinator

Participants See Annex I

Agenda See Annex II

Main Discussions and Decisions

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair outlined the main purpose of the meeting, namely to review the 2009 progress report and 2010 work plans for the UN-REDD Joint Programme, prepared by PMU for finalization and approval. He emphasized his expectation to see results and activities that clearly bring benefits to local people.

The Co-chair also stated his expectation that this Programme Executive Board (PEB) meeting would contribute to ensuring the success of the programme. The key notes were as follows:

- 2010 will be a critical year for the programme, and timely delivery of activities will be essential to achieve the targets.
- In order to ensure a success of UN-REDD, there is a need to plan for piloting of best practices so as to learn more about practical implementation of REDD. The UN stands ready to support this process as much as possible.
- There is also a need to strengthen the collaboration with other line ministries, including MOF, MPI, and MONRE.

2. The 2009 Progress Report

The National Programme Director (NPD) presented the progress report for 2009. The NPD reported that the JP has achieved some initial achievements during the very first quarter of the programme, including:

- Successful launch of the programme, through the National Inception Workshop organized in September.
- A National REDD network was established in MARD. A Technical Working Group on REDD was also established to support the REDD Network at a working level, and has met several times to discuss technical issues, including the establishment of the national reference emissions level.
- A Benefit Distribution Study (BDS) has been conducted with an analysis of elements, success stories as well as constraints/barriers of existing systems; a number of policy options (17) and a workplan towards implementation of those policy options have also be recommended.
- Support to the Viet Nam delegation to COP15 and Vietnam side event (including a short video on REDD, a national progress report on REDD, executive summary of BDS, posters, etc.)
- Local Inception/Launching Workshop successfully organized in Lam Dong with participation of UN agencies, local government leaders, and local provincial and district departments, representatives of NGOs and mass organizations (CEMA, Farmer’s Union, Youth’s Union, and others) and local mass media; A field visit of the UN agencies, MARD representatives and PMU to a pilot district in Lam Dong has also been conducted.

The Co-Chair commended the Programme for its efforts over the 1st quarter. The programme received high attention of the Government in the process of JP approval to make Vietnam the first country in the world to launch UN-REDD. In addition, this JP can serve as a good example on how effectively and efficiently UN agencies can work together as one. Detailed Progress Report for 2009 can be seen at Annex III.

3. The 2010 Work Plan

The National REDD Team Leader presented the proposed work plan including Major Targets/Priorities 2010, Key Activities by Outcomes 2010 (the Work Plan can be seen at Annex IV).

The Co-chair emphasized the need to speed up the implementation and look to the future beyond 2010 to achieve planned targets in a very short timeframe. The Work Plan is very ambitious in terms of scope and expenditures. The co-chair also emphasized that actual involvement of all levels is necessary to ensure smooth coordination and successful implementation. Therefore, sequencing and prioritizing tasks in the work plan is an important task, which PMU should take into account to ensure feasibility. The consultation process should not take long and it is the time to undertake real actions.

The PEB agreed to approve proposed work plan in principle. Below are key issues discussed and recommendations:

3.1 Coordination:

Regarding the development of the Reference Emission Level (REL), as part of the National REDD strategy, there are several other players, such as Finland Embassy, and JICA working in the same subject but with a different scope. The coordination issue has been discussed among partners to ensure the effective use of resources and financial support.

UN-REDD has played an important role of linking all relevant initiatives through the REDD Technical Working Group. There are some ongoing consultations/discussions among JICA, Finish Embassy and Department of Forestry (DoF), and some agreed actions will be identified in the coming days.

3.2 Awareness Raising and Communication

During early 2010, capacity-building activities should be focused at central and provincial levels. This has been taken into account in the Work Plan through a number of workshops and trainings (output 1.1) for central level as well as for local level (output 2.1). Civil society organizations will play an important role in the implementation of UN-REDD Programme.

Local media (especially VTV5 for ethnic people) as well as communal louder speakers, posters... should be used as key channels to communicate the programme. Films such as the one produced for COP15 is also a good way to communicate with the world.

Free Prior Informed Consent as defined under the UNDRIP needs to be secured before carrying out any ground activities.

3.3 Policy recommendation

The final draft of the Benefit distribution system (BDS) document (full version) has been completed and circulated internally, final draft shall be available before Vietnamese Traditional Tet holidays in February, not after mission to Tanzania as specified in the Work Plan. A clear next step after the finalization of full version of BDS should also be well reflected in the Work Plan to give the full picture and follow-on activities of this important study.

The study indicates that the payment mechanism for local people should be made clear, especially the basis on which payments will be made, and whether payments should be made indirectly or directly to people. For example, should indirect benefits such as technical or infrastructure support be made to local people to assist with their livelihoods? It is crucial to ensure appropriateness and transparency in payment methods. The consideration of existing Forest Protection and Development Fund (Trust fund) for REDD purpose was taken into account, and the study concluded that it was not suitable to be used as a REDD+ Fund.

Another issue on the BDS that has also been discussed is how to pilot a BDS with actual benefits to distribute. Some policy options proposed by the final draft would benefit from piloting, but this can only be done with significant funding from donors and/or investors.

All policy recommendations will be reviewed by relevant government agencies and other relevant stakeholders, led by MARD, for submission to the Government for official approval.

3.4 Harmonization

To facilitate the implementation process, the harmonization approach as well as agreed principles have been discussed in the inception workshop last September, documented in the Inception Report and shared with partners. The Report has fully been endorsed by UN agencies.

UN agencies are also working on the micro assessment of MARD (PMU) to facilitate the implementation of the “Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT)”.

3.5 Procurement

Procurement of goods and service might be a time-consuming process and therefore likely a challenge in the implementation of 2010 Work Plan. There will be a number of big tender packages under the UNDP Component which should be given priority and particular attention by UNDP to accelerate programme activities. UNDP will fully support/give priority to assist the PMU to implement the Work Plan in terms of procurement in general and recruitment of consultants in particular.

3.6 Implementation of Outcome 2 in Lam Dong Province

There are several issues need to be clarified about implementation of Outcome 2 in Lam Dong province. These include the role of provincial and district partners in implementing the Work Plan, the change of one of the pilot districts, the establishment of a Technical Working Group at provincial level, including its composition, functions, roles and responsibilities, remuneration schemes, costs involved, and planning and reporting requirements.

MARD will immediately send an official letter to confirm the selection of pilot districts, Lam Ha and Di Linh, as well as detailed guidance on establishment of a local Technical Working Group.

The Technical Working Group in Lam Dong has been provided some equipment and transport means and travel allowance according to EU-UN Cost Norms.

4. Conclusions:

The Chair and Co-chairs gave concluding remarks:

- The Progress Report and the Work Plan 2010 prepared by PMU is approved in principle.
- Executive Board Meetings should meet quarterly, and in the future consider hosting in Lam Dong as appropriate. Next meeting should be around April to ensure the updating of the programme progress and providing timely guidance.
- Terms of reference for PEB should be developed and shared with all members for comments before finalization.

The Chairs closed the meeting at 12pm, 8 January 2010.

Signatures:

Mr. Hua Duc Nhi

Vice-Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development

Chair of the PEB

Date: _____

Mr. John Hendra

United Nations Resident Coordinator

Co-Vice Chair of the PEB

Date: _____

Annex I: Meeting Participants

#	Name		Title/Position	Organization
1	Hứa Đức	Nhị	Vice Minister	MARD
2	John	Hendra	UN Resident Coordinator	UN Viet Nam
3	H.E Risa	Stale Torstein	Ambassador	Royal Norwegian Embassy
4	Christophe	Bahuet	Country Director a.i	UNDP Viet Nam
5	Andrew	Speedy	FAO Representative	FAO Vietnam
6	Young-Woo	Park	UNEP ROAP Regional Director	UNEP Regional Office
7	Phạm Minh	Thoa	National Programme Director	UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme
8	Nguyễn Trúc Bồng	Sơn	Head Department of Planning and Investment	Lam Dong DARD
9	Martin Ottmann	Thea	First Secretary	Royal Norwegian Embassy
10	Đỗ Thị	Huyền	Programme Officer	UNDP Viet Nam
11	Akiko	Inoguchi	Programme Officer	FAO Vietnam
12	Tim	Boyle	Regional Coordinator	UNDP Regional Office
13	Bùi Chí	Kiên	Officer, ICD	MARD
14	Koos	Neefjes	Policy Advisor in Climate Change	UNDP Viet Nam
15	Lê Văn	Hưng	Programme Officer	UNDP Viet Nam
16	Phạm Mạnh	Cường	National Team Leader	UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme
17	Nguyễn Thị Thu	Huyền	Programme Manager	UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme
18	Nguyễn Thị Kiều	Oanh	Accountant	UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme

Annex II: Agenda

Time	Description	Responsible
8:30 - 8:40	Registration	Programme Organiser
8:40- 8:50	Opening remarks	Vice Minister Hua Duc Nhi and UN Resident Coordinator John Hendra
8:50 - 9:10	Presentation: UN-REDD Activities Implementation and Results in 2009	Madam Pham Minh Thoa, Deputy General Director of DOF, MARD – National Programme Director
9:10 - 9:30	Presentation: Annual Work Plan for 2010	Dr. Pham Manh Cuong National REDD Team Leader
9:30 -10:15	Discussion	Members of PEB
10:15 -10:30	Refreshment	
10:30 - 11:15	Discussion	Members of PEB
11:15 -11:30	Conclusion and wrap-up	Vice Minister Hua Duc Nhi and UN Resident Coordinator John Hendra

Annex III: 2009 Annual Progress Report

Annex IV: 2010 Annual Work Plan