

Sub-technical working group on MRV
summary of discussions for 13/August meeting

Date and time: 13 August 2010 13.30 – 16.30

Venue: JICA office

Participants: (see list at end of document)

Meeting agenda:

- Report on the FAO-GEO workshop/training (by Mr Vu Tien Dien on behalf of Vietnamese delegation) - presentation annexed
- Report on the GOF-C-GOLD workshop (by Mr Cao Tung, on behalf of delegation from Vietnam) - presentation annexed
- Progress on JICA's Study on RELs - presentation annexed
- Introduction of Participatory C-stock Monitoring (Dr Bao Huy)
- Updates on FCPF R-PP developments
- Report from the AWG-LCA meeting in Bonn (Dr Pham Manh Cuong)

Main discussion points:

- **Uncertainty of emission factors:** The great uncertainty involved in emission factors made available by the IPCC (Tier 1) raises concern, if Vietnam were to consider its application. The demonstration of such uncertainty is one of the strong points of the GOF-C-GOLD Sourcebook. In Vietnam, data for generating Tier 2 country specific emission factors do exist, though still in various forms and spread across several entities (including FIPI, RCFEE, FSIV, TNU etc.). The issue is that the quality (level of certainty) of such data has yet to be fully evaluated, and doing so will require much time and investment.
- **Regional sharing of emission factors:** When country specific emission factor data is produced, sharing data with neighboring (regional) countries becomes theoretically possible. Before this becomes practicable, steps need to be taken to a) further study characteristics and conditions of forests to assess level of adaptability of the data for regional countries; and b) establish regional mechanisms and agreement for sharing data. It is noted that there are internationally established data bases for emission factors, but qualifying this data and its applicability to Vietnam is necessary.
- **Assessing deforestation, and prospective RL/REL for Dak Nong:** The on-going JICA Study produced interim results of REL/RL for Dak Nong province, which provides an estimate forest area of 94,000 ha, and 29,000ha of deforested area in 2050, based on bio-physical projections of historical trends during the past 20 years.
- **Assessing degradation and certainty level of FIPI inventory data:** The JICA Study results of forest volume change in Dak Nong suggest, that due to the difficulty of interpreting and objectively assessing forest quality, use of the rich/medium/low forest classification of the FIPI inventory, may generate high uncertainty if used in developing RELs. This generally discourages the accounting of forest degradation in retrospective RELs. Nevertheless, the Study will continue to look into assessing volume change by use of "mean volumes" per forest type per inventory cycle. The final decision on the inclusion/exclusion of degradation into Vietnam's RELs will be made taking into account the outcomes of future international negotiations.
- **Strata to be applied for emission factors:** A stratification exercise will need to be carried out in order to assess the relevance/irrelevance of the currently applied agro-ecological zoning vs a stratification according to eco-regions. JICA Study is currently applying both the agro-ecological zoning, and the eco-regions according to WWF. A new study to stratify the country into REDD+ relevant eco-regions will be undertaken by the UN-REDD programme, taking a few months till completion. A final decision on which zoning system to adopt for REDD+ will be made taking into account, the results of these studies.

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- **Participatory C-stock monitoring (PCM):** PCM is being developed and field tested for forests being managed under participatory types of forest management arrangements, through the UN-REDD programming involving the steps of a) development of protocol, b) development of manuals, c) training and d) field testing. The entire exercise will be completed within the year. This data generated at the ground level will together with data generated by the national forest inventory system be used to generate biomass data for MRV. For non-participatory types of forest management, including those under State Owned Forest Company management, a different protocol will need to be developed.
- **R-PP components on RELs and MRV:** A first draft of the R-PP for FCPF was drafted for submission to the World Bank. The draft RPP will first be submitted to the FCPF initial reviewing committee by 23 August, which will be returned with initial comments. There will be consultation with larger stakeholder group at this point. The final document will be submitted to the World Bank by October.
As the draft document now stands, the FCPF resources are proposed not be directed towards RELs development, as other existing resources are sufficient, but for designing of an MRV system. Though there are existing funds and projects on MRV (including UN-REDD and the FAO/Finland NFA project), the MRV system will require the channeling of FCPF funds from various sources.
- **Updates on the international negotiations at the Bonn meeting of the LCA-AWG:** In terms of REDD+ discussions, the meeting ended as a back-tracking from the earlier meetings. Formal agreement or guidance on RELs or MRV from the UNFCCC mechanism is not anticipated till further in the future. Some of the key points of discussion were:
 - Differing perspectives emerged among Parties, particularly by the Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Boliva, rejecting the role of the market.
 - Forest definition was discussed, but definition of degradation was not.
 - Diverging positions on a legally binding agreement
 - (Draft ASEAN Statement for COP 16 to be drafted by Vietnam – chair of ASEAN)
- **Future events and schedules:**
 - The JICA study interim reporting meeting initially scheduled on 9th September, but will be rescheduled due to conflict of schedule with other events.
 - August 16-19th NORDECO consultants to arrive in Hanoi
 - Next MRV-Sub-technical Working Group to convene in September to discuss issues including updates from PCM and developments from RCFEE on SNV Cat Tien project

List of participants:

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| ● Kei Suzuki, JAFTA, JICA | ● Josh Kempinski, FFI |
| ● Hiroyuki Chiba, JAFTA, JICA | ● Vu Tan Phuong, RCFEE |
| ● Le Sy Viet, VFU/FAO consultant | ● Akiko Inoguchi, UN-REDD |
| ● Pham Manh Cuong, VNDof | ● Eiji Egashira, JICA |
| ● Nguyen Cao Tung, CFIC, FIPI | ● Do Thi Thu Thuy, JICA |
| ● Bao Huy, Tay Nguyen University/FAO consultant | ● Vu Tien Dien, FIPI |
| ● Le Truong Giang, FIPI/FAO consultant | ● Nguyen Thanh Tung, FSSP |
| ● Patrick van Laake, UN-REDD | ● Truong Tat Do, VNDof |
| ● Phung Van Khoa, VFU | |
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