

STRATEGIC DIRECTION GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Date of meeting: 14 October 2011

Location: Steigenberger, Berlin

In Attendance:

FAO: Alexander Mueller- Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department

UNDP: Veerle Vandeweerd – Director, Environment and Energy

UNEP: Ibrahim Thiaw- Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation

UN-REDD Programme Secretariat: Yemi Katerere- Head

Minutes:

1. DRC Audit:

- DRC requested an Audit of UN-REDD readiness funds for 2010. UNEP responded and sent certified accounts but the Minister did not see this letter.
- UNEP explained that their accounts cannot be audited by a third party however they were prepared to have the **Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)** undertake the audit
- UNEP worked through the national UN-REDD coordination team on this matter, but no solution was found
- Four problems were noted with the audit issue:
 - The UN response was uncoordinated
 - The facts of what happened were not very clear
 - There is perception that the UN agencies get a lot of money but we are not transparent
 - If UN-REDD agencies get a query from a country then we should respond in good time
- It was agreed that we should agree to an audit on the following conditions:
 - The costs of the audit to be paid by the country programme
 - The audit is done by OIOS and not a private company (This would be acceptable to UNEP)

Decision:

- Agree to Audit
- Request Resident coordinator to respond
- Request OIOS to undertake the audit. Each agency to check if this is acceptable
- Inform the PB that all UN accounts are audited annually and certified accounts are published
- Clarify that the audit will be done according to UN rules
- The national coordination Team will:
 - Draft a letter for the RC to respond to the Minister
 - Draft the TOR for the audit and confirm with DRC what they want audited and the period to be covered by the audit
 - The RC to approach OIOS to undertake the audit

2. Secretariat

- Yemi to prepare first draft of revised TOR
- TOR to include monitoring and evaluation of the Programme. Note this M&E TOR is for oversight and coordination purposes only and will not duplicate established evaluation processes by agencies, UN-REDD, MDTF, and others.
- Secretariat should encourage coordination of activities and streamline implementation at the national level, including formulating and promoting cooperation through established mechanisms at the country level such as UNDAFs, and the “One-UN.” A system to facilitate such coordination should be proposed.
- Secretariat will provide reports to the SDG on challenges facing the CG
- Review TOR for the CG and prepare TOR for SDG for consideration by the SDG.

3. SDG

- Alexander agreed to prepare an outline of a vision paper and share with Veerle and Ibrahim. The SDG agreed to wait until after Durban to further develop the vision paper.
- Each agency should nominate who should sit on the SDG. Veerle Vandeweerd and Ibrahim Thiaw have been confirmed as representatives for UNDP and UNEP respectively, and FAO will confirm their representative later.
- Should consider holding a retreat for team building and to discuss strategic issues
- Hold annual meetings with the agency senior managers to discuss strategic issues, as relevant.

4. Policy Board Meetings

- For future Policy Board meetings the secretariat should identify likely issues to be raised and decisions to be taken and prepare advance drafts of these
- Actions to address low expenditure rates should be considered. It was suggested that should a country fail to spend 60 percent of the budget then funds cannot be carried forward

5. Coordination Group

- It was agreed that the following were members of the CG:
 - FAO: TO BE ADVISED
 - UNDP: Tim Clairs (member) and Charles McNeill (alternate)
 - UNEP: Mario Boccucci (member) and Ravi Prabhu (alternate)