

MINUTES OF MEETING
THE 4TH UN-REDD PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE BOARD

Time	The 2 nd March 2011 14.00 pm – 17.00
Venue	Sofitel Plaza, No 1, Thanh Nien Road, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Chairs	H.E. Hua Duc Nhi, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). H.E. John Hendra, UN Resident Coordinator – United Nations in Viet Nam
Annexes:	Annex I: Agenda Annex II: List of participants Annex III: Presentations

1. Opening remarks

His Excellency Vice Minister Hua Duc Nhi emphasized that the program has been in operation for 18 months with encouraging initial results. Recently, MARD collaborated with UN to develop the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Proposal in order to submit to Norway and get initial results. The chairman also emphasized that it is a great honor for Viet Nam, one of UN-REDD members, to host the 6th UN-REDD Policy Board Meeting in Lam Dong, March 2011. The content of the 4th PEB meeting is to discuss the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme Phase II Proposal before the appraisal mission from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) comes to Viet Nam.

His Excellency John Hendra acknowledged the important progress have been made along with the National REDD+ Program, hopefully to be signed off by Prime Minister. Gave mandate to the establishment of the National REDD+ Steering Committee chair by MARD and the establishment of the Viet Nam REDD+ office under VNFOREST and see that it is a good opportunity to engage more broadly across the governance. It is important that VNFOREST and MARD continue to play its importance role in the National REDD Network. In terms of the NORAD appraisal mission, UN will help to makethe appraisal mission successful and looking forward to meeting with the appraisal mission team in Viet Nam. Three UN organizations: UNEP, FAO & UNDP, came up with appropriate financial mechanism for the interim period. The

government agreed with the arrangement of the multi donors' trust fund and will play the role of the trustee of other funds at the global level. Three organizations have the optimal implementation arrangements for the technical portion. It has been agreed among the three organizations and the Govt. that the national component with UNDP and 2 separate components with UNEP and FAO for technical input but the Govt needs to work with the UN through one approach. Concern about capacity of the Government to manage such a large Programme as we are moving forward with the implementation of REDD+. Even though we have top colleagues from MARD involved in this Programme but think that there is the need to expand the national capacity for the implementation for this Programme.

His Excellency Stale Torstein Risa congratulated MARD and UN in their efforts in implementing current quick start phase and development of the UN-REDD phase II. It is very important that the appraisal mission have the revised proposal before they depart for Viet Nam. He also commended MARD and VNFOREST for the recent establishment of the National REDD+ Steering Committee. It is important to coordinate and collaborate with other line ministries. It is equally important to have harmonization & working as one among related UN agencies. The REDD+ standing office will play vital role in the National REDD+ Program, UN-REDD Phase II and other REDD+ related initiatives. It is worth making adequate investment in terms of human and financial resources. The need of adequate human resources as we move forward, phase II will require strong support from MARD on human resources side. The MRV, BDS, FPIC and safeguarding will be key elements for success of the UN-REDD phase II in Viet Nam. It is crucially important to have other donors that are ready to step up. The Ambassador also expected that the UN-REDD Programme to engage and make the UN-REDD Phase II implementation arrangements clear to the selected provinces as early as possible. He is looking forward to having full support from MARD and UN-REDD Viet Nam during the appraisal mission and receiving the final version of the UN-REDD Phase II Proposal as early as possible.

2. Improve capacity for the implementation of REDD+ of Viet Nam government

(See appendix III a) for the presentation on Institutional arrangement for REDD+)

After the agreement at COP16 conference at Cancun in December 2010, Viet Nam has actively implemented activities and got specific results to assert the agreement of Viet Nam to REDD+ initiative.

- ❖ Main decisions at national level related to strengthening the institution for REDD:
 - On 13/01/2011, the Prime Minister issued the guiding document No. 282/VPCP-QHQT to appoint MARD to preside over REDD+ including creating work plan and establishing REDD national steering committee, strengthening institution for the implementation of REDD which aims to improving the coordination effectiveness among ministries, agencies and local departments.
 - On 7/1/2011 the Minister of MARD issued Decision No. 39/QD-BNN-TCCB on establishment of REDD+ Viet Nam steering committee chaired by the Minister. The SC including 17 members from MARD and other related GoV agencies, department.

- On 18/1/2011, following the Document of Minister, the Viet Nam Forestry Department (VNFOREST) issued the Decision No.18/QD-TCLN-VP on establishment of Viet Nam REDD+ office, located in the office building of MARD (A7, No.10 Nguyen Cong Hoan street, Hanoi)
 - With the support of UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme, a Communication and Network Officer was recruited and officially started working from Feb.2011
- ❖ Arrangement in Lam Dong province – the first pilot province in REDD
- Establish local working groups in Lam Dong including related provincial departments, agencies and District People’s Committee of Di Linh and Lam Ha, two pilot districts of UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase I. Up to now, this working group has successfully organized 3 meetings.
 - Appoint Lam Dong Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as the focal point for REDD+ in province; appoint staff and technical consultants support for REDD’s activities there.
- ❖ Strengthen ability at all levels
- Central level:
 - Organize/appoint staff to participate in training/conference/meeting at national level, regional level and international level on MRV/REL, opportunity cost, benefit distribution and other things related to REDD+
 - Attract the participation of related GoV departments, NGOs, INGOs into FPIC as well as initiatives related to REDD+
 - Attract the participation of GoV departments, NGOs, Institutes, Communication agencies into raising awareness of REDD+ at national level.
 - Local level:
 - Organize/coordinate with organizing committee /appoint staffs attending training courses at regional and international level. Up to now, local staffs have participated in 2 regional trainings/meetings, 5 national trainings/meetings, and 7 provincial trainings on PCM, BDS...
 - Organize a study tour to Kien Giang and Ca Mau provinces for VNFOREST officials, REDD network members as well as Lam Dong Working Group members.
 - Lam Dong successfully organized 3 FPIC on REDD+ which attracted the participations of agencies, departments, social organizations, and local NGOs.
 - Attract the participation of departments, Da Lat University, communications agencies on raising awareness and implementation of REDD+, especially by FPIC

❖ Recommendations:

Viet Nam is concerned with and supports institutional improvement. For the smooth running of appointed/new-established agencies/mechanism, it is necessary to have a guaranteed support mechanism such as FPIC, technical consultancy.

3. Updated changes in UN-REDD phase II proposal

(See appendix III b) for the presentation on Phase II updates)

REDD+ currently has been in the process of negotiation, lots of issues still to be discussed so that the Phase II Proposal can be finalized to fit the conditions of Viet Nam; or take advantage of the experiences and support from three UN agencies; as well as be in accordance with international requirements for the REDD+ implementation. UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme Phase II Proposal was developed in 2010, starting from March with preliminary ideas, then June 2010 with the draft of detailed work plan; the first draft was completed in September and submitted to the Norwegian Embassy and UN in Viet Nam on 15th December 2010. Since then, the draft proposal has some major changes, from the results of the international negotiation process to the requirements of the Government of Viet Nam:

❖ Results of international negotiations, particularly the results of COP16 conference in Cancun 12/2010:

- COP15 gave directions for policy and technical issues for the implementation of REDD. COP16 gave decisions on policy, technical issues as well as financial encouragement for the implementation of REDD+. The highlight of the COP16 decision is to encourage developing countries to participate in five groups of REDD+ activities: reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, preserving forest carbon, enhancing forest carbon, and sustainable forest development
- Developed and developing countries want REDD+ to become an official mechanism belongs to the UN Convention on climate change framework so that we can implement REDD+ activities and receive payment from donors, international investors. For that, COP16 gave decision to divide REDD+ implementation into 3 phases:
 - o Phase 1: Planning policy, strategy, work plan
 - o Phase 2: Pilot implementing these policies as well as providing financial encouragement for those engaged in activities
 - o Phase 3: payment by achieved results

To do that, COP16 also required developing countries to set up the feasible and transparent MRV system to provide data for reporting and monitoring activities. Depending on their specific conditions and financial assistance from industrialized countries, developing countries will identify and schedule activities accordingly. COP also requested countries setting an information system on policies and measures to ensure the implementation of REDD+.

- ❖ Requirements of the Government of Viet Nam and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with other ministries to develop MRV system:
 - The Prime Minister formally requested the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment acting as the focal point in coordinating with MARD and other ministries to develop the MRV system.
 - The Vice Minister of MARD requested VNFOREST and the UN-REDD Programme to clarify the specific outcomes of COP16 for the MRV system development; propose frame, design schedule in line with national conditions and international assistance.

After updating the results of international negotiations as well as the requirements of GoV and MARD, the drafting team finalized some points in the document:

- Changes on organizational institution for the implementation of REDD+ in Viet Nam
- Updated requirements and activities on MRV

The drafting team also discussed with Norway Embassy and the UN agencies on financial management of phase II, proposed ideas about MRV frame linked with national MRV system and preliminary schedule as follows:

- + First step: develop information system on REDD+ and conduct forest investigations
- + Second step: implement REDD+ activities

- ❖ Improve capacity for the implementation of REDD+ in Viet Nam
- ❖ Institute Financial management mechanism:

VNFOREST has discussed many times with UN agencies on financial management measures and agreed on preliminary criteria which aim to strengthen the role and authority of Viet Nam

- Have close connection with UN-REDD Global Programme
- Establish a temporary fund managed by the MDTF
- Simplify reporting requirements while ensuring the financial management of Viet Nam and UN

- ❖ Establish National REDD+ Fund:

Temporally, the National REDD+ Fund has not been established / not qualified yet, it should be under MDTF management. The REDD Viet Nam Executive Board should be National REDD+ Fund Executive Board as well or we can invite some other stakeholders to be members of this Fund. The Fund Executive Board is responsible for reporting to UN-REDD Policy Board about the status implementation and results of UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme. The Norwegian Government will transfer money to Viet Nam through National REDD+ Fund. Hope that other

countries will join together with Viet Nam and Norway to implement REDD+ as well as financing REDD+ through National REDD+ Fund.

❖ Technical Support:

- The budget for the technical component phase II is managed by the National REDD+ Steering Committee;
- The allocation of funding based on annual work plans instead of allocating four years for 3 UN agencies & PMU. This will bring more flexibility /detail, enhance self-determination for the GoV, ensure the accuracy of the annual work plan;
- Payments are transferred directly from the National REDD+ Fund. The implementing agencies shall report to the executive board, the progress report submitted to the REDD international Executive Board and Policy Board.

Financial management methods currently have been in the process of discussing and finalizing. We try to submit to Norwegian government before the appraisal mission comes to Viet Nam. However, this is only the draft; we would like to hear opinions of the conference and Norwegian appraisal delegation to complete the project document.

4. Preparation for receiving NORAD appraisal delegation

(See appendix III c) for the presentation on NORAD mission and display)

Three experts from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) will come to Viet Nam in mid-March, 2011. The delegation will have meetings in Ha Noi from 14th to 16th March with MARD, VNFOREST, PMU, UN, WB and others. From 16th to 19th March, the delegation is scheduled to be working in Lam Dong with PPC and provincial agencies, District People's Committee of Lam Ha, and Di Linh. In addition, the delegation will spend most of time for site visits to Phu Son and Bao Thuan Communes. Lam Dong stands ready to receive the appraisal mission. The indigenous people also warmly welcome this visit.

5. Summary of discussions and conclusions :

Viet Nam is currently implementing many REDD+ activities and, to a certain extent, these activities have been evaluated and recognized; however, a lot of work needs to be done in the future. Along with the implementation of UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam has many other activities related to REDD+. For example, forest protection programmes and its policies; forest land allocation to indigenous people; socializing forest; manage migration through many policies; carry out payments for forest services. In addition, Viet Nam also has some international projects on REDD+ such as the REDD+ projects implementing in Kien Giang funded by Australia and Germany

The establishment of the National Steering Committee and REDD+ office has shown high commitment and determination of the Government of Viet Nam. Besides the responsibility of coordinating programs related to REDD+, the steering committee should get informed about other programs outside UN-REDD.

MARD is now preparing a report submitted to Prime Minister on the national forest inventory, based on satellite images and ground truths. The Chairs stated that to do well this work means that the implementation of REDD+ must be managed smoothly.

Dr. Nguyen Ba Ngai states that it should be reviewed and developed with the National REDD Network, as this is key link among related stakeholders. We should analyze the outcomes/outputs and existing problems as well as establish mechanisms in horizontal and vertical level for the Network.

Integrate and improve capacity for provinces to be involved in phase II

UN-REDD Viet Nam has cooperated with RECOFTC conducting capacity building needs assessment in three of six pilot provinces for payment (Bac Kan, Ca Mau, Lam Dong). Recently, the Programme has successfully organized training courses for the Northern provinces with more than 40 participants. Two remaining workshops will be held in QII & QIII/2011 for Central and Southern provinces. Upcoming, the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme will set up an information sharing channel with those trained staff

Preparing for the NORAD appraisal delegation

H.E. Vice Minister Nhi expects the field trip of NORAD to learn about Viet Nam's local forest, what difficulties we are facing in protecting forest. NORAD can propose methods together with Viet Nam to protect and develop forest, prevent deforestation and forest degradation. In addition, NORAD will see the current living conditions of local people and how to help them in the next phase II. He also wants the questions of the indigenous people, such as "if I participate in REDD, what will I benefit?" "What I have to do?", etc to be answered.

UNEP representative requested a conference call with NORAD Mission team while they are in Viet Nam.

Preparing for the 6th UN-REDD Policy Board meeting

The ICD will coordinate with VNFOREST with regard to the reception of the delegation, visa upon arrival at the Noi Bai or Tan Son Nhat airports. Information Note on visas, travel, dress code... shall be provided delegates after getting the final list of participant from Organizing Committee

Department of Finance, MARD will coordinate with VNFOREST and MOF in preparing budgets which belong to the contribution of Viet Nam, mainly the site visit on March 23rd and the welcome party of the host. The Government agreed to approve a budget for network security arrangement for the conference. The Viet Nam delegation to the PB6 consists of 15 members lead by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Viet Nam also held online meeting with UN-REDD and FCPF Secretariat to assign responsibilities and agree on action plan.

Recognizing that hosting the 6th PB meeting is a good opportunity for Viet Nam to promote visibility of Viet Nam REDD+ and introduce the international community about the readiness of

Viet Nam for REDD+. The UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme is preparing brochure introducing its activities, highlighting Benefit Distribution System, FPIC, PCM and National REDD+ Program; and publishing the experience sharing in national REDD+ development. There will be two 5-minute video clips about FPIC and PCM and other posters, photos to show at the conference (in and outside the meeting room) as well as at field site.

The Provincial Working Group organized a meeting on 18th Feb 2011 assigning responsibilities for members as well as conducted field survey in Phu Son and Bao Thuan

- At Phu Son commune: NORAD delegation will visit Preteng village which is 11km from the center with hard roads. However, this is evidence for good participation in REDD+
- At Bao Thuan commune: NORAD delegation will participate in 2 activities: appraisal and dialogue with local ethnic minorities

In addition, the province agreed on the detailed plan with PMU, DARD and District PC of Di Linh and Lam Ha, now we are ready for the receiving the NORAD mission as well as UN-REDD and FCPF delegation to field sites

Financing management:

Ministry of Finance confirmed will closely coordinate with MARD in developing policies in financial management for the smooth implementation of UN-REDD program.

Capacity Development

It is excellent foundation to start to build and executed work to develop capacity activities for REDD+ in Viet Nam. During Q2 of 2011, PMU need to have strong focus on capacity development. UN agencies are more than willing to help PMU develop program to implement during Q2.

Safeguard for REDD+:

UNEP & UNDP have been working on social development of social and environmental safeguard and proposed piloting and testing safeguard in the context of UN-REDD in Viet Nam.

Gender

Viet Nam can be leading the way in this issue as well.

Involvement of other donors: It is necessary to continue to identify other partners that working with in the broader REDD+ program.

Wrap up notes by the Chair and Co-chair:

The opportunity to go to the field to see what is going on is very important.

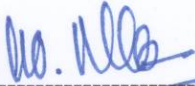
Encourage to continue the public advocacy and use this opportunity to raise awareness on UN-REDD and REDD more broadly in Viet Nam.

It is important to have broad government representation involve in the appraisal mission process.

It is important for the National Steering Committee to see number of key partners beside MARD, MONRE, MPI, MOF, MOFA and also the appearance of this group in Da Lat is a strong side to the PB in term of the Govt. of Viet Nam addressing this across government.

It is proposed that the Working Group continue to implement the action plan.

The meeting ended at 17:00 pm on March 2nd 2011

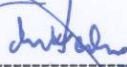


H.E. Hua Duc Nhi

Vice Minister of MARD

Chairman

Date: 12/05/2011



H.E. John Hendra

UN Resident Coordinator

Co-Chairman

Date: _____