FAST FACTS Project Initiation Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ Implementation in Indonesia

1. Project at a Glance

Total Budget: USD 150,000 (66.7% from UNDP/OGC and 33.3% from UN REDD Global Programme)

Project Period: May 2011- December 2011

Implementing Partners: Direct Implementation by UNDP Indonesia in cooperation with the Ministry of Forestry, the Presidential Working Unit for Supervision and Management of Development (*Unit Kerja Presiden Bidang Pengawasan dan Pengendalian/*UKP4) and the National Planning and Development (*Badan Perencanaan dan Pembangunan Nasional/*BAPPENAS)

Location: In addition to working at the national level, the project will be implemented in: Aceh, Riau, Jambi, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, Central Sulawesi, Papua and West Papua

2. Background

The Government of Indonesia (GoI) has been acknowledged for its leadership in tackling global climate change. In a letter addressed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 30 January 2010, the GoI indicated its commitment to voluntarily reduce carbon emissions by 26% by 2020 with funding from the national budget. The letter also indicated a further reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) by up to 41% with international support by 2020.

Following the Letter of Intent (LoI) signed between the GoI and the Kingdom of Norway on 26 May 2010, which promotes cooperation in reducing GHG emission from deforestation and degradation (REDD+), the GoI established a Presidential Task Force to prepare the implementation of REDD+. With the support of UN-REDD, the National Planning and Development Agency (BAPPENAS) submitted the National Strategy for REDD+ (NS-REDD+) on 18 November 2010. The strategy is now being reviewed by the Presidential Task Force on REDD+ before it will be officially adopted and implemented (this is expected to take place prior to 2012).

The strategy prioritizes strengthening governance related to the forestry sector, and includes bureaucratic reform of forestry and related sectors. In addition, one of the medium-term objectives of the strategy is to improve the prosperity of people living in the forest and surrounding areas by increasing their participation in forest management. The achievement of these objectives is based on the principles of effectiveness, efficiency, gender equality, transparency and accountability. A number of governance factors are crucial in determining Indonesia's preparedness in achieving the goals set out in the strategy. These factors include the presence of law and policies related to sustainable forest management and REDD+, including anti-corruption strategies and land conflict resolution mechanisms, particularly given the funding and land/forest concessions involved in REDD+. In addition, the capacities of the executive, judicative and legislative branches of parliament, civil society organizations, and business sector as well as those of the indigenous people and local community whose lives are dependent on forest and other natural resources in managing sustainable forest management and REDD+ implementation in Indonesia.

3. Methodology

Deforestation and forest degradation are caused by a number of factors, including market drivers, policies and governance issues which provide incentives to cut down, rather than protect, trees. These factors have prevented rainforest nations, including Indonesia, from controlling deforestation. The existence of a robust governance system and clear policies serve as key determinants of the ability of a country to participate in new financial mechanisms for forest protection, including REDD+. A range of governance factors must be seriously considered for the effective implementation of sustainable forest management.

The Participatory Governance Assessment, carried out by UNDP in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia, will develop an assessment tool, collect primary and secondary data from the field and produce a final report which will address the legal frameworks, capacity of REDD+ actors and current practices related to sustainable forest management activities and REDD+ implementation in Indonesia in preparation for full implementation of REDD+. The process will be participatory, inclusive and transparent.

Main Indicators of PGA for REDD+

The assessment will map the capacity of national and subnational institutions and human resources required to implement the REDD+ agenda in a participatory manner, and will include extensive

national and regional consultations at each stage. A number of national and regional consultations have been and will be held during the process of finalizing the assessment design (including the formulation of the objectives, outputs, scope and instruments of the assessment). Extensive consultations will also be held for the first and final drafts of the assessment findings and recommendations. The assessment will be conducted using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The survey will be quantitative, while the qualitative aspect will be explored through in-depth interviews and focus-group discussions. Primary and secondary data will be gathered through document reviews (to provide an understanding of how local stakeholders respond to these issues), a stakeholder opinion and capacity survey (which will gather opinions and concerns about REDD+ in terms of governance), in-depths interviews with key resource persons and focus group discussions to complement the data collected in each province.

The Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ will involve an expert panel who will be responsible for reviewing and improving the overall design of the assessment, finalizing the instrument/methodologies, analysing data, formulating findings and developing recommendations. Consultative meetings will be held to ensure the participation of national and local stakeholders and will engage key stakeholders to provide inputs into the assessment design, facilitate data collection on the field, verify findings and recommendations formulated by the expert panel, and facilitate the implementation of action plans to follow up the recommendations. Stakeholders will come from relevant government offices and non-governmental organizations mandated to deal with issues related to forestry, environment, and indigenous people. Whenever possible, universities and journalists will also be encouraged to participate.

Based on lessons learned from UNDP's Indonesian Democracy Index (IDI) project, a professional research institution will be selected through a competitive process. The selected institution will collect high quality data from the target provinces/areas and enumerate, tabulate and process the data for analysis by the expert panel.

4. Achievements

Since the Participatory Governance Assessment was launched in May 2011, a number of important achievements have been made:

1) PGA for REDD+ has obtained strong political support from the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, the Presidential Working Unit for Supervision and Management of Development (UKP4), and the National Planning and Development Agency (BAPPENAS). In addition, participating provincial governments have shown strong commitment in the process.

2) A panel of experts, including several prominent Indonesian experts in forest policy and governance, public administration, anti-corruption, indigenous people and civil society participation, has been established. The panel consists of Prof. Dr. Hariadi Kartodihardjo (from the Bogor Agriculture Institute and a member of National Forestry Council), Dr. Sunaryo (senior advisor to the Ministry of Forestry), Abdon Nababan (Secretary General of Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago/AMAN), Dr. Mryna Safitri (Director of Epistema, a civil society think tank on natural resource management), Josi Katarina, SH, LLM (legal advisor to the REDD+ Working Group), Prof. Sofian Effendi (senior advisor to UNDP Indonesia), and Mas Achmad Santosa (senior advisor to UNDP Indonesia).

3) Draft indicators, measurement criteria and data collection methods have been developed by the expert panel. These indicators, criteria and data collection methods have been consulted with key

stakeholders in three provinces and will continue to be discussed at the national level. The final indicators and data collection instruments are expected to be produced by November this year.

4) In the provincial consultation meetings key stakeholders responded positively to the plan to conduct the assessment in preparation of REDD+, and have expressed their desire to see the PGA address the challenges they face in sustainable forest management in their provinces.

5. Sustainability

In order to ensure its sustainability, the project will facilitate policy recommendations based on key findings of the assessment. This will be geared towards the development of a road map for Indonesia's REDD+ governance, including building consensus among key stakeholders on important issues such as measurements, indicator systems, and target setting, as well as the establishment of monitoring and follow up mechanisms for the agreed indicators.

The assessment is on-going, and has placed a greater emphasis on ownership and local involvement as the process has unfolded. In this context, the involvement of provincial research institutions and/or local universities in data collection and analysis will be encouraged and facilitated and for this purpose, training and coaching will be provided for selected local institutions/organizations. The assessment is expected to generate findings and recommendations, which will be followed up by the Government of Indonesia at both the national and subnational level.