

Introduction

Dear Readers,

In a few short weeks, the UN-REDD Programme will host its eighth Policy Board meeting in Asuncion, Paraguay on 25-26 March. These meetings are critically important as they provide a forum for the full range of UN-REDD Programme stakeholders to participate in the decisions that shape the future direction of the Programme.

At this meeting, we look forward to receiving UN-REDD National Programme documents and funding requests from Republic of Congo and Sri Lanka. Both of these countries have been active UN-REDD Programme partner countries since they joined two years ago, and have done significant groundwork and stakeholder outreach to prepare their UN-REDD National Programmes.

The Policy Board will also receive an update on the Programme's initial work, in collaboration with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), to design and undertake a country needs assessment that will help to inform how the Programme can best deliver support to countries moving forward. The Board will discuss strategic issues such as how the UN-REDD Programme can engage with the Green Climate Fund established at COP17 in December 2011. The Board will also hear progress updates on the Programme's work in the areas of monitoring and information for REDD+, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as well as the Programme's draft Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria.

Once again, the UN-REDD Programme is pleased to be coordinating with FCPF in holding back-to-back governing meetings (FCPF's Participants Committee meeting is happening in Asuncion 28-30 March), in order to streamline travel arrangements for participants attending both meetings. In addition, the two initiatives will hold a joint meeting of the two governing bodies on 27 March, to discuss a range of common issues and provide partner countries with the opportunity to highlight their progress and exchange lessons learned.

As always, we look forward to exchanging with country representatives as well as the diverse stakeholders, including civil society and Indigenous Peoples, who will participate in our upcoming Policy Board meeting. To those of you joining us in Asuncion in a few weeks, we wish you safe travels and we look forward to seeing you soon. **Policy Board documentation will be available on the UN-REDD Programme website and workspace as of 12 March.**

Yemi Katerere
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

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For more information on the UN-REDD Programme visit www.un-redd.org

News

Stakeholders Endorse Sri Lanka's UN-REDD National Programme

Sri Lanka is now ready to submit their REDD+ National Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and request for approval and funding to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meeting in March.

More than 40 participants, representing a wide range of stakeholders, attended the Sri Lanka National Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) Review Workshop last month. The objective of the workshop was to review, discuss and agree on the design and submission of the R-PP for Sri Lanka.

The participants, comprised of members of CSOs, academia, private sector, national institutions, development partners and media, were first presented with a brief overview of the R-PP framework, progress made since the country

received an invitation in July 2011 by the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat to prepare the R-PP, and proposed management arrangements for the R-PP implementation. This was followed by the focused group



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The workshop participants suggested several amendments and agreed on outcomes, outputs and activity levels in the final draft. On this basis, the participants at the end of workshop unanimously endorsed the

proposed R-PP for submission to the eighth UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meeting, happening in Asuncion, Paraguay 25-26 March, 2012.

In an effort to streamline submission processes for countries, the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) developed a fully harmonized template in 2011 that countries can use to present to both organizations for approval and funding. Sri Lanka will be the first UN-REDD Programme partner country to submit its proposal using this newly harmonized R-PP template. ■

Moving Ahead with Indonesia's REDD+ Participatory Governance Assessment

Indonesia makes significant progress in finalizing indicators for its trailblazing Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) for REDD+.

Members of the Indonesia PGA expert panel, comprised of government representatives, members of civil society and of academia, as well as governance practitioners and members of the UN-REDD Programme, gathered in Bogor West Java from 14-15 February 2012 to have a closer look at the existing indicators for the PGA and discuss possible ways of refining these to ensure a methodologically sound indicator structure. Once finalized, the indicator set will serve as a basis for collecting the data necessary to assess REDD+ governance in the Indonesian context.

This PGA pilot is the first of its kind within the UN-REDD Programme and it has been successfully developed through an inclusive and participatory process to gain different stakeholders' views and interest on both process, focus, indicators and methodology.

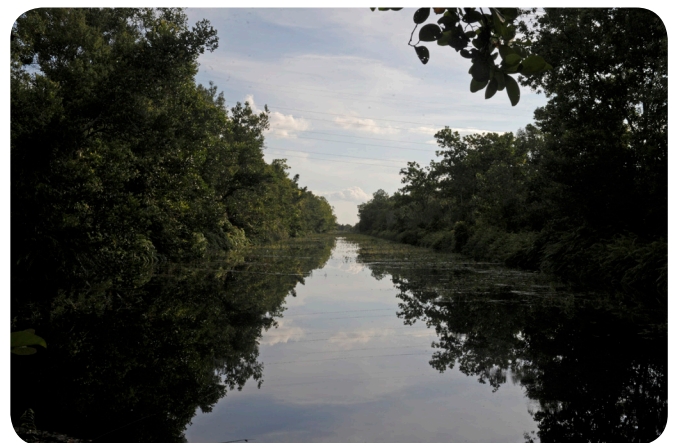
Some useful preliminary lessons learned resulting from the recent two-day workshop that can be applicable to other PGA's include:

- Discussion on framework, structure and measurement flow should be done at an early stage of development of the REDD+ PGA tool.
- An iterative method should be applied when developing REDD+ PGA indicators and data collection that allow for tool improvement in every step of the process.
- It is essential to have an external reader who can point to weaknesses and strengths in the indicator set, as well as provide inputs for quality assurance, in addition to having consultative meetings with stakeholders at both national and provincial levels.

The next steps in the PGA process foresee a revision of the existing indicators in accordance

with agreed changes to ensure that they meet the criteria of relevance, measurability, significance, discriminating power, coherence and consistency, as well as data availability.

The PGA in Indonesia focuses on five governance issues related to REDD+: spatial and forest planning, rights regulation, forest organization, forest management, forest control, and REDD+ infrastructure. For an overview of Indonesia's PGA Framework, Structure and Flow of Indicator Measurement go to: <http://tinyurl.com/Indonesia-PGA-Framework> ■



UN-REDD Hosts Global Workshops on FPIC and the Social and Environmental Risks and Benefits of REDD+

Two workshops held in Geneva this month brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from around the world to further important work on risks and benefits of REDD+ and ensuring the rights of Indigenous Peoples in REDD+ readiness and implementation.

The first global workshop, which took place 8-9 February in Geneva, focused on the UN-REDD Programme's Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC) and the associated Benefits and Risks Tool (BeRT). The second one-day workshop, on

10 February, reviewed the draft UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) on 10 February, and was followed by a one day technical experts' working group on 11 February.

Both of these workshops were the culmination of a public review process on the SEPC, BeRT and draft Guidelines on FPIC, which took place between October 2011 and January 2012. The workshops allowed the UN-REDD Programme to present and review the feedback received and to discuss proposed revisions to these guidance tools with key stakeholders, including representatives from partner and donor country governments, national and international Indigenous Peoples' and civil society organizations, the Independent Advisory Group on Forests, Rights and Climate Change, and UN agencies. Other

participants included resource and technical experts.

already be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/SEPC-BeRT-Presentations>

FPIC from various Indigenous Peoples', civil society and academic organizations. There was an emphasis on understanding country experiences, perspectives and needs in applying the Guidelines on FPIC to national actions under the UN-REDD Programme. The workshop utilized smaller breakout groups tasked with reviewing the major issues listed above. These allowed for focused group discussion and recommendations that were presented back to the wider group.

The technical experts working group held on 11 February brought together a smaller core group of experts to review the outputs from the broader session the day before, to tackle any outstanding concerns, and to make further recommendations on how to resolve specific issues. The recommendations and discussions from both days will be synthesized and presented in a forthcoming final workshop report, which will be made available on un-redd.org once completed.

Documents relating to both the SEPC and FPIC workshops can be accessed at: <http://tinyurl.com/SEPC-FPIC-Documents>

Available materials include background documents, agendas and participants lists, formal presentations and copies of breakout group presentations. ■



Participants to the recent SEPC and FPIC workshops in Geneva included representatives from UN-REDD Programme donor and partner countries, as well as national and international Indigenous Peoples' and civil society organizations.

SEPC Workshop

Workshop participants discussed how the SEPC could form a guiding framework for the UN-REDD Programme's activities on social and environmental issues. They also expressed support for the use of the SEPC to: (1) better support countries' approaches to safeguards; and (2) address country needs in the different phases of the UN-REDD National Programme cycle. Further development of the BeRT is required to support the application of the SEPC for these different purposes. As well as calling for this further development of the BeRT, participants encouraged the Programme to seek the Policy Board's endorsement of a version of the SEPC that takes into account the comments from the latest round of consultations.

Moving forward, the SEPC will be revised and further uses and tools for application will be explored, as well as further synergies with internal processes and external initiatives. A SEPC workshop final report will be made available on un-redd.org once completed. In the meantime, all related documents, including agenda, participants list, draft SEPC and BeRT and presentations, may

FPIC workshop

The FPIC workshop built on a series of regional consultations with over 150 Indigenous Peoples' and civil society representatives carried out in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean between June 2010 and January 2011. The outputs from these workshops were used to develop the UN-REDD Programme's draft Guidelines on FPIC. These were then open to a public review process from 1 December 2011 to 20 January 2011 which generated comments from a range of Indigenous Peoples', civil society and academic organizations, as well as governments and other UN agencies.

This workshop provided the opportunity to review and address major issues emerging from the public review process, such as who has a right to FPIC; which activities require FPIC; and how the process to uphold the right to FPIC should be carried out.

For the FPIC session on 10 February, the core group of stakeholders that attended the SEPC workshop were joined by 10 experts on



Reports & Analysis

New Asia Pacific Go-REDD+ Issue Examines Pro-poor Benefit Distribution in REDD+

The latest Go-REDD+ issue confronts the challenge of pro-poor benefit distribution in REDD+, particularly in Viet Nam.

The UN-REDD Programme has invested a lot of effort in examining issues related to BDS, especially in Viet Nam. The results of these efforts feature prominently in "Pro-poor benefit distribution in REDD+: Who gets what and why does it matter?" by Essam Yassin Mohammed of the International

Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The report investigates two important questions, namely whether benefits should be provided to communities or to households; and whether benefits should be in the form of cash or in-kind (or a mixture of the two).

About Go-REDD+

Go-REDD+ is a bi-monthly newsletter distributed by email and managed by the UN-REDD Programme team in Asia-Pacific. The main objective is to distribute information, synopses of research results and activities related to REDD+ in Asia-Pacific, to assist countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts.

Access previous Go-REDD+ articles in the Go-REDD+ archive at: <http://tinyurl.com/GoREDD-Archive> ■

Looking Ahead

Paraguay Inception Workshop

14 March, 2012: Paraguay

UN-REDD Programme Policy Board Meeting

25-26 March, 2012: Asuncion, Paraguay

FCPF-UN-REDD Programme Joint Meeting

27 March, 2012: Asuncion, Paraguay

UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

International Environment House,
11-13 Chemin des Anémones,
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

www.un-redd.org
un-redd@un-redd.org

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