



CAMBODIA UN-REDD NATIONAL PROGRAMME

Minutes of the 8th UN-REDD and FCPF Programme Executive Board Meeting

Venue: Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh

Date: 7 August 2014

Time: 08:30-17:00

Summary of Minutes

The eighth Cambodia UN-REDD and FCPF Programme Executive Board (PEB) meeting was organized on 7 August 2014, at the Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh.

Co-chair, **Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren**, UN Resident Coordinator gave the opening speech.

Ms. Van der Vaeren welcomed new PEB members, Ms. Elodie Maria-Sube as a representative from the European Union, and Mr. Naoki Mitori as a representative of the Embassy of Japan. She noted that for the first time this PEB meeting is divided into two sessions: a closed session during the morning where PEB members review and discuss internal matters related to the UN-REDD Programme and FCPF project; followed by an open session to share key PEB decisions with stakeholders and to facilitate information exchange among stakeholders on REDD+ activities. ✓

Ms. Van der Vaeren recalled that the UNFCCC COP 19 in 2013 resulted in seven key decisions known as the Warsaw Framework. This was a significant benchmark for REDD+ as this framework provides guidance to developing countries including Cambodia to pursue results-based payments from diverse global funding sources. To access such payments, Cambodia is required to develop a national REDD+ strategy, establish a national forest reference emission level, and establish a national forest monitoring system. In addition, countries have to establish a safeguards information system, and a grievance redress mechanism. ✓

Ms. Van der Vaeren noted that she was pleased to see that key activities, such as preparation of a national REDD+ strategy, and work on monitoring and MRV and safeguards are progressing, and noted that it remains important to complete these and other activities effectively to ensure that the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) is able to complete all requirements for accessing results-based payments. ✓

Ms. Van der Vaeren also introduced three new staff members. Mr. Anupam Bhatia, as technical specialist, Mr. Sovanna Nhem, as national project advisor, and Mr. Huort Teng, as project assistant. ✓

Written comments by co-chair H.E. Chheng Kimsun were presented to the PEB. In his comments, he commented that he was pleased to note satisfactory progress had been made to strengthen the national coordination process and related mechanisms. The Taskforce in its regular meetings ✓

continues to provide oversight to the process for the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy, and is examining further options for the REDD+ Fund Management Mechanism. He especially welcomed the establishment of the REDD+ Gender Group and expressed confidence that this group will play an important role in ensuring gender issues are integrated in all the activities and plans of REDD+ in Cambodia.

H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsun observed that he is looking forward to the results of the research that will develop valuation for forests under different management regimes. This will be an important contribution to policy development, as it will indicate costs of implementing REDD+ in comparison to other land-use options. He further noted that important updates would be presented on ongoing efforts to developing a benefit-sharing mechanism, safeguards information system, and REDD+ grievance redress mechanism – all important aspects of a successful REDD+ framework.

He reiterated the RGC commitment to engaging all stakeholders in REDD+ policy development and practice, underlined by the extensive process of consultations undertaken in the last few years. The establishment of the Consultation Group that represents nine different stakeholders ensures that all voices are provided an opportunity to be heard and heeded. This process will be strengthened further as the Consultation and Participation Plan is finalized. Multimedia mechanisms such as print, radio, internet, and film are all being used to create awareness about REDD+ and the posters, films, and TV programmes that are being finalized now will strengthen outreach efforts with our stakeholders.

However, he noted that there is still a need to strengthen and accelerate work on field-based demonstration activities and this should receive priority in plans for Quarters 3 and 4 in 2014.

Decisions and Actions Required:

- Requested the RTS to prepare the ToR for the proposed National Coordination Mechanism, and for these ToR to be circulated to the PEB members prior to the 9th PEB.
- Requested the RTS to provide progress reports on the development of the national REDD+ strategy and mechanisms for benefit sharing and a nationally appropriate system of safeguards.
- Requested the RTS to re-instate the traffic light format system for reports in future PEB meetings, to enable PEB members to assess progress against plans.
- Noted and approved that unutilized UNDP funds under Outcome 3 be used to cover funding shortfalls under Outcome 1 and 2.
- Approved the FCPF SOP.
- Approved a no-cost extension for a period of six months, up to 30 June 2015. The PEB also emphasized that the MRV/REL Technical Team needs to develop a detailed workplan.
- Requested the RTS to identify assets that would be transferred to the FCPF project.
- Noted that the UN Agencies would apply a consistent approach to DSAs for an interim period while Development Partners agree on the interpretation and endorsement of Anukret 216. This will be reviewed at the 9th PEB meeting.
- Noted the appointment of H.E. Chuop Paris as the REDD+ Focal Point for Cambodia to the UNFCCC and agreed to extend an invitation to H.E. Chuop Paris to join future meetings of the PEB.
- Requested the RTS to make corrections as advised to the budget projections before uploading onto the website.
- Requested the RTS to ensure that the FiA logo is included in all UN-REDD Programme and FCPF materials.
- **The 9th PEB meeting will be held on 11 December 2014.**

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I. The Participants

The list of PEB members, PEB alternates and Observers who attended the 8th PEB Meeting can be found in Annex I.

II. Agenda

The agenda of the 8th PEB Meeting can be found in Annex II.

III. Meeting discussions

1. Follow up from the 7th PEB meeting Please find more details in Annex III

Presentations were made on the following topics:

- New Structure of the RTS and Programme/Project support proposed under the FCPF Project *by Mr. Khun Vathana*
- Funding of Final Evaluation of the UN-REDD programme *by Ms. Nina Brandstrup*
- Taskforce Decisions on Coordination Mechanism for REDD+ *by Mr. Khun Vathana*
- Response to comments from the Representative of IP made at the 7th PEB Meeting *by Mr. Khun Vathana*
- Update on REDD+ Cambodia Newsletters and Communications Material *by Ms. Thy Heang*

Comments and discussion

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren thanked FAO for agreeing to contribute to the costs of the final evaluation, and observed that it is important to decide on the timing of the evaluation. She proposed that, subject to a later decision of the PEB on a no-cost extension, the end of the first quarter of 2015 might be appropriate, and noted that this needs to be discussed later.

Mr. Thomas Enters asked for clarifications on the Taskforce decision to adopt all three options for a proposed coordination mechanism. He observed that the options focused on information sharing, rather than coordination. Mr. Enters emphasized the leadership role of RGC agencies and proposed that the RTS should develop ToR, outlining measures currently in place, challenges related to coordination, and recommendations on improved and effective coordination mechanisms.

In relation to the presentation on comments submitted by the IP representative, and the draft response, **Mr. Nok Ven**, PEB IP representative said that he appreciated the effort that had been put into responses provided and expressed his satisfaction.

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren encouraged the PEB IP member to disseminate the PEB response to his constituents and noted that the PEB should continue to monitor implementation of the commitments.

Ms. Chea Lily asked whether provincial IP representatives would be involved in awareness raising and whether an assessment of the impact of awareness raising was being planned. She also noted the Cancun safeguards supported full and effective participation, and asked whether a nationally appropriate system of safeguards is under development. *uy*

In response, **Ms. Thy Heang** confirmed that provincial IP representatives will be closely involved in the awareness-raising programme, starting in three pilot provinces, and that an assessment would be undertaken.

Ms. Moeko Saito-Jensen confirmed that a process leading to the development of a nationally appropriate set of safeguards is underway.

Ms. Nina Brandstrup congratulated the RTS for its communications activities, noting that it is extremely important to share messages about REDD+.

Ms. Chea Lily asked whether newsletters are produced in Khmer as well as English, and whether these are distributed at the sub national level.

In response, **Ms. Thy Heang** confirmed that newsletters are published in both languages, are distributed at all sub-national consultations and other events. In addition, all CG members are provided with as many copies as required for dissemination.

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren noted that using multiple forms of communication is important, and TV and radio are especially effective at sub-national levels. She proposed that it would be useful to assess the extent to which dissemination is effective, and encouraged the RTS to undertake such an assessment. She also noted that the UN-REDD programme has a range of experts on many topics and that these should be made use of in preparing materials.

Decisions:

- Requested the RTS to prepare ToR for the proposed National Coordination Mechanism, and for these ToR to be circulated to the PEB members prior to the 9th PEB.
- Requested the RTS to provide progress reports on the development of the national REDD+ strategy and mechanisms for benefit sharing and a nationally appropriate system of safeguards.

2. Progress update

Please find more details in Annex IV

Presentations were made on the following topics:

- UN-REDD Programme progress and achievements *by Mr. Uy Kamal*
- Community-Based REDD+ *by Ms. Moeko Saito-Jensen*
- Delivery Rates for Q2, 2014 *by Ms. Pan Thida*

Comments and discussion

UN-REDD Programme progress and achievements

Mr. Thomas Enters agreed with Mr. Uy Kamal's observation that the report should show progress against indicators, rather than implementation of activities. He noted that the "traffic light" reporting mechanism against indicators had been used at previous meetings and suggested that the practice be re-instated. He observed that a progress report should not include information on future plans.

On Outcome 1, **Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren** said that stakeholder engagement is essential for all activities, but especially for FCPF Output 1.5, given concerns expressed by the IP representative. ➡

On Outcome 2, **Mr. Thomas Enters** said it was over-optimistic to characterize the work under Output 2.1 as “almost complete”. He urged the RTS to be honest with its assessments, and observed that the point of having a closed session was to allow difficult issues to be discussed.

Ms. Nina Brandstrup emphasized the importance of developing a mechanism for the National REDD+ Fund (NRF), since it was a mechanism to access results-based payments, and everything else would not function if there were no effective financial mechanism.

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren asked if there was a preferred option for the NRF, while **H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsun** emphasized that the preferred option should be sustainable and easy to implement.

Mr. Lun Kimhy responded that the preferred option was the creation of a multi-donor trust fund, administered by an independent trustee, and that this had been presented to the Taskforce.

H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsun urged the RTS to review experiences from other countries for lessons on the design of an appropriate national fund mechanism for Cambodia.

On the budget, **Mr. Thomas Enters** noted that moving funds across Outcomes is something that requires careful thought and explanation; that there should be no balance funds remaining from UNEP’s allocation by the end of the project.

Ms. Setsuko Yamazaki observed that it was not possible to use FCPF funds to pay for existing contracts under the UN-REDD Programme.

The PEB agreed that moving unspent UNDP funds from Outcome 3 to under-budgeted UNDP activities in Outcomes 1 and 2 did not constitute a substantive change that needed to be referred to the UN-REDD Policy Board. This request was approved, subject to modifications being made to the budget to ensure there would be no unutilized funds under the UNEP allocation nor overspending under the UNDP allocation.

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren asked that a detailed report on FCPF disbursements be presented to the next meeting.

Decisions:

- Requested the RTS to re-instate the traffic light format system for reports in future PEB meetings, to enable PEB members to assess progress against plans.
- Noted and approved that unutilized UNDP funds under Outcome 3 be used to cover funding shortfalls under Outcome 1 and 2.

3. Requests for comments/decisions *Please find more details in Annex V*

Requests for Comments/decisions were made for the following topics:

- Approval of SOP for FCPF project *by Dr. So Thea*
- Disposal of Assets Purchased with UN-REDD Funds *by Ms. Pan Thida*
- Proposal for a no-cost extension *by Ms. Nina Brandstrup*

Comments and discussion

The PEB approved the FCPF SOP.

Mr. Nok Ven asked for clarification on whether the membership of the PEB would remain unchanged for the FCPF, and **Ms. Van der Vaeren** confirmed that this decision had already been made. *HY*

On the disposal of assets purchased with UN-REDD Programme funds, **Ms. Van der Vaeren** proposed, and the PEB agreed that the RTS be asked to identify those assets that are to be transferred to the FCPF project. Any remaining assets would be transferred to the partners currently using these.

The PEB agreed to a six-month no-cost extension up to 30 June 2015. **H.E. Dr. Chea Sam Ang** commented that while he did not object to a no-cost extension, he wanted the MRV/REL team to develop a detailed workplan and budget and expressed the hope that the workplan would be for a period less than six months.

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren emphasized that a no-cost extension should not affect established deadlines.

Decisions:

- Approved the FCPF SOP.
- Approved a no-cost extension for a period of six months, up to 30 June 2015. The PEB also emphasized that the MRV/REL Technical Team needs to develop a detailed workplan.
- Requested the RTS to identify assets that would be transferred to the FCPF project.

4. Open Discussion

Ms. Setsuko Yamazaki provided an update on the UNDP audit report and proposed remedial measures. The main issues identified in the audit report were:

- Compliance with national DSA guidelines (Anukret 10);
- Payments made without supporting documents; and
- Tax payments

On compliance with DSA guidelines, **H.E. Dr. Chea Sam Ang** explained the background to the issue as being outdated rates that are no longer viable. The solution adopted was to apply higher rates for all staff. He further noted that with the release of Anukret 216, the issues related to Anukret 10 were no longer relevant.

Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren said that the development partner community is developing a coordinated approach to application of Anukret 216, which is not yet finalized. Therefore, current arrangements should continue pending a decision on application of Anukret 216.

Ms. Setsuko Yamazaki assured all PEB members that UN Agencies in the UN-REDD Programme would apply DSA rules consistently.

H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsun reported that H.E. Chuop Paris had been nominated as the RGC focal point for REDD+ to the UNFCCC and proposed that an invitation to become a member of the PEB be extended to H.E. Chuop Paris. This proposal was accepted by the PEB.

Mr. Ouk Vibol requested that the logo of the Fisheries Administration be included on all UN-REDD Programme and FCPF materials.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as **11 December 2014**.

Decisions:

- UN Agencies will apply a consistent approach to DSAs for an interim period while development partners agree on an interpretation of Anukret 216. This will be reviewed at the next PEB meeting.

- An invitation to become a member of the PEB should be extended to H.E. Chuop Paris.
- Requested the RTS to ensure that the FiA logo is included in all UN-REDD Programme and FCPF materials.
- The 9th PEB meeting will be held on 11 December 2014.

Summing up by Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren and H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsun:

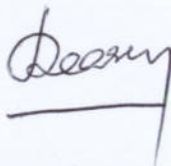
Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren summarized the decisions reached during the meeting, commended the RTS for the scope and quality of the preparations made for the PEB, and thanked all participants for their contribution.

H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsun observed that we have come to the end of the 8th PEB meeting and invited participants to join the Open Session. H3

The closed session ended at 12:20pm

Phnom Penh, 12/09/2014

Minutes seen and approved by:



Chheng Kimsun, Ph.D.
Co-Chair UN-REDD Programme Executive Board
Delegate of the Royal Government
Head of the Forestry Administration



Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren
Co-Chair UN-REDD Programme Executive Board
Resident Coordinator, United Nations Cambodia