**PGA COMMITTEE MEETING - Calabar, 19-20 February 2014**

**I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

***What is a PGA?***

Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ (PGA) is an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach that a country can use to obtain robust, credible and actionable information on governance in areas relevant to REDD+. Its participatory process, owned by REDD+ stakeholders in the country, aims to ensure the relevance, credibility and legitimacy of the governance information obtained, and to serve as a mechanism for increased dialogue and accountability among stakeholders. The PGA is conceived as a first step in addressing governance challenges, by identifying and assessing them first, and producing recommendations, and eventually as a basis for policy reform.

***PGA pilot countries***

Nigeria is one of four pilot countries currently implementing a PGA process with support from the UN-REDD Programme. The other pilot countries are Ecuador, Vietnam and Indonesia, which are at various stages of implementation - Indonesia having finalized an entire PGA cycle, including the development of governance indicators, the collection and analysis of data, the launch of a major report on governance for REDD+, and national dialogue on follow-up on PGA recommendations.

***History and status of the Nigerian PGA process***

In Nigeria, after initial discussions between UN-REDD and national and local State representatives resulted in the decision to implement a PGA, based on the expressed need and political will to address governance issues in REDD+ in the country, a PGA Coordinator was engaged in 2012 to facilitate the development of the PGA - which is to be piloted within the Cross River State before being extended to the rest of the country.

Significant progress was achieved in late 2012 and early 2013:

- In order to provide background material as a basis for discussion, a PGA research team was commissioned to undertake preliminary research in the form of a study in three pilot sites in Cross River State, on four aspects of governance: (1) Stakeholder analysis ("who" would be key stakeholders to include throughout the PGA process), (2) The private sector (to involve key private actors more meaningfully in the PGA process), (3) Traditional means of communication (to ensure that PGA data and results are made available to local stakeholders in an appropriate manner) and (4) A mapping of governance issues relevant for the REDD+ process in CRS and at the national level.

- A three-day workshop was held in Calabar from 16 to 18 January 2013, which provided the opportunity for Nigeria REDD+ stakeholders to interact and reflect on the findings of the preliminary PGA pilot research work and to consider the next steps in the PGA process in Nigeria. A management structure for the PGA was also discussed in order to ensure continuity and adequate participation. The workshop included a multi-stakeholder consultation (16-17 Jan), and a training on indicators and data collection (18Jan) attended by a smaller number of participants. (See workshop report for more details.)

Over the three days of the workshop, the following significant outputs were achieved:

1.The PGA Committee, a core group of 8 members representing different stakeholder categories - National State, Cross River State, organized civil society, academia and local communities - was established. Its members, as selected by the workshop participants, are: Salisu Dahiru, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Environment; Odigha Odigha, Cross River State Forestry Commission; Edwin Usang, NGOCE (CSO); Francis Bisong, University of Calabar; Elizabeth Andrew Essien, PGA Research Team; Andre Dunn, WCS; Amos Kajang, Representative of the Mbe Mountain and Priscilla Achakpa, Women Environmental Programme.

2. Key governance issues or domains for the PGA to deal with were identified, and the following 4 issues were prioritized: (1) Broad and Informed Participation of REDD+ Stakeholders, (2) Harmonization of Policy and Legal Framework for REDD+, (3) Transparency & Accountability of the REDD+ Process and Finance, (4) Inter-governmental relations in REDD+ implementation.

3. A draft set of indicators was developed for the 4 above-mentioned governance issues or domains (see draft indicator set attached).

4. A roadmap was drafted, outlining the agreed next steps for the PGA process in Nigeria (see attached).

After these achievements in January 2013, the Nigerian PGA process experienced a period of delay due to a number of reasons, including a change of PGA Coordinator, difficulties in securing a new full-time PGA Coordinator, and certain capacity and administrative issues, which were eventually resolved.

In November 2013, a mission from the PGA global support team allowed to re-engage discussions on the PGA and its integration with the rest of the REDD+ work in Nigeria (in particular in relation with safeguards and the newly constituted Safeguards Taskforce), and to prepare for restarting PGA activities in early 2014.

In January 2014 the new PGA Coordinator took office, thus promising faster progress and a complete implementation of the remaining steps of the PGA process in 2014.

**II. MEETING OBJECTIVES**

The immediate next step required in order to restart the PGA process in 2014 is to convene and revive the PGA Committee, whose role is to drive the process (in coordination and consultation with different groups of stakeholders as relevant), in order to take stock of the current situation and define the way forward for a successful implementation of the PGA in 2014.

As such, the overall objective of this PGA Committee meeting is to re-launch the Nigerian PGA process, and to define precise next steps and modes of implementation for a prompt follow-up and efficient conduction of activities.

The specific objectives the Committee will seek to achieve at this meeting include the following:

1. Review PGA outputs to date, including the preliminary research studies, workshop report and draft indicators set, in order to get a clear understanding of the current status and how to build on previous work.
2. Revise the PGA roadmap elaborated in January 2013 and validate an updated version of it.
3. Validate the mode of integration of PGA into Nigeria's broader REDD+ work, especially Safeguards-related work.
4. Agree on main practical aspects of the PGA process, including but not limited to:

* Length of the process;
* Management structure for the PGA process Nigeria (confirm or elaborate on structure previously agreed at the January 2013 workshop);
* Levels/types of participation for the different steps of the process (at which key stages is broader stakeholder consultation required, and with which stakeholders);
* Who will be developing the methods to be used for the PGA data collection and who will be collecting and analysing the data - and attend the complementary training on data collection to be provided;
* Modalities of communication/follow-up from the PGA Coordinator with PGA Committee members and all other parties involved;
* Forms of coordination between PGA Committee and Safeguards Taskforce and other as relevant;
* Timing and form of external support/contributions from UN agencies;
* Modalities for monitoring progress and performance.

1. Based on the updated roadmap, start preparing a PGA work plan for 2014, incl. fix the dates and main contents of the next PGA workshop(s), which will aim to finalize the indicator set and define data collection methods. (The complete work plan will be eventually finalized by the PGA Coordinator and submitted to the Committee for validation.)

**III. PARTICIPANTS**

The participants for this meeting are all the members of the PGA Committee that were identified during the PGA workshop organized in January 2013 (see list in part I above). Members of the Safeguards Task force and other relevant representatives will also participate as relevant for coordination purposes.

**IV. MEETING STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES**

The meeting will take place in a combination of plenary sessions a group work session with the PGA Committee members and the other participants, and will consist of brief presentations, review of documents, open discussions, joint drafting or update of documents and work planning. The activities carried out in the meeting will be based on the above objectives, and reflected in the meeting agenda attached.