**Management Group (MG) of the UN-REDD Programme**

**Meeting Minutes of 27 March 2018**

**15h30 Geneva/Rome**

**Attendance:**

MG members and alternates

FAO: Margo BuszkoBriggs, Tiina Vahanen

UNDP: Elspeth Halverson, Josep Garí

UNEP: Dianna Kopansky

Secretariat: Mario Boccucci, Mihaela Secrieru

1. **2018/TA Inception**

*Decisions and Actions:*

1. MG to provide inputs on the updated TA/2018 inception status document by 10 April.

*Additional elements of the discussion*

It was clarified that Lead Advisors should provide information on communication with IP and CSO representatives in the countries, if any. This is not replaced by the global-level communication with IP/CSO representatives planned by UNDP at the upcoming UNPFII session in New York (16-27 April).

1. **Portfolio management**

*Decisions and Actions:*

1. MG members to identify both critical issues (at country and/or thematic area level) to be discussed at forthcoming MG calls.
2. MG members to identify also highlights of success and good practices to be discussed by MG and for wider dissemination (for example at EB meetings).
3. Secretariat to update the portfolio management document with info on Global Programme final evaluation
4. MG to review the portfolio management document and action points and send feedback to the Secretariat so the document is continuously updated
5. **Executive Board Informal Meeting**

*Decisions and Actions:*

1. Secretariat to update the concept note with MG’s suggestions as follows:
   * Make the agenda interactive, allowing for more time for discussion, to get a better sense of the Board’s concerns
   * Other substantive issues to be discussed in the final session might include: the UN-REDD gender marker, KM and South-South cooperation (Congo peatlands example), roundtable on the Programme’s 10 Year Anniversary (what Board members would like to see highlighted)
   * Add tentative dates for EB2 meeting

Done and shared with MG.

1. **AOB**

The three AOB items below were added to the agenda of this call.

* 1. **Lower Mekong potential opportunity**

*Decisions and Actions:*

1. MG concurred that this was potentially a good opportunity for the UN-REDD Programme to get involved, and that FAO will report back at 12 April MG call.

*Additional elements of the discussion*

FAO shared information on a new potential opportunity for the UN-REDD Programme in the Lower Mekong sub-region. Providing some background, FAO recalled Norway’s statement at the last Viet Nam UN-REDD Programme Executive Board meeting on their interest in supporting a regional collaborative programme on combatting illegal timber trade in the Lower Mekong sub-region (potential countries are Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand). Subsequent developments included an initial brainstorming meeting recently held in Bangkok ( Ivar from Norad, Margo from FAO, and regional technical advisors from UNDP and FAO) and a concept note shared by Norad. Next steps include a second internal meeting planned for 3 April and concept note to be submitted to Norway by end of May.

FAO mentioned Norway noted they are also expecting proposals from INTERPOL and UNODC. FAO asked for MG’s interest to get involved under the UN-REDD Programme umbrella in what seems an opportunity with potential of attracting new funding.

UNDP expressed support of the idea of nurturing this as UN-REDD, stressing the need to bring in the lessons learned from the East Africa Initiative on Illegal Timber Trade and REDD+, including UN-REDD leadership of the proposal (i.e. lower decision-making and financial responsibility for INTERPOL and UNODC) and ensuring country ownership from the start.

* 1. **TA/2019 Workplan and budget potential small adjustments**

*Decisions and Actions:*

1. Agencies will bring more details (in which countries demand for TA/2019 is going up or down) for further discussion on this item at MG call on 12 April.

*Additional elements of the discussion*

UNDP shared some feedback from the country level with regards to the TA/2019 planning, seeking other agencies’ experience. UNDP noted changing dynamics such as less traction in some countries and increased requests for continued support from others (especially in Africa). UNDP stressed this does not have budget implications and that the roadmap approved by EB1 stands, but that some adjustment might be necessary.

FAO and UN Environment echoed the same type of requests from countries to support them on different aspects of REDD+ implementation.

* 1. **UNFCCC invitation for UN agencies to participate in the Talanoa Dialogue at the April/May sessions**

*Decisions and Actions:*

1. Agencies agreed and the Secretariat submitted a story on/from UN-REDD (200 words) to the UNFCCC by the 27 March deadline following quick review by MG