



# UN-REDD PROGRAMME



## CAMBODIA UN-REDD NATIONAL PROGRAMME

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### Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> UN-REDD Programme Executive Board Meeting

Venue: Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra Hotel - Phnom Penh

Date: 12 December 2013

Time: 13:45-17:15

#### Summary of Minutes

The sixth Cambodia UN-REDD Programme Executive Board (PEB) meeting was organized on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December at the Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra Hotel, Phnom Penh.

Co-chair Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren gave the opening speech. She highlighted the importance of REDD+ in contributing to sustainable development and economic growth, in particular green growth. She also pointed out the achievements made thus far and the challenges ahead. In his opening remarks, H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsun, Director General of FA, highlighted the seven important decisions adopted at COP19 in Warsaw. He also mentioned the recent study tours to Cambodia by seven countries and the upcoming study tours by three other countries to Cambodia.

#### Decisions and Actions Required:

- The PEB decided that the Secretariat should consider sending email alerts prompting different stakeholders of new materials available on the [cambodia-redd.org](http://cambodia-redd.org) webpage.
- The PEB endorsed the work plan for 2014 provisionally for the first trimester (four months), and requested the NPD to explore additional sources of funding to fill the budget shortfall.
- The PEB decided that at its first meeting in 2014 with an update on spending in the first quarter of 2014 and on expectations for the rest of year will be presented. If there are still expectations of shortfalls then the Secretariat shall present an options paper for how to deal with this.
- The PEB agreed that the coordination mechanism for all REDD+ related initiatives in Cambodia should not be the PEB, but should be government led. Thus, the PEB recommended that the Secretariat prepare an options paper for presentation to the Taskforce to reflect and further decide on the format for such coordination mechanism.
- The PEB agreed that an open Board meeting will be piloted at the 8<sup>th</sup> PEB meeting (second PEB in 2014). In such meeting stakeholders working on REDD+ initiatives in Cambodia are invited to share information on their activities during the first part of the PEB meeting.
- The PEB requested the NPD to lead – periodically – on technical monitoring of progress based on agreed indicators at PEB Meeting.
- The PEB urged the RTS to ensure that the technical teams should become operational by the end of 2013; and requested a report on progress of the technical teams at the next PEB meeting.
- The PEB requested that creating greater synergies among strategies development under Outcome 2 be reflected in the next quarterly work plan.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> PEB meeting will be held on the 03<sup>rd</sup> April, 2014.

## I. The Participants

Details on PEB members, PEB alternates and observers who attended the 6<sup>th</sup> PEB Meeting can be found in [Annex I](#).

## II. Agenda

Details on agenda of the 6<sup>th</sup> PEB Meeting can be found in [Annex II](#).

## III. Meeting discussions

### 1. Follow up from previous PEB meeting [Please find more details in Annex III](#)

Presentations were made on the following topics:

- Progress against the 5th PEB decisions *by Mr. Lun Kimhy*
- Report on compliance with the SOP *by Ms. Pan Thida*
- New indicators for Results Framework *by Mr. Lun Kimhy*
- Report on implementation of communication strategy *by Mr. Peter Iversen*

### Comments and discussion

**Mr. Chuop Paris** questioned document 1 in relation to the establishment of the technical teams. He suggested that the technical teams should be established as soon as possible to make sure REDD+ related activities can proceed. He thus questioned why the technical teams are not yet established. He then questioned document 4 on the means of communications. He suggested that the communication officer should circulate information of the program through email. He pointed to the example of the list serve created by FAO in order to circulate their information.

**Mr. Lun Kimhy** mentioned that in terms of the establishment of the technical teams, his **H.E. Chheng Kimsun** had already sent the invitation letters the DGs of the different line ministries. As of now, three ministries have sent technical officers to join the technical teams. In the second Taskforce meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat should invite the nominated officers to join the meeting and related technical discussions. Later, when other ministries have sent their officers, the officers will start joining the technical teams gradually.

**Mr. Peter Iversen** stated that he will bring the email alert idea to the communication officer, **Ms. Thy Heang** (unable to attend the PEB meeting).

**H.E. Chheng Kimsun** agreed that the email alert idea is a good idea.

**Mr. Kim Nong** mentioned that MoE had already nominated their technical officers, and so why they are not mentioned in the technical teams.

**Mr. Thomas Enters** mentioned that may be the nomination from the MoE had been sent, but it has not been received yet. He also asked if FA had already made the nominations. With regards to email and website, the program in Vietnam circulates email alerts once in a while to highlight the posting of new documents on their website. Also, some people like himself have a size limit on incoming emails, and thus an email alert would be better than sending the document. **Mr. Enters** also asked about the status of the five policy briefs.

**Mr. Peter Iversen** mentioned that the policy briefs have been produced but they are currently being revised by the authors to fit the format established by the Secretariat. The major part of the work is done.



**Mr. Thomas Enters** suggested that the drafts are made available for review by various stakeholders such as the Consultation Group. Thus he suggested that the drafts of the policy briefs to be made available on the website and invite public comments and inputs.

**Mr. Koen Everaert** supported the work on communications and mentioned that it seems that the Facebook page is being used by Cambodian youth. This is a good sign in terms of public awareness on REDD+ in Cambodia. He also encouraged the RTS to use it very actively by posting to the page recent updates on REDD+ and other related sectors.

**Ms. Setsuko Yamazaki** commended the RTS on the progress made, especially the study tours. These study tours represented a great example of south-south cooperation amongst REDD+ countries; and thus they should be encouraged in the future. She was also pleased with the progress made by the communication team.

**H.E. Chheng Kimsun** mentioned that RTS has received requests from Thailand and Myanmar to come to visit Cambodia. Malaysia had recently visited.

#### Decisions:

- The PEB decided that the Secretariat should consider sending email alerts informing different stakeholders of new materials available on cambodia-redd.org webpage

## **2. Progress update** *Please find more details in Annex IV*

Presentations were made on the following topics:

- Progress and achievement in 2013 *by Mr. Lun Kimhy*
- Priority activities in 2014 *by Ms. Pan Thida*

#### Comments and discussion

**Mr. Ouk Vibol** asked for clarification on the budget and an explanation on each of the four outcomes.

**Ms. Pan Thida** explained that Outcome 1 covers the operational cost, personnel, administration, travel for capacity building for government partners and RTS members, and meetings such as the PEB, Taskforce, and other stakeholder engagement meetings as well as the photo concert. Outcome 2 covers activities for National Protected Areas management plan, FA's National Forest Program, FiA works, and other technical works in regards to hiring international and national consultants. Outcome 3 is UNDP's budget, and spent according to plan. In short, Outcome 2 needs to be accelerated in terms of decision making, administrative works, and consultant recruitments.

**Mr. Thomas Enters** mentioned that the figure on Outcome 2 is a bit misleading, for instance safeguards work is being done but there is no cost associated because a group of people have been working on the document that will be presented to the Taskforce in January which does not cost anything. He then mentioned that in getting ready for REDD+, the focus should be more on having the national REDD+ Strategies as a final product rather than focusing too much on moving from one phase to the next. He then mentioned the need for additional capacity building after the UN-REDD Programme will continue with the FCPF coming in. This work should begin as soon as possible.

**Mr. Koen Everaert** was surprised at the low expense for Outcome 2 because Outcome 2 is also expected to support the National Forestry Programme, which is currently under-funded. He thus suggested that RTS communicate this available funding to the FA because REDD+ is also mentioned in the National Forestry Programme. Also the Protected Areas Management Strategy at GDANCP is underfunded and can be supported by REDD+.



**Mr. Ouk Vibol** mentioned that FiA is considering including REDD+ program in their next 10 year strategic management plan. He presented this idea at the FiA's last Technical Working Group meeting with positive response from the FiA's Director General.

**Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren** mentioned that this discussion highlighted the issue of how to use available resources effectively, efficiently and on time.

- Priority activities in 2014

*by Ms. Pan Thida*

#### Comments and discussion

**Mr. Ouk Vibol** asked when did the programme start.

**Ms. Pan Thida** mentioned that the programme started in May 2011.

**Mr. Ouk Vibol** asked if there were consultations amongst the FA, FiA, and GDANCP on the proposed activities mentioned in document 6 and document 9.

**Ms. Pan Thida** stated that consultations were done at the weekly Secretariat meeting which involved staff from FA, FiA and GDANCP.

**Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren** invited the PEB members to focus on the detailed work plan under Outcome 2 since it is the Outcome that demonstrated the most severe bottleneck in 2013.

**Mr. Koen Everaert** suggested that activities need to be implemented under Outputs 2.1f and 2.1g and it is very unfortunate that there is no allocation for these activities. He thus suggested that these activities should be given priority.

**Mr. Lun Kimhy** mentioned that all the funds have been allocated and contracted to activities proposed by FA, FiA and GDANCP and thus it will be challenging to amend the proposed plan.

**Mr. Tim Boyle** added that there had been earlier work on these topics and work that has been undertaken at the regional level.

**Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren** mentioned the shortfall and operational costs and asked the board to suggest how to deal with the shortfall.

**Mr. Koen Everaert** mentioned that the size of the 2014 budget is very large and he is not worried that there will be shortfall at the end of 2014.

**Mr. Kim Nong** mentioned the need for doing activities on the ground to combat the degradation activities. This should be considered.

**Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren** suggested the PEB approve the work plan for the first four months and then address the budget again at the first meeting in 2014. She also asked for a presentation on substantial achievements at the first PEB meeting in 2014.

#### Decisions:

- The PEB requested the NPD to lead – periodically – on technical monitoring of progress based on agreed indicators at PEB Meeting.
- The PEB agreed that the technical teams should become operational by the end of 2013, and the PEB is looking forward to progress of the technical teams at the next PEB meeting, PEB 7<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. Requests for comments/decisions Please find more details in Annex V

Requests for Comments/decisions were made for the following topics:

- Approve concept papers on expansion of PEB mandate *by Mr. Peter Iversen*
- Approve proposal for technical review *by Mr. Peter Iversen*
- Approve of AWP 2014 *by Mr. Thida Pan*

#### Comments and discussion

**Mr. Thomas Enters** suggested splitting the PEB meeting into an open and a closed part, where the open part will be for information sharing by stakeholders who have been working on REDD+ and the closed part reserved for PEB business. He also requested the RTS to draft an option paper on how to coordinate REDD+ activities in Cambodia and present it to the Taskforce to reflect and decide. He does not think that the PEB is the right place to coordinate REDD+ activities in Cambodia.

**Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren** mentioned the general need for a coordinating mechanism for all REDD+ activities in Cambodia.

**Mr. Koen Everaert** mentioned that there are other options to share information like the different Technical Working Groups. He suggested that all of the meetings should be open. He thus does not support the suggestion of having a closed meeting.

**Mr. Chuop Paris** agreed that the PEB is not the right place to coordinate REDD+ related activities and he also does not see any reason to expand the roles of the PEB. The PEB's role is only to provide direction for the Programme.

**Mr. Ouk Vibol** supported Mr. Paris' comments.

**Ms. Setsuko Yamazaki** suggested that there should be some kind of coordination and information sharing on REDD+ and suggested to have a government led initiative to have all the actors working on REDD+ to come and work together. She stressed that the UN-REDD Programme will only run for one more year and thus it is not the right place for this activity in a long-run. UN REDD however can support the government in establishing such a government-led forum during the remaining year, as required.

**H.E. Chheng Kimsun** agreed that the PEB should have open meetings, and if the board has sensitive issues to discuss then the board could have another closed meeting.

**Mr. Nok Ven** supported the idea of information sharing, especially on outcomes from the Consultation Group meeting.

**H.E. Chheng Kimsun** mentioned that the success of REDD+ programme in Cambodia depends on the strength of the Secretariat, vice versa. He also suggested that the Secretariat needs to present the information more effectively and not just provide the documents to the PEB members. He suggested that there should be a brief summary for each document.

#### Decisions:

- The PEB endorsed the work plan for 2014 provisionally for the first trimester (four months), and requested the NPD to explore additional sources of funding to fill the budget shortfall.
- The PEB decided that at the first meeting in 2014 an update on spending in the first quarter of 2014 and on expectations should be prepared and if there are still expectations of shortfalls then the Secretariat shall present an options paper for how to deal with this.



- The PEB would like to see section on creating greater synergies on strategies development under Outcome 2 reflected in the next work plan
- The PEB agreed that an open Board meeting will be piloted at the 8<sup>th</sup> PEB meeting (second PEB in 2014, date to be confirmed). An open Board meeting means that stakeholders working on REDD+ initiatives in Cambodia are invited to share information on their activities during the first part of the PEB meeting.
- The PEB agreed that the coordination mechanism for all REDD+ related initiatives in Cambodia should not be the PEB, but should be government led. Thus, the PEB recommended that the Secretariat prepare an options paper for presentation to the Taskforce to reflect and further decide on the format for such coordination mechanism

#### 4. Open Discussion

**Mr. Lun Kimhy** reported on the outcomes of the two Taskforce meetings highlighting the Taskforce's approval of ToR for the four technical teams, the updates on decisions adopted at COP19<sup>th</sup>, progress made on social and environmental safeguards preliminary review, work on national forest monitoring systems, and the approval on calendar of work.

**Mr. Nok Ven** reported on work done by the Consultation Group. He mentioned that the group had agreed on their internal rules, and have nominated members to join the technical teams. They had also received updates on decisions adopted at COP19<sup>th</sup>. Finally, he mentioned that the Consultation Group will have training for four days next week in Kampot.

**Mr. Thomas Enters** suggested that the minutes from Taskforce and Consultation Group meetings should be posted on the Cambodia REDD+ website.

**Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren** asked whether the Consultation Group takes minutes for their meetings.

**Mr. Kim Narong** explained that the Consultation Group does produce minutes and circulate to their constituencies.

**Mr. Ouk Vibol** suggested that since the Consultation Group's minutes are in Khmer, the minutes should be summarized the main points of the minutes into English and post them on the Secretariat's website.

**Mr. Ouk Vibol** also invited the REDD+ Secretariat to present at the FiA's Technical Working Group meeting to present the status and progress on REDD+ in Cambodia.

**Mr. Thomas Enters** was pleased to receive the documents for the PEB one week in advance. He encouraged PEB members to have a browse through the documents prior to PEB meeting and thus the Secretariat should have shorter power points presentations.

**Mr. Nok Ven** mentioned the need for capacity building for communities and IPs which the UN-REDD Programme should address.

**Mr. Lun Kimhy** clarified that there have been programs and future programs on capacity building that included the involvement of communities and IPs.

**Ms. Setsuko Yamazaki** informed the PEB on the work for signing the document for the FCPF projects and in particular on the grievance mechanism and the need for capacity building at the UNDP country office.

H.E. Chheng Kimsun mentioned that there are too many mistakes in the Khmer version of the newsletter. He suggested the communication officer to consult further with national native speakers. Finally, he mentioned that the RTS can also send him the draft newsletter for comments and corrections.

**Summing up by Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren:**

Ms. Van der Vaeren summarized the decisions reached during the meeting.

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The meeting ended at 17:15

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Phnom Penh, 14/01/2014  
Minutes seen and approved by: va



**H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsun**  
Co-Chair UN-REDD Programme Executive Board  
Delegate of the Royal Government  
Head of the Forestry Administration



**Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren**  
Co-Chair UN-REDD Programme Executive Board  
UN Resident Coordinator, Cambodia