

TERMS OF REFERENCE

REDD Sub-technical Working Group on Governance

(Draft version 2 - Revised)

BACKGROUND

Forest plays an important role on carbon sequestration. However, deforestation releases carbon stored in the trees to the atmosphere under CO₂ emissions. According to IPCC (2007), emissions from deforestation in developing countries were about 5.8 Gt CO₂/year, equivalent to 17.3% of total global greenhouse gas emissions. This amount is larger than emissions of global transportation sector (13.1%) and agriculture sector (13.5%) (IPCC, 2007). Therefore, deforestation was recognized to increase CO₂ in the air and contribute to the changes of global climate.

The 13th Conference of Parties (COP 13) to UNFCCC organized in Bali, Indonesia in 2007 identified that reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) was a climate change mitigation solution and called for international community to support developing countries to implement REDD initiatives. Scope of REDD was then expanded to the role of forest conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stock in COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark. As of COP 16 held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010, REDD+ was recognized to include five activities: 1) Reducing emissions from deforestation, 2) Reducing emissions from forest degradation, 3) Conservation of forest carbon stocks, 4) Sustainable management of forests, and 5) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Vietnam is one of the nine developing countries received funding from Global UN-REDD Programme to implement a National UN-REDD Programme – phase I in the period of 2009 – 2012 to prepare REDD+ readiness. Vietnam was also one of the five countries having Readiness Project Identification Note (R-PIN) approved by the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to develop REDD+ Preparedness Proposal (R-PP). To implement REDD+ activities, the government of Vietnam established a series of bodies such as REDD+ Steering Committee, Vietnam REDD+ Office, REDD+ Network and REDD working group (including Sub-technical working groups - STWGs). Amongst the six STWGs, the STWG on Governance was established to provide supports to the National REDD Working Group and REDD Network on thematic matters of REDD. The STWG on Governance will ensure the inputs of stakeholders in decision making, transparency, accountability, low levels of corruption, low regulatory burden, political stability, culture preservation and social and environmental safeguards during the implementation of REDD+ initiatives.

OBJECTIVES

To consolidate the tested and proved management mechanisms, technical approaches/methods, law enforcement practices related to natural forest management and REDD so as to recommend and shape governance structure for the implementation and evaluation and verification of the National REDD+ Action Programme while ensuring transparency, participation and efficiency.

SCOPE OF WORK

The STWG on Governance (STWG-G) will operate during the implementation of National REDD+ Action Programme and National UN-REDD Programme. More specifically, it will

- provide discussions of governance issues in REDD+ and forestry, and
- provide technical inputs to the National REDD+ Working Group

TASKS

Establish a Governance platform in the REDD Network

- ✓ Clarify concepts/definitions of governance and elements with special regards to the national REDD+ program implementation process;
- ✓ Identify dimensions and indicators of governance to be measured in REDD+;
- ✓ Develop an annual work plan for the STWG on Governance;
- ✓ Develop a road map for the operation of the STWG on Governance based on approved National REDD+ Programme;
- ✓ Identify priorities, responsibilities and resources for operation.

Provide and share information on governance of REDD+ and forestry to key stakeholders

- ✓ Share information on REDD+ initiatives, development progress, outputs and regulatory framework, and cooperate with five STWGs (MVR, Local Implementation, BDS, Safeguards and Private sector engagement), FSSP, FLEGT and other stakeholders;
- ✓ Coordinate and consolidate management and technical outputs/approaches/instruments introduced by different STWGs, FSSP, and FLEGT for wider consultations and recommendations of the appropriate outputs/policy issues for application;

- ✓ Look for convergence of governance issues amongst REDD, FLEGT and CITES
- ✓ Initiate a collaboration platform for REDD+ and other governance related initiatives such as Forest Governance Monitoring (FGM), Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) and partnership with relevant international and national partners, including private sector;

Provide technical inputs on good practices of governance for REDD+ policy formulation, implementation and advocacy in Vietnam

- ✓ Carry out stock-taking of international and national good practices of governance to propose these models to government policy makers to adjust and adapt it in the context of Vietnam;
- ✓ Provide technical inputs on governance to REDD+ policy formulation, implementation and advocacy processes.

COMPOSITION:

Forest Protection Department (FPD) under the VNFOREST will take lead the STWG on Governance. Mr. Nguyen Huu Dzung, Director of FPD, is chairman of the STWG.

Two recognized persons, Mr. Nguyen Viet Dzung - Vice Director of PanNature and Mr. Nguyen Quang Tan - RECOFTC were appointed as co-chairmen.

Membership to the STWG on Governance is open to all members of the Vietnam REDD+ Network and interested people of relevant stakeholders.

OPERATION

The meeting of STWG on Governance is scheduled one every quarter on basis. However, the chairman and co-chairmen can call for meetings in between if there is an up-coming important event relating to governance issues or there are many things that need to be discussed to support the strengthening of REDD implementation progress.

In each meeting, topics discussed, ideas and opinions are recorded in a minutes that will be circulated to the Vietnam REDD Network and uploaded on the website of VRO later. Topics for the next meeting are generated in each meeting of STWG on Governance.

COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

Vietnam REDD+ Office (VRO) is in charge of coordinating and mobilizing stakeholders for each meeting. VRO will assign an officer who is capable for liaising with key government agencies and NGOs organizations to arrange the agenda and interact with stakeholders.

In addition, VRO will provide logistics and administrative support for each meeting of STWG on Governance.

RESOURCES

The STWG on Governance is led by a government agency, FPD of VNFOREST. Basic financial support, which is adequate to organize regular meetings in Ha Noi, is sponsored by the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme. However, the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme phase I is going to end in September 2012. For the interval between Phase I and Phase II of UN-REDD Vietnam Programme, the STWG on Governance will find the alternative way to carry on its meetings.

NGOs having REDD+ related projects at local level are encouraged to support local authorities to participate in the Governance meetings.

DELIVERABLES

It is expected the STWG on Governance to provide outputs based on the tasks specified above and the detailed annual work plan to be developed. Some outputs, but not limited, are expected below

- Definitions of REDD+ governance
- Dimensions and a set of indicators of REDD+ governance
- Findings of good practices on REDD+ governance and case studies;
- Policy briefs and recommendations;
- Minutes of each meeting;
- Other technical inputs contribute to the REDD+ policy formulation, implementation and advocacy processes.

DURATION

This TORs is valid for one year, starting from ??? September 2012 and is the subject to renewal.

