

26 May, 2010

Dear Policy Board Members,

It's already been two months since the UN-REDD Programme's 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Board meeting and the Secretariat wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the progress the Programme has made in supporting countries' efforts on REDD+ readiness and enhancing cooperation.

#### **UN-REDD collaboration with FCPF and FIP**

Earlier this month, the UN-REDD Programme met with the secretariats of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and Forest Investment Program (FIP) to begin the design of a delivery mechanism to support REDD+ readiness at the country level. Once agreed, this delivery mechanism, with a standardized set of operating principles and common standards, will allow countries to draw on the combined strengths and expertise of the leading multilateral agencies in the REDD+ space.

The FCPF, FIP, and the UN-REDD Programme are also working on finding synergies in MRV, engagement of stakeholders, as well as in knowledge management and sharing. A joint paper on enhancing cooperation, especially at the country level, is being prepared for consideration by the governing bodies of the three programmes.

Furthermore, thoughts have been developed and shared among the partners on the possible voluntary REDD+ database, if such a task is requested.

These developments along with comments received, and the results of the meeting in Oslo will be incorporated into the draft Programme strategy document, which is in the process of being finalized.

#### **Lead up to Oslo**

This week, the Government of Norway will host the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference, which will seek to establish an interim partnership arrangement for REDD+. A draft partnership document which proposes that the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF could provide support to the proposed REDD+ interim arrangement was distributed by the organizers for comment. We in the secretariats stand ready to provide these services if requested, and reiterate our commitment and support for a more streamlined and coordinated approach to supporting REDD+.

In Nairobi, the Policy Board asked the Secretariat to coordinate the submission of comments on the draft partnership document from the Policy Board to the Oslo conference. However, given this partnership process is in the hands of the countries participating in it, and also given there was in place an open process to provide comments on the document via the Oslo Conference website, the Secretariat decided it was best to leave the process in the hands of countries. The Secretariat however, did provide inputs through surveys and phone interviews, emphasizing the Programme's support to countries national readiness processes and implementation.

#### **Programme progress**

The Secretariat is pleased to report considerable progress at the country level. A number of countries have been extremely active in moving forward in planning and starting to implement their



readiness efforts. Indonesia held its inception workshop from 30-31 May; Tanzania held its inception mission from 3-7 May 2010; a workshop on FPIC was held in Vietnam from 1-2 April; and Bolivia, DRC and Zambia completed revision of their National Programme documents, incorporating the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Board, and expecting to have the documents signed by June 2010.

On global activities, the UN-REDD Programme facilitated an exchange of information on progress related to on the work on IP/CSO engagement and heard experiences from the ground during a side event at the Ninth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

At the recent UN-REDD hosted workshop on 'Identifying and promoting ecosystem co-benefits from REDD+' in Cambridge, UK, representatives from UN-REDD partner countries, agencies and NGOs discussed the ecosystem and social aspects of REDD+ and provided guidance on the needs of future work such as finding potential synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements and establishing minimum standards for co-benefits.

This week, the UN-REDD teamed up with Chatham House for an expert workshop on governance, which provided a draft framework of key governance parameters and guidance on participatory governance monitoring at the national level, to inform negotiations on REDD+ in the UNFCCC and to support countries in developing their monitoring systems.

The UN-REDD Programme is also launching a 'Risk Assessment Tool' for identifying risks associated with not maintaining minimum social standards.

Dates for the 5<sup>th</sup> Policy Board meeting are tentatively scheduled for the first week of November back-to-back with the FCPF Participants Committee. We have also been working closely with the FCPF and FIP secretariats to plan a joint two day session during that week. We will confirm these dates and arrangements as soon as they are finalized.

On behalf of the UN-REDD Programme thank you for your continued support and close collaboration and look forward to interacting with many of you in Oslo and Bonn.

Sincerely,



Dr. Yemi Katerere  
Head, UN-REDD Programme Secretariat