



MISSION REPORT	
<p>DISTRIBUTION</p> <p>Kaveh Zahedi Isabelle Louis Tim Christophersen Edoardo Zandri Jaime Webbe Keiko Nomura Nguyen Thanh Phuong Subrata Sinha</p> <p>TN: 15536</p>	<p>NAME(S): Thomas Enters</p> <p>PERIOD: 03 to 18 October 2015</p> <p>PROJECT NUMBER & TITLE: UN-REDD Programme</p> <p>INSTITUTION(S) OR MEETING(S) and VENUE(S): Organization of National Workshop on REDD+ Safeguards and a national REDD+ Academy.</p> <p>MAIN PERSON(S) CONTACTED: Colleagues of FAO and UNDP, colleagues of UNEP-WCMC and staff of the Watershed Management Division (WMD), Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, and Dora Nsuwa Cudjoe of the FCPF</p> <p>OBJECTIVE(S): Assist in the organization of the National Workshop on REDD+ Safeguards and facilitate various modules in the national REDD+ Academy</p>

BRIEF SUMMARY:

During the first week of the mission, UNEP-WCMC, colleagues from UNDP and the Watershed Management Division (WMD), Department of Forests and Park Services, organized a workshop as part of our targeted support, which is assisting Bhutan in implementing a country approach to safeguards. The particular emphasis of the support is on implementing a policies, laws and regulations (PLR) analysis to identify which safeguards already exist in the country, and the preparation of a roadmap for Bhutan's approach to the Cancun safeguards. The workshop lasted four days and on the fifth day, workshop results and next steps to be taken were presented to a broader audience. During the second week our second national REDD+ Academy (after Viet Nam in September) was organized. The Academy was co-funded by the FCPF project and Ms. Nsuwa Cudjoe (FCPF) also participated in the safeguards event for the first two days.

- The safeguards workshop built on earlier work that had only explored environmental safeguards. The 12 participants (numbers of participants varied from day to day) included members of the safeguards Technical Working Group (TWG) and representatives of the Gross National Happiness Commission, the Tarayana Foundation, the Forest Resource Management Division, the National Land Commission and the WMD.
- The workshop objectives were to:
 - enhance understanding UNFCCC decisions on safeguards for REDD+ (the 'Cancun safeguards') and what they mean for Bhutan;
 - building on the review of relevant policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) compiled by the Watershed Management Division, determine how Bhutan's existing PLRs already address the benefits and risks identified; and
 - agree on tentative structure of the roadmap for a country approach for REDD+ safeguards.
- The workshop was very well organized and relied heavily on group work and discussions. The workshop results should provide a very good start for the continuation of the work by the TGW. It will be supported by an experienced consultant who has been tasked to prepare the road map.
- The following three observations are noteworthy. First, it appears that Bhutan has already a set of PLRs addressing the Cancun safeguards. That means that potentially little effort will have to be spent of revising any PLR or drafting new ones. Instead, more effort can be spent on exploring to what the safeguards are also respected. Second, the composition of the TWG, as well as the composition of the participants of the REDD+ Academy is rather narrow, i.e. dominated by specialists with a forestry background, which was criticized by various people from Bhutan. The participation of Ms. Nsuwa


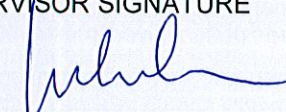
Cudjoe was very positive, as it showed that the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPC are working towards the same aim.

Building on the experiences gained during the organization of the national REDD+ Academy in Viet Nam, Bhutan was the second location for a national REDD+ Academy. Just like in Viet Nam, we had planned for a training-of-trainers (ToT) event. However, the WMD had requested the participation of additional people especially from several districts. To accommodate the higher number of people we ran two parallel courses. The ToT course had between 12 and 14 participants, whereas the regular course had between 16 and 18 participants. This worked out very well, and can only be recommended for other countries if the number of participants becomes too large for an intensive training course. I made an introductory presentation and then facilitated six modules, most of them for the regular course.

- Overall, the organization of the two parallel courses went well and the course evaluation was predominantly positive, although I am here mainly referring to the regular course.
- The following observations and feedback from the participants are noteworthy. Just like in Viet Nam, the participants did not read the Learning Journal (the journal can be found here: https://www.dropbox.com/s/2wi92ikpc6px0u5/Learning%20journals%20ENG%20110915_final.pdf?dl=0) to prepare for the course. It is not possible to cover all angles of REDD+ during the course itself. Hence, while the understanding of REDD+ has been enhanced, the result is not completely satisfactory. Participants asked to receive the journals earlier, although one may doubt whether this will make much of a difference.
- It was very positive to see that numerous participants thought that several modules (e.g. on safeguards and governance) were not only applicable to REDD+, but important for their current daily work.
- Suggestions were made for shortening the course, although some participants also felt that there was not enough time for some modules. But a shorter course with perhaps fewer modules should be considered for audiences with little time and specific needs.
- Like in Viet Nam, participants requested more examples from their own country, although issues in Bhutan was frequently the topic of the working groups.
- Explaining the links between the modules at the beginning of the courses and frequent reminders of how the different topics are linked were appreciated.
- Suggestions for improvement were as follows.
 - more interactive sessions, especially after lunch, when participants tend to be a bit sleepy;
 - more critical feedback to the results of the breakout groups by the facilitators, although I thought I was already quite critical;
 - examples should be from countries with similar contexts, which in the case of Bhutan is probably challenging; and
 - the organizers should conduct a pre-test so that they understand what the participants already know.

RECOMMENDATION(S)/ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

- Review the next PLR analysis and the draft roadmap for a country approach for REDD+ safeguards
- After the REDD+ Academy in Myanmar, which is currently conducted, review all modules of the REDD+ Academy again to make improvements for the next national REDD+ Academies.

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