

Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ in Vietnam

National Kick-Off Workshop - 6 March 2012, Hanoi

Overview

What is a Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA)?

A Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ (PGA) will contribute to the development of a national system providing relevant information on how “safeguards are promoted, addressed and respected” as recommended in the Cancun Negotiation Text – paragraphs 69 and 71 d. The difference between a PGA and other more externally driven assessments is that it is fully initiated, implemented, and sustained by national stakeholders.

Through a multi-stakeholder process the PGA will more specifically establish governance indicators on which data is collected. After the analyses of these data have been presented, training and capacity building of both non-state stakeholders and government officials on how to act upon the analyses will be offered. Subsequently, the data analyses will also act as baselines, to be used for comparison as the data collection and analysis are repeated in subsequent years.

The PGA involves a diverse range of national stakeholders as owners of the process. With their participation in the design, choice of methodology and selection of framework to be measured, the identified indicators are likely to be more reflective of the country context, thereby providing more legitimacy to the PGA. There are four key principles that differentiate the value of a nationally led PGA, as opposed to external assessments:

- 1) Participation – a broad and representative range of national stakeholders (government, civil society, academia) have opportunities to provide input at key stages of the PGA process
- 2) Transparency – national stakeholders have unrestricted access to information on the PGA process, and the results of the PGA are made available to the public as a public good
- 3) Accountability – country-led PGA act as critical accountability mechanism for local stakeholders with regard to governance performance
- 4) Legitimacy – national stakeholders agree that the PGA process and findings are legitimate

The PGA approach builds on existing approaches and expertise within the UN-REDD agencies - both on the UNDP’s knowledge and experience in supporting countries conducting democratic governance assessments, as well as FAO’s experience in data collection and monitoring in the forest sector. A combination of this expertise will be applied as relevant to issues within REDD+.

Typically, a PGA would be rolled-out in the following manner:

- 1) Identify and convene relevant stakeholders
- 2) Identify the scope and indicator framework of the assessment
- 3) Agree on data identification and methods of collection
- 4) Data collection and analysis
- 5) Data presentation and dissemination
- 6) Capacity building on how to act upon the findings of the PGA

Why is the PGA relevant for the REDD+ process in Vietnam?

As mentioned in the Cancun Negotiation text, a critical element of REDD+ is the establishment of a national information system on social safeguards. Examples of such safeguards, as defined by the UN-REDD Programme, include how participation of all stakeholders is ensured in REDD+ decision making processes, the respect of traditional knowledge and development of equitable benefit distribution systems, to name a few. Vietnam is currently in the process of developing the National REDD+ Programme (NRP), a strategy explaining how the three different phases of REDD+ will be rolled out. The findings and results of the PGA could naturally be used to inform the NRP roll-out in Vietnam in the coming years.

Timeline

This initial phase of the PGA will be operated for about 12 months, from Jan – Dec 2012. Provided funding will still be available from UN-REDD Global Programme, a second phase could then expand into more provinces and look at more governance challenges, as guided by the advice of national REDD+ stakeholders.

| Timeline | Task | Objectives | Key actors |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| December 2011 – January 2012 | Engage in two stakeholder consultations at national level. | Present the PGA format to relevant stakeholders and get initial directions of the scope of the PGA | Sub-technical Working Group on Governance (21 November), Forest Sector and Support Partnership (12-13 January) |
| February - March 2012 | Advertise and contract a PGA Project Coordinator | A resource person in the PMU to assist the process | UN-REDD Programme |
| 6 March 2012 | <u>Workshop 1</u> Have a first kick-off meeting for stakeholders in Hanoi | Get consent from PGA stakeholders on the scope of the exercise. | Open meeting for all interested stakeholders |
| January – March 2012 | Identify a national NGO to lead the Research Team. Identify members for the Advisory Group | The PGA will be more effective if run by key REDD+ stakeholders with knowledge of the field | UN-REDD Programme |
| March – April 2012 | Mapping of governance issues and stakeholders of relevance to REDD+ in the pilot province | REDD+ mapping exercises in the pilot province: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ stakeholder analysis; • Identification of key governance issues and risks; • Assessment of other forest governance initiatives ongoing; • Existing capacity levels, challenges and opportunities of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities with regards to their participation in REDD+ governance | Research Team |

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| 17-18 April 2012 | <u>South-South Lessons Learned Exchange</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn from the other 3 PGA pilots in the UN-REDD programme | PGA Project coordinator, Research Team, UNDP focal points |
| End of April 2012 | <u>Workshop 2</u> Stakeholder workshop to present the PGA approach for provincial/district stakeholders in the selected pilot province | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To secure understanding and interest for the PGA across stakeholders Initial awareness rising on REDD+ To debrief on, and review the mapping exercises To learn about relevant assessment methodologies To reach a consensus on critical issues to be assessed in the PGA Agree on a first cut of possible indicators | Research Team |
| May-June 2012 | Drafting of monitoring framework as a basis for the PGA data sampling | | Research Team |
| July 2012 | <u>Workshop 3</u> Stakeholder consultation in the pilot province | Get feedback and endorsement on the draft monitoring framework and the indicator set | Research Team |
| July – August 2012 | <u>STWG on Governance</u> | Present the findings from the PGA for the STWG on Governance in Hanoi | Research Team; STWG; UNDP; UN-REDD Programme |
| July – August 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing data collection instruments Field testing of data collection instruments in pilot province Assessments of training needs of data collectors | | TBD |
| September 2012 | Data collection | | TBD |
| October 2012 | South-South exchange | Delegation from Indonesia to visit Viet Nam to share experiences from their REDD+ PGA | Members of the Expert Panel and/or UNDP/PMU representatives in Indonesia. |
| October – December 2012 | Data analysis and dissemination | | TBD |