

Sub-technical working group on MRV summary of discussions for 12 October 2010 meeting

Date and time: 12 October 2010/ 15.00-17.15

Venue: MARD Room 403

Participants: (see list at end of document)

Agenda items

1. Introduction, discussions and feedback on Components 3 (RELS) and 4 (MRV) of the draft R-PP and comments from FCPF
2. Facilitated discussions on rollout of MRV during the Piloting Phase of REDD in Vietnam (including introduction of MARD's proposal of UN-REDD Phase 2)
3. Updates from members on recent activities on MRV/RELS etc

1. Review of R-PP components 3 and 4

- The draft R-PP was informally submitted to the FCPF from MARD in August (accessible at: http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Sep2010/Viet_Nam_draft%20R-PP_August_2010.pdf). Comments were fed back from the FCPF Participant's Committee (PC) – circulated from MARD to REDDNetwork Googlegroups subscribers, followed by comments from the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) – not circulated. Submission of final R-PP is requested by FCPF by second week of October.
- Component 3: Reference Scenario (presented by Patrick van Laake, UN-REDD)
 - The PC comments reflect that the proposed methodology to forego accounting of historical “degradation” in RELs was well received.
 - The R-PP proposes REL/RL to be developed per the five REDD+ activities per ecological strata. But in reality, as “degradation” will not be accounted, and “conservation” and “SMF” methods for RELs/RL have not been elaborated yet by UNFCCC, this means that RELs will be developed for “deforestation” and RLs for “forest stocks enhancements” per strata.
 - Eiji Egashira (JICA) requested for correction under JICA's financial inputs. Should be: “2010-\$1.61M; 2011-\$660,000 ; Total-\$2.27M”.
 - Cao Tung (CFIC, FIPI) pointed out, in reference to the table on “Summary of Reference Scenario Budget” that “Establishment of historical deforestation maps at district level” has so far been done at the provincial level, and not at the district level, thus requires extra budgetary resources for carrying out. Nevertheless, it was agreed among STWG members that in the future, this activity would become necessary. Inventory data on forest area and volume (for current and historic) at the district level is partially available at FIPI, and needs to be shared with the STWG for further activities.
 - Recommendation from the PC review suggests “*The R-PP could elaborate further on the methodology to develop a reference scenario.*” The STWG agreed that more information on specific steps of the REL/RL methodology could be provided, including the on-going discussions on ecological stratification (under UN-REDD programme).
- Component 4: Design a Monitoring System (presented by Patrick van Laake, UN-REDD)
 - In response to PC review comment “*The R-PP could elaborate on the measurement protocols forest owners and households will follow when*

collecting forest data for the MRV system” – the development process for protocols have taken off under the UN-REDD programme; this development process will be included in the revised R-PP.

- In response to PC review comment *“The R-PP could consider the possibility that many households may not participate and therefore Vietnam not getting full coverage of forest area data and how Vietnam can ensure ongoing participation of households and forest owners in measuring and monitoring forest areas over time”* – where households do not participate, the provincial sub-Forest Protection Department together with other relevant local government offices will be held in charge of collecting necessary data. Pham Manh Cuong (VNDoF) shared that in the long-term, it is the policy of the government that all forest owners have the responsibility for forest monitoring and reporting.
- In response to PC review comment *“Clarify whether MRV data will be made publicly available or shared only with province and district level administrations”* - the STWG discussed that as transparency in data collection and open data access is required under the UNFCCC, this should and will be addressed.
- Comments/review from FCPF on Component 4b - Other Benefits and Impacts are missing.
- Pham Manh Cuong (VNDoF) reaffirmed the R-PP proposal for MRV by explaining that the NFI programme 2011-2015 planning now underway, will attempt integration of two systems of forest monitoring/reporting (area and quality monitoring) and forest inventorying (forest cover map and timber volume per forest type) which was up till now, carried out separately. It was also explained that currently under the proposal state of the new cycle of the NFI programme, details have yet to be fully communicated to the various offices of DoF, FPD and FIPI etc., at the local levels.
- With the reflection of the above points for change, Component 3 and 4 of the R-PP will be formally submitted by MARD to the FCPF.

2. Agenda 2: Piloting phase of REDD in Vietnam

- Introduction of UN-REDD Phase 2 (Patrick van Laake, UN-REDD)
 - Since end of 2009, the UN-REDD Programme was requested by MARD to start thinking of the local piloting and implementation of REDD. In response, a Phase 2 proposal is being developed for a four year programme, with approximate budget of \$108 Million, including approximately \$85M for payments (to be managed as a revolving fund after sales of credits are made) and approximately \$25M for technical assistance in five pilot provinces. The five provinces proposed are Nghe An, Lam Dong, Bac Kan, Ca Mau, Binh Tuan, but still pending formal selection within VNDoF. Much of the resources will be directed towards building capacity and training of provincial and local staff and communities, households. MRV will be fully developed and rolled out at the provincial level. Before the finalization of the Phase 2 proposal, three regional workshops will be held in the country to discuss REDD in general and collect feedback on the Phase 2 proposal.
 - Output 1: National programme development including policy

- Output 2: Institutional capacity building at the provincial level
- Output 3: Actual changes in the forest management – PCM, signing up for REDD, forest management plan development
- Output 4: Regional component for GMS and beyond, especially in relation to the furniture industry
- Capacity issues at VNDoF: In light of this new and large initiative, there is evident need to increase VNDoF capacity to be able to, not only carry out the UN-REDD Phase 2, but also the other REDD projects and beyond. Pham Manh Cuong (VNDoF) explained that there are plans for development of a new unit under the Science, Technology and International Cooperation Department of VNDoF for running the national REDD programme; also, the UN-REDD Phase 2 programme will be run by a board with the participation of MOF, MONRE etc. The Board will be supported by a technical support unit and a PMU (larger than the current UN-REDD PMU) at the central and possibly provincial PMUs.
- The UN-REDD Phase 2 is one programme, but the launching of this programme reflects the transition of Vietnam’s national REDD programme from the readiness phase into the piloting phase.
- Vu Minh Duc (Norwegian Embassy) commented that the UN-REDD Phase 2 proposal discussions open up a valuable opportunity for increased and improved donor collaboration/coordination. Such opportunity could be taken up by VNDoF/MARD by hosting a roundtable for discussion, preferably in the near future.

3. Agenda 3: Updates etc. from participants

- Pham Manh Cuong (VNDoF) shared information on a proposal for piloting of the next NFI cycle proposal in two districts of Lam Dong, using UN-REDD resources. The intention is to explore how REDD and NFI can be integrated.
 - Methods for forest cover map development (testing application of digital classification and visual interpretation)
 - Local households’ participation in forest monitoring is mandated by law – this will be initially tested in 2 communes then rolled out in 2 districts.
- Akiko Inoguchi (FAO) shared information on the up-coming initiatives related to MRV
 - Approval and starting-up of the National Forest Assessment project anticipated to be very soon
 - Ecological stratification exercise is being proposed to be undertaken by the RCFEE, beginning in November (under UN-REDD).
 - PCM field testing will take place in two sites in Lam Dong starting in early November (under UN-REDD).

List of Participants

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • Akiko Inoguchi, UN-REDD | • Dang Quang Thuyen, FIPI |
| • Tim Holland, SNV | • Vu Tien Dien, FREC, FIPI |
| • Patrick van Laake, UN-REDD | • Phung Van Khoa, VFU |
| • Eiji Egashira, JICA | • Truong Tat Do, VNDoF |
| • Noriyoshi Kitamura, JICA | • Pham Manh Cuong, VNDoF |
| • Vu Minh Duc, Embassy of Norway | • Le Truong Giang, FIPI/FAO consultant |
| • Nguyen Cao Tung, CFIC, FIPI | |