



UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



CAMBODIA UN-REDD NATIONAL PROGRAMME

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Document PEB-8/11: Consideration of a no-cost extension of the UN-REDD Programme

Due to several constraints faced during the implementation of activities of the UN-REDD Programme, the UN agencies are examining options to manage the remaining funds of the Programme and deliver the expected outputs. One of the options is to request a no-cost extension. Therefore, the PEB is requested to consider agreeing to a no-cost extension (NCE) of the Programme, in case this is found to be the most appropriate solution. It is estimated that a NCE of 6 months would be sufficient to ensure completion of the activities planned under UN-REDD and a smooth transition to the FCPF. If approved, the new ending date would be 30 June 2015.

While intense efforts have been made in 2014 to accelerate the implementation to mitigate the delays that have occurred during the previous years of the Programme, this has not been entirely possible in the remaining time. In particular, the following activities will require more time for full implementation:

- The technical teams have only functioned since the start of 2014. This has allowed very limited time to discuss important technical and, at times, politically sensitive topics such as national forest definition, classification system to be used for land use and land-use change reporting under REDD+ MRV system, and to present sound recommendations to the REDD+ taskforce.
- Access to data required a long process and data collection in particular required more time than initially envisaged. This has delayed activities on the MRV component that depend on the availability of this data, including development of the National Forest Inventory design and establishment of country-specific emission factors. As a consequence, the completion of activities related to national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for the forest sector is delayed.
- Regarding mapping, the cooperation and the creation of synergies while avoiding duplication with other initiatives supporting MRV elements are essential to producing the necessary basic maps and initial activity data in the country. This work is currently on-going jointly with the Forestry Administration, the JICA technical advisory team (CAM-REDD) and the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute of Japan (FFPRI). The completion of this work with optimal results would benefit enormously from a NCE.
- The development of allometric equations for inundated forests has not yet started. This is not a stand-alone activity but follows on a review of published allometric equations, data collection from different stakeholders, and analysis to create emission factors (carbon per land unit) for different land use/cover types. Inundated areas were found to have an important gap in current information. Hence a study on biomass and allometric equations with the Royal University of Agriculture and the Fisheries Administration (FiA) in this area has been developed. As the study contains sampling, it cannot be undertaken during the rainy season as different sites with different conditions (e.g level of disturbance) will need to be visited to form a representative

sample. The majority of the required sample sites will not be accessible until the middle of the dry season due to standing water and otherwise limited access even by 4x4 cars. In addition, in flooded areas, measurement of diameter at breast height cannot be undertaken when water levels are high.

A NCE of 6 months would allow for several activities to be completed, including in particular the following:

- verification of the 2013/2014 base map using a combination of high resolution imagery and ground data and completion of the land cover/use change series which are essential for a first set of robust activity data to allow for first carbon estimations;
- establishment of comprehensive baseline reference emission levels adjusted to national circumstances;
- establishment of allometric equations and emission factors for flooded forest in Cambodia which constitutes the second essential element to be combined with the activity data to produce the initial carbon estimates;
- update of the land-use, forest policy and governance report reflecting the up-to-date information produced with support of the UN-REDD Programme which is an important input for the REDD+ strategy of Cambodia.

The above activities are planned to be carried out through Letters of Agreement between FAO and GDANCP, FA and FiA, respectively, and through capacity development activities. In order to ensure the technical soundness of the outputs, the work must be supported by technical backstopping in the form of UN agency staff and consultants which cannot be provided beyond the closure date of the Programme.

Furthermore, a completion date of December 2014 could be detrimental to the momentum that has just begun to materialize on the engagement and operation of the MRV/REL technical team. Although the MRV/REL activities will continue under the FCPF, a NCE would ensure a smooth transition.

To ensure the sustainability of the UN-REDD Programme, the National REDD+ readiness effort and the collaboration with JICA, and to facilitate the implementation of the FCPF project, it should be in the interest of all actors that all activities foreseen under the UN-REDD Programme be completed in a technically sound manner as the results will form the basis for future work.

The agreement of the PEB to request a second NCE, if identified as the optimal solution, would be appreciated. If agreed by the PEB and if retained as the optimal solution to ensure the best possible completion of the UN-REDD Programme, then a revised work plan, budget and monitoring framework will be developed. Similarly, the timing of the evaluation and the method for ensuring coordinated handover and closure of the Programme will be discussed and agreed by all concerned for submission to the UN-REDD Secretariat.