Synthesis of National Programme Final Evaluations

15th Policy Board Meeting

San Jose, Costa Rica

9-10 November 2015

Status of National Programs

	LAC	Africa	Asia Pacific	Total
Active	5	4	4	13
Closed	2	3	5	10
Pending Signature	0	0	0	0
Pipeline	2	0	1	3
Totals	9	7	10	26

❑ **Closed**: Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Indonesia, Panama, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia

❑ **Active:** Bangladesh, Bolivia, Colombia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, Cote d'Ivoire, Mongolia, Argentina, Honduras, Uganda

❑ **Pending signature**: (none)

❑ **In the pipeline**: Peru, Chile, Myanmar

NP Final Evaluations completed to date

Country	NP Timeframe
Cambodia	5/2011 – 6/2015
Ecuador	10/2011 – 12/2014
Indonesia	11/2009 – 10/2012
Tanzania	12/2009 – 6/2013
Vietnam	7/2009 - 6/2012

Synthesis

❑Findings and Conclusions

- ▪ Relevance

- ▪ Effectiveness

- ▪ Efficiency

- ▪ Sustainability

❑Recommendations

Relevance

❑ All evaluations indicate NP was relevant:

- Governments and stakeholders have increased recognition that deforestation and forest degradation is a serious development problem that REDD+ can help to address

- Provided positive support to REDD+ readiness, (all), pioneering innovative processes / instruments (E)

- Rapidly introduced new, complex REDD+ concepts to a range of stakeholders and enhanced national capacity to access future results-based financing. (V)

Effectiveness – General

❑ NP has helped each country get better prepared for REDD+, and enhanced institutional capacity, yet readiness phase is not complete (all NPs)

❑ Support to REDD+ has been through technical inputs - normative frameworks, capacity building, engagement with civil society and prioritisation of social and environmental benefits (E)

Effectiveness – Design

❑ Better understanding of context would have led to better design and improved effectiveness, sustainability and impact (T, V)

❑ Global REDD+ uncertainties led to programme design flaws, (V) and contributed to problems in performance. (T, V)

❑ Common concern about overly-ambitious and confusing programme design, plus shortcomings in results frameworks (all NPs)

Effectiveness – institutional capacity

- Slow progress developing REDD+ institutional frameworks and limited capacity (T)

- NP should have been designed to build more upon in-country capacity (T)

- NP implementation brought greater inter-ministerial coordination (C)

- Choice of implementing partner an important determinant on progress

Effectiveness – Implementation

- Difficulties starting up national UNREDD programmes while REDD+ was still being defined, and some methodological aspects (safeguards) not yet in place

- Poor coordination and collaboration and lack of strategic direction posed risks to effectiveness and sustainability (T)

- Implementation challenges were mostly operational, especially slow decision-making. (C)

Efficiency

- Each evaluation noted concerns about slow programme delivery and high transaction costs stemming in part from working jointly with three UN agencies and their different operational requirements

Sustainability

- Ineffective co-ordination capacities within and outside the government can threaten sustainability and the mainstreaming of REDD+ into activities driving deforestation (V)

- Programme sustainability is at risk unless sufficient numbers of people get trained (V)

- Financial sustainability depends on international agreement for long-term financing for REDD + (V)

Recommendations

➢ Programmes should be demand-driven and needs-based, with flexibility to adapt to national context, based on national drivers of deforestation (T, V,C, E)

➢ Carry out comprehensive national capacity needs assessments as a first step to programme design (C)

➢ Enhance REDD+ readiness by closer linkage to national policies and regulations (V) and further integration into national planning processes (I)

Recommendations

➢ Develop a more unified UN programme – operating, funding and reporting as one (T, V, C)

➢ Speed up administrative processes, with quicker implementation methods, and streamlined procedures (E)

➢ Incorporate clear transition (exit) strategies and handover processes (T)

➢ Develop realistic timeframes for implementation, recognizing inevitable delays when piloting new concepts (E & C)

Recommendations

- ➢ Design programmes using Theories of Change, (V) with results-based performance indicators rather than output level indicators (C)

- ➢ Establish mechanisms to better assess, mitigate and manage risks and benefits of REDD+(V)

- ➢ Develop mechanisms to buffer and adapt to external risks , such as changes in national dynamics, policies and staff (E)

- ➢ Better coordinate with bilateral donor initiatives, and harmonize where possible (T)

Recommendations

➢ Support national capacity to engage and coordinate a broad multi-sectoral community of REDD+ participants including from the forestry industry (V,E)

➢ REDD+ readiness programmes should provide real income for surrounding communities (I)

➢ Utilise direct cash transfers to national institutions that have the proven capacity to financially manage. (C)

➢ Address regional 'leakage' issues through regional initiatives that complements national programmes and other REDD+ readiness initiatives (V)

Alan Fox

alan.fox@undp.org

Thank You

Website: http://www.un-redd.org