Note on UN-REDD Programme's Work on Governance

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

1. UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme is a joint programme between three UN agencies: FAO, UNEP and UNDP established in late 2008 to help countries get ready to benefit from REDD+. The Programme has six work areas: MRV, stakeholder engagement, governance, multiple benefits, sectoral transformation, and knowledge management. The Programme supports currently nine pilot countries, three in each region: Africa, Asia and Latin America, and is expected to increase its country support to meet the growing demand. The UN-REDD Programme works through three main delivery channels:

- **National Programmes**, (approximately 75% of the funds) that provide a holistic package of support to assist countries to *inter alia* develop REDD+ national strategies, strengthen and coordinate their institutional arrangements, build MRV systems, engage stakeholders, consider payments structures and benefit sharing mechanisms, and take into account ecosystems and social benefits

- **Global Programme** that provides expertise venues for dialogue and exchanging lessons learned, analyses, reviews and guidelines on technical issues linked to REDD+

- **Targeted support** for in-depth support to countries on one of the UN-REDD work areas.

2. UN-REDD Programme and governance

The UN-REDD Programme is supporting the pilot countries to establish transparent and effective governance systems for REDD+. The Programme is supporting governance interventions that governments and national stakeholders have identified as priorities, such as stakeholder consultation and participation, cross-sectoral coordination in REDD+ planning and implementation, as well as legislative review towards reform and enforcement. Within the UN-REDD programme, UNDP leads this body of work on governance, and works closely with FAO and UNEP, and World Bank hosted REDD+ initiatives FCPF and FIP, as well as many other – including non-governmental - institutions dealing with governance issues.

Further to these initial steps, the support that contributes to to effective and inclusive national governance systems in REDD+ partner countries, includes:

- A body of work on monitoring governance safeguards (activities undertaken jointly by UNDP and FAO);

- Support to transparency and accountability in REDD+ systems - by drawing on the expertise of and activities of UNDP's work on anti-corruption;

- Support to REDD+ "policy enablers", initiated using country-led governance assessments, user capacity development, evidence-based policymaking, land tenure systems and strengthened national legislative frameworks.

2.1. Monitoring governance safeguards

MRV of governance focuses on monitoring the performance of a country's capacity and governance. The success of REDD+ depends on the country's capacity to coordinate and collaborate between

different governmental bodies, channel important amounts of funds, build capacities, fight corruption and deliver transparent data on GHG emissions. To advance thinking and coordination on this topic, the "Expert Workshop on Monitoring Governance Safeguards in REDD+", was convened in June 2010 by the UN-REDD Programme and Chatham House in collaboration with Global Witness and the World Resources Institute.

Among the issues highlighted as crucial for successful REDD+ implementation were: the existence of clear institutional roles and responsibilities; the need for effective coordination between institutions and across sectors; institutional capacity to implement decisions; and transparent systems for the management of budgets and financial flows. Another key aspect of governance recognized by workshop participants was the effective participation of all stakeholders. Fifteen practical principles for implementing monitoring derived from best practice and lessons learned from existing initiatives and case studies were developed as a basis for discussion at the workshop.

2.2. Country led multi-stakeholder governance assessments

Activities to support REDD+ governance processes should rely on a clear picture of a country's REDD governance situation, gaps and needs as defined through inclusive, participatory multi-stakeholder processes. Towards this goal, the UN-REDD Programme will support the conduct of nationally owned, multi-stakeholder, inclusive and participatory governance assessments. This methodology, which has been tested in a number of countries and sectors by UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre, relies on a partnership between government and civil society to identify governance challenges and develop performance improvement processes.

2.3. Linking governance and social standards and benefits

Governance activities will be tightly linked to the Programme's activities on social standards and benefits. A due diligence tool for applying minimum social standards has been developed to guide and improve national programme design, secure stakeholder support and increase programme sustainability. This rights-based approach It has been developed to be consistent with the safeguard guidance provided in the UNFCCC's draft AWG-LCA text on REDD+ and has drawn on contributions from a number of initiatives (such as those of the FCPF and CCBA/CARE) and conventions, policies and guidance of the UN system.

Three inter-related principles of good governance, stakeholder livelihoods and policy coherence each contain criteria and questions to assist users assess potential risks and identify risk mitigation strategies. The UN-REDD Programme is currently finalizing a draft of the social principles risk assessment tool and will undertake a process to gather formal feedback from REDD+ partner countries, institutional partners and a broader range of stakeholders through its public website.

2.4. Looking forward

The UN-REDD Programme looks forward to implementing its governance related activities, in collaboration with other partners active in this field. In this context we also look forward to cooperating with the EC FLEGT-REDD ad hoc Working Group, to contribute to wider REDD+ and governance goals as determined by countries and the UNFCCC process.