

**MINUTES OF MEETING
7TH UN-REDD PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Time	18 th September 2012, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Venue	Conference Room of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Chairs	H.E. Dr. Nguyen Ba Ngai, Deputy Director General, Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). H.E. Ms. Pratibha Mehta, Resident Coordinator, UN in Vietnam
Annexed documents	Annex I: List of participants Annex II: Agenda Annex III: Report on Results and Achievements of the UN-REDD Viet Nam phase 1 Annex IV: Experiences and lessons learnt from UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 1 Annex V: Update on the development of UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II

1. Opening remarks:

His Excellency Dr. Nguyen Ba Ngai noted that the 7th UN-REDD Programme PEB Meeting aimed to review the outcomes of the Programme in its three years of implementation. As the result, the Programme has made changes in attitude and understanding of people from different compositions and sectors in forest protection and management and REDD+. He expressed MARD's interest and concern to REDD+ issues and the Programme.

Her Excellency Ms. Pratibha Mehta, Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Vietnam highly appreciated the active participation of Vietnam in the global REDD+ dialogue, including the negotiations under the UNFCCC that the 1st Phase of the UN-REDD Programme has directly and indirectly contributed to. She emphasized that the last PEB meeting should review the outcomes of the program during its three years of implementation and address any outstanding issues. Some lessons learnt were highlighted, including harmonization of program operations, streamlining coordination and communication. She hoped the final meeting could spend some time to review the next steps for Phase 2.

His Excellency Ambassador Ståle Torstein Risa congratulated MARD and UN in Viet Nam on their achievements of the Quick Start Phase including successful development of National REDD+ Action Program (NRAP) for period 2011-2020;

significant impact on the domestic forestry sector, in terms of policy and practice, some notable successes such as BDS study, piloting FPIC, REDD+ Network, capacity building and awareness raising, mainstreaming REDD+ into SEDP at national level and provincial forestry development master plans in a number of provinces, close cooperation between MARD and related ministries including MPI, MOF, MONRE in REDD+ issues, improvement and finalization of the UN-REDD Phase 2 Document. He highlighted that lessons learnt from UN-REDD Phase I have valuable implications for not only REDD+ implementation but also for the wider field of forestry and land-use policy and practice in Viet Nam. The Ambassador also noted the unaccomplished work i.e the Program's anticipated impact beyond Vietnam's national borders, through "regional approaches" to REDD+. and stressed the importance to further harmonize and work as ONE among related UN agencies, e.g. UNDP, FAO and UNEP. Finally, the Ambassador reiterated the importance of the result-based approach, tackling drivers of deforestation, balancing between participatory monitoring and national MRV, promotion of One UN and ownership of the Vietnamese Government, engagement of and cooperation with other donors and designing a transparent, effective and efficient financial mechanisms in line with the UN-REDD tier 2 procedures.

2. Agenda 1: Results and Achievements of UN-REDD Viet Nam phase 1

(Presenter: Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen, Programme Manager)

Over 36 months implementation, UN-REDD Vietnam Phase 1 Programme had conducted main activities and achieved several key objectives and targets such as support the development and operation of National REDD+ network and its six sub-technical working groups, Vietnam REDD+ Office, National Action Plan on REDD+ (NRAP), study on ecological stratification, BDS, MRV framework, Communication Strategy as well as the results of piloting FPIC, PCM, etc. The Programme also had contributed to develop the UN-REDD Vietnam Phase 2 to ensure the continuous process of the initiative.

To strengthen the efficiency, it is recommended that the Programme continues to support REDD+ network and STWG activities, capacity building and awareness raising on REDD+ to line ministries and Phase 2 provinces, the implementation of National REDD+ Action Programme, share lessons learned to other programmes, development partners, INGOs and VNGOs.

See Annex III- Report on Results and Achievements of the UN-REDD Viet Nam phase 1.

3. Agenda 2: Experiences and lessons learnt from UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 1

(Presenter: Dr. Pham Quoc Hung, VNFOREST)

The experience generated during Phase 1 of the Programme offers important lessons, both for the design of Phase 2 of the Programme in Viet Nam, and for other UN-REDD and REDD+ country programs around the world. They may also

have relevance beyond the scope of REDD+, for the wider field of forestry and land-use policy and practice.

This report outlines the lessons that have been learned by a range of different stakeholders in Viet Nam, as a result of their involvement in different activities and discussions during Phase 1 of the Programme. They demonstrate a widespread appreciation of the inclusive nature of REDD+ discussions but also some persistent misunderstandings about the nature of REDD+, its likely benefits, and its limitations.

The report has been organized into nine categories, representing distinct activity areas and aspects of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme: (i) Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); (ii) Benefit Distribution System (BDS); (iii) Participatory Carbon Monitoring (PCM); (iv) REDD+ Consultation Networks and Working Groups; (v) Engagement of Civil Society, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Private Sector; (vi) Engagement of Non-forest Sectors; (vii) Regional Approaches; (viii) Forest Information Systems (FIS); and (ix) National REDD+ Management Structure.

See Annex IV - Experiences and lessons learnt from UN-REDD VN Phase 1

4. Agenda 3: Update on the development of UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 *(Presenter: Dr. Pham Manh Cuong, Director, Viet Nam REDD+ Office)*

Key milestones: Revised proposal was submitted to Norway in June 2012; received comments from Norway (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NORAD) on 14th July 2012; revised proposal was sent to Norway on 12th September 2012. Duration: 2012- December 2015. Phase 2 will be full scale piloting in 6 provinces and support for capacity building in other remaining forest-rich provinces.

See Annex V - Update on the development of UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2

5. Discussion:

There was overall appreciation of the work undertaken by the Programme, and acknowledgement that key issues from the Lessons Learned study as presented during the PEB meeting are relevant. (Detailed information on the Lessons Learned presentation are available in the report at: http://vietnam-redd.org/Upload/Download/File/Lessons_Learned_UN_REDD_VN_phase_1_final_3103.pdf. The following further comments were raised as areas of improvement and consideration to be reflected in the implementation of future activities under REDD+, including the Phase 2 of UN-REDD.

5.1. Results/Achievements of and Experiences/Lessons learned.

On the issue of regional collaboration especially with Laos PDR, Representative from the Government echoed messages from the Ambassador of Norway of the potential for further regional collaboration, particularly Laos, considering the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for effective collaboration

on forest protection, forest law enforcement, controlling and preventing illegal trading and transporting timber, forest products and wildlife between Vietnam (MARD) and Laos (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry). UN-REDD Phase 2 can be used as the vehicle for that collaboration. There was also suggestion on possibility to link up Forest Investment Program, UN-REDD and others who are working on the same area for the same objectives (increase of forest cover and emission reductions). It was also recommended that a workshop on REDD+ and FLEGT be organized (by FLEGT and REDD Offices) in Oct or Nov with participants from Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. Finally, in the Phase 2 proposal, the regional outcome need more detailed in term of output indicators to facilitate implementation and evaluation.

Representative from Government Office suggested that REDD+ jargon be not only translated but appropriately contextualized into Vietnamese so that wider stakeholders will be able to understand the international concepts of REDD+. Representative from FAO also shared the comment that REDD+ was new and abstract and appreciated that lots of efforts has been made to ensure the understanding on REDD+ to meaningfully participate into the program.

One of the valuable lessons from FPIC, culture context was very important to the success of REDD+ activity. Hence culture aspect should be taken into consideration in the next phase of implementation.

One of the key tasks in the near future will be the mainstreaming of REDD+ into Forest Protection and Development Plans (including Master Plans) at national and sub-national levels. It will be important that this process be taken to align REDD+ with the historical and on-going efforts and achievements, instead of introducing REDD+ as an entirely new initiative for the forestry sector.

The board members highly appreciated lessons learnt of phase 1 implementation. Lessons learnt would be shared broadly with regional countries including Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar who could learn for their REDD activities.

It was also acknowledged that many awareness raising and training activities on REDD+ have been organized at national and local level. It was necessary to verify their impact of the awareness and communication efforts during the past three years. Based on the assessment, the future communication activities in REDD+ can be mapped out in the next phase.

On the program expenditure, although delivery rate was good, about 98%. There was about 61,000 USD unspent that could be used for activities in the remaining period of program otherwise this unspent money would be returned to donor.

5.2. UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 proposal:

Representative from Government shared the update of Phase 2 development. There noted a change in terms of funding. The Phase 2 would focus on continuing to strengthen capacity at national and local levels. At national level, besides the National REDD+ Steering Committee, there would be the Programme Executive Board with representatives from line ministries. At local level, each province would establish its REDD+ Steering Committee led by leader of PPC. Development of distribution system as a sub-fund of FPDF or a separate fund still need considered. Two fund management options should be tested to find out the best. Piloting the fund model at a small scale and learning experiences from other credit schemes need also considered.

The Representative from MPI commented that there had been discussion about which agency would administer the Phase 2 funding. This agency need capacitated to perform and absorb the big funding (28 million USD) in the ambitious timeframe from 2012-2015. It was also emphasized the importance of how to make full advantage of lessons and methodologies that have applied and experienced during phase 1 for Phase 2 implementation including the coordination, harmonization and implementation modalities of the different three UN agencies and the government in the context of larger pilot areas as well as funding. It was desired that VNFOREST and VRO can map out the roadmap on how to be prepared for the Phase 2 roll-out.

There was also a comment from Lam Dong representative on how the Lam Dong would move in Phase 2 given the fact that many REDD readiness activities had been conducted in phase 1. Indeed, Lam Dong would need some more capacity building before moving into pilot activities and provision of positive incentives. Hence the Lam Dong experience could be documented for the other five provinces. However, it was necessary first and foremost to develop institutional set up including the fund mechanism, fund management (capacity and regulation).

The UN Representative also stressed that the harmonization, coordination and communication were important issues which needed to be addressed in Phase 2 drawing experiences from phase 1 and taking into account that Phase 2 will include bigger funding and many more partners involved.

6. Conclusion:

The Co-Chairs concluded that the UN-REDD Vietnam phase 1 seemed to have completed its objectives. The various achievements by the program had been appreciated, and the lessons learnt would be very useful for Phase 2. A REDD+ community had been established in Vietnam. The awareness of related departments and agencies at national level had been strengthened. In the pilot province, awareness on REDD+ from provincial to village level had also been strengthened. Initial institutional arrangement for REDD+ had been established.

REDD+ had been recognized in the national and sectoral strategy on reducing carbon emissions.

It was recommended that line ministries, agencies and provinces need to participate more in REDD activities. REDD+ concepts and terminologies needed to be contextualized into Vietnamese in a culturally appropriate manner. It was also necessary to continue to strengthen capacity not only at national level but also local level to understand that REDD+ implementation is a process that will consume time.

Decisions

The Board agreed that the regional collaboration would need further promotion, and that a workshop on FLEGT and REDD+ to be organized in November, in which Laos would be invited to share experiences and lessons.

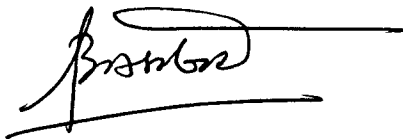
The Board agreed to use the remaining unspent budget of 61,000 USD for the regional workshop on REDD+ and FLEGT, NRAP launching, REDD network and STWGs activities and development of Phase 2.

Other issues

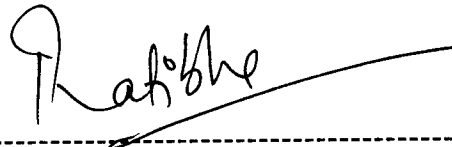
The Board also informed that a joint declaration between the governments of Norway and Viet Nam was going to be prepared, and that the Details Project Outline would be ready for signing and implementation in early 2013. Viet Nam would need to prepare the necessary institutional condition and organization to be ready for the start-up of the Phase 2 programme.

As for coming activities, the National closing workshop would be organized in early October, the UNDP/FAO audit of PMU on expenditures under HACT in the end of October and the independent Phase 1 evaluation by the UN-REDD Secretariat in early November.

The meeting ended at 12.00pm.



H.E. Nguyen Ba Ngai
Deputy Director General,
VNFOREST, MARD
Chair
Date: _____



H.E. Pratibha Mehta
Resident Coordinator,
United Nations in Viet Nam
Co-Chair
Date: _____

UN-REDD PROGRAMME IN VIET NAM
7TH PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
HANOI, 18 Sep 2012

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#	Full name	Position	Organization
1.	Pratibha Mehta	Resident Coordinator	UN in Vietnam
2.	Risa Stale Torstein	Ambassador	Royal Norwegian Embassy in Viet Nam
3.	Setsuko Yamazaki	Country Director	UNDP Viet Nam
4.	Yuriko Shoji	Representative	FAO Viet Nam
5.	Nguyễn Bá Ngãi	Deputy Director General	Vietnam Administration of Forestry
6.	Phạm Minh Thoa	National Programme Director	Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation – VNFOREST / UN-REDD Viet Nam
7.	Đoàn Hoài Nam	Deputy Director	Forest Protection Department, VNFOREST
8.	Phạm Mạnh Cường	Director	Vietnam REDD+ Office
9.	Võ Đình Tuyên	Official	Department of Economic Sector – Office of Government
10.	Nguyễn Ngọc Ánh	Official	Ethnic Policy Department, State Committee for Ethnic Minorities
11.	Nguyễn Mạnh Hòa	Deputy Director	Department of debt management and external finance - MOF
12.	Đỗ Hùng Việt	Deputy Director	Department of International Organizations, MOFA
13.	Louise Chamberlain	Country Director	UNDP Viet Nam
14.	Tore Langhelle	Program Analyst	UNDP Viet Nam
15.	Akiko Inoguchi	Program Officer – Forestry	FAO Vietnam

#	Full name	Position	Organization
16.	Heini Utunen	Program Officer	FAO Vietnam
17.	Larissa Falkenberg Kosanovic	First Secretary	Royal Norwegian Embassy in Viet Nam
18.	Vũ Minh Đức	Development Advisor	Royal Norwegian Embassy in Viet Nam
19.	Đào Xuân Lai	Sustainable Department	UNDP Việt Nam
20.	Lê Văn Minh	Deputy Director	DARD Lam Dong
21.	Nguyễn Trúc Bông Sơn	Provincial REDD focal point	Lam Dong Province
22.	Nguyễn Yên Hải	Deputy Director	Department of International Economics, MPI
23.	Nông Thị Hồng Hạnh		Department of International Economics, MPI
24.	Nguyễn Thị Thu Huyền	Programme Manager	UN-REDD
25.	Phạm Quốc Hùng	Official	VNFOREST

AGENDA THE SEVENTH PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Venue: Room 101, Building B6, MARD, 2 Ngoc Ha Str., Hanoi

Time: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 18 September 2012

Time	Description	In charge
7:45 – 8:00	Registration	PMU
8:00 – 8:15	Opening Remarks	H.E. Nguyen Ba Ngai, Deputy Director General, VNFOREST, MARD H.E. Pratibha Mehta, Resident Coordinator, UN in Vietnam H.E. Ambassador Stale Torstein Risa, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Viet Nam
8:15 – 8:35	Report on Results and Achievements of the UN-REDD VN phase 1	Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen, National Programme Manager
8:35 – 8:50	Experiences and lessons learnt from UN-REDD VN Phase 1	Dr. Pham Quoc Hung – DOSTIC
8:50– 10:00	Discussion	
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Tea break</i>	
10:15 – 10:45	Update on the development of UN-REDD VN Phase II	Dr. Pham Manh Cuong – Director of Vietnam REDD+ Office
10:45 – 11:45	Discussion	
11:45 – 12:00	Wrap up and Closing remarks	H.E. Nguyen Ba Ngai, Deputy Director General, VNFOREST, MARD H.E. Pratibha Mehta, Resident Coordinator, UN in Vietnam H.E. Ambassador Stale Torstein Risa, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Viet Nam

