







Final evaluation Viet Nam UN-REDD National Programme-phase 1

UN-REDD Programme Tenth Policy Board Meeting

June 2013, Lombok, Indonesia









Background: Forests in Viet Nam

- 40% forest cover and increasing
- Some regions still have high rates of deforestation
- Significant degradation of natural forests
- Underlying drivers of D&FD: fast economic growth driven by export commodities □multi-sector issue
- Little is known about the opportunity costs of different forest resource use practices









Background: the UN-REDD Viet Nam NP

- Viet Nam is one of the first 9 UN-REDD pilot countries
- US\$4.4 million
- Oct 2009 Mar 2011 Jun 2012 Oct 2012
- Overall objective: to assist the GoVN in developing an effective national REDD+ regime and to contribute to reduction of regional displacement of emissions
- **3 outcomes**: national coordination; REDD mngmnt and other PES at district level; and knowledge about approaches to reduce regional displacement of emissions
- MARD Forestry Department Vietnam REDD+ Office









Evaluation objectives and approach

 3 UN agencies' policies & procedures require a final evaluation → joint ToRs developed with evaluation depts.

Objectives:

- to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements
- 2. to promote learning, feedback and knowledge sharing
- Criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact
- Methods: review of literature, stakeholder interviews, field visits









Evaluation Process

- Oct '12: TORs prepared and 2 independent evaluators contracted: Howard Steward & Stephen Swan
- Nov Dec '12: Evaluation conducted
- Dec '12: Preliminary findings presented in Viet Nam
- Feb Mar '13: Draft Report submitted → shared w/
 GoVN, UN Agencies & stakeholders for comments
- Apr May '13: Final Report + Management Response

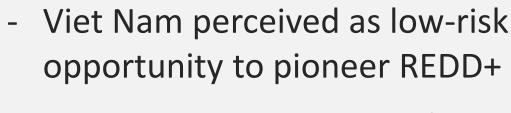








Evaluation Findings: Relevance



- Consistent with Viet Nam's international and national policy priorities
- Lam Dong adequate as pilot province











Evaluation findings: Design



- Context of many uncertainties re: what REDD+ readiness meant
- Over-ambitious and optimistic
- Hasty design: limited stakeholder participation, superficial policy analysis and no clear roadmap towards REDD+ readiness
- Supply-driven
- Limited flexibility for re-designing









Evaluation Findings - Effectiveness

- Improved institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD activities in Viet Nam:
 - robust national coordination mechanism
 - VN REDD+ Office exercises greater leadership over time
 - Capacity development was invested in too few people
- Improved capacity to manage REDD at provincial and district levels: increased 'capacities to understand' more than 'capacities to implement'
- Many lessons learned, but could have been communicated better









Evaluation Findings - Sustainability

- Viet Nam continues to show strong commitment to REDD+, forest protection and climate change mitigation
- Viet Nam has secured significant funding for further support of the REDD+ process but persistent uncertainties surrounding negotiation of LT financing for results-based action under REDD+.
- Prime Minister-approved National REDD+ Action Programme and national coordination mechanisms = sound foundation for others to build upon but HR limitations in government institutions
- At local levels, it is benefits, not raised awareness, that will enhance commitment to sustained improvement in forest protection.









Evaluation Findings: Implementation



- Challenges in inter-agency coordination → ≠
 modus operandi, organizational cultures and
 visions of UN-REDD→ needs further
 resolution
- PMU assured day-to-day management of the programme but difficult to engage/coordinate with activities of REDD+ dev. partners & service providers
- Initial confusion between UN-REDD NP and National REDD+ Programme









Recommendations

- Adopt more "demand driven" programme implementation & relationship of service provider and client between the UN-REDD programme and diverse national stakeholders
- 2. Adopt a single, available and knowledgeable focal point for the 3 UN organizations that can regularly speak with one voice to gov. counterparts and other stakeholders
- Support development of national capacity for engaging and coordinating a broad, multi-sectoral community of REDD+ participants.









Recommendations (cont'd)

- 4. Acknowledge the risks inherent to piloting REDD+ activities & establish the mechanisms to mitigate and manage them
- 5. Address regional 'leakage' issues through a discrete regional initiative that complements NPs and other initiatives
- 6. Define the rationale and scope for specific national REDD+ activities, based on identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation & policies and measures to address them.
- 7. Carry out systematic analysis of the national context.









Recommendations (cont'd)

- 8. Dev. robust and comprehensive theories of change & associated results chains for each desired outcome of the national UN-REDD programme.
- Ensure programme comm. activities and management arrangements maintain distinction btw the National REDD+ Programme & temporary financial and technical UN-REDD assistance.
- 10. Apply mandatory requirements of UN Programmes (FPIC) only after extensive consultation with diverse national and sub-national stakeholders adapting mandatory requirements to local circumstances.









Broader questions raised by the UN-REDD Viet Nam NP evaluation

- 1. REDD+ readiness roadmap
- 2. Pilot interventions: Selection criteria for pilot areas; replicability
- 3. Raising expectations at grass-roots level
- 4. Lessons learned
- 5. Stakeholder involvement: highest level down to grass-roots multi-sector including private sector
- 6. Needs-based capacity building









Broader questions raised by the UN-REDD Viet Nam NP evaluation

- 7. Realism of design
- 8. Programme coordination
- 9. Design process
- 10. Capacity of government partners
- 11.Mid-term Review









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Thank You

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