



MISSION REPORT	
<p>DISTRIBUTION</p> <p>Kaveh Zahedi Isabelle Loius Tim Christophersen Edoardo Zandri Keiko Nomura Nguyen Thanh Phuong</p> <p>TVRQ</p>	<p>NAME(S): Thomas Enters</p> <p>PERIOD: 15 to 25 March 2015</p> <p>PROJECT NUMBER & TITLE: UN-REDD Programme</p> <p>INSTITUTION(S) OR MEETING(S) and VENUE(S): UNDP Country Office and UN-REDD Programme Management Unit (PMU) in Ha Noi, and Da Lat for the EG meeting</p> <p>MAIN PERSON(S) CONTACTED: Tiina Vahanen, Maria Sanchez (FA), Tim Clairs, Mirey Attalah (UNDP), Louise Chamberlain (UNDP Country Director) and colleagues of UNDP, Pratibha Mehta (UNRC, Viet Nam), H.E. Cao Duc Phat (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam), JongHa Bae (FAO Representative) and PMU staff, including Vu Xuan Thon and Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy (National Director and Deputy National UN-REDD Programme Director, respectively), Simon Rye, Eirik Sorlie and Tore Langhelle (MoE, Norway)</p> <p>OBJECTIVE(S): To prepare for the second Executive Group (EG) meeting, agree on harmonization of fund transfers from the three UN-REDD Participating Organizations and enhanced coordination among the organizations, and participate in the EG meeting in Da Lat</p>

BRIEF SUMMARY:


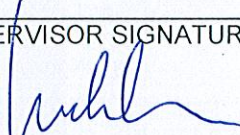
- The UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme was reviewed in late 2014. The review team identified the following three key constraints:
 - From a technical perspective, the Programme is very complex;
 - The Government's institutional setup, cumbersome decision-making, and limited capacities; and
 - Complex parallel financing of a Joint Programme without a Focal Point by Three Independent UN Agencies.

- The review team also provided twelve recommendations to address the constraints and to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of Programme delivery. The Programme partners prepared numerous action points, which were presented at the EG meeting for decision. The key points are as follows:
 - UNEP funds for national implementation by VNForest will in the future be channeled through the UNDP Viet Nam Country Office to allow for cash advances and streamlining of fund transfers. This means that UNDP will have full fiduciary responsibility. UNEP will retain operational responsibility and continue to provide technical inputs and oversight. A letter will be prepared, to be signed by UNDP and UNEP, to clearly spell out the roles and responsibilities of each partner. Funds for direct implementation by UNEP will not be affected by this new modality.
 - FAO and UNDP will continue to apply HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer), but will streamline reporting procedures considerably and use a simplified template for requesting cash advances. Substantial progress was made regarding this issue during the week before the PEB meeting.
 - To enhance coordination, the CTA will be the focal point for all technical matters. For non-technical or strategic issues, UNDP will be the facilitating agency, to streamline communication between the Government and the UN.
 - Based on a simplified logframe, the Programme will be extended by three years until the end of 2018.
 - MARD has issued Decision No. 5684/QĐ-BNN-TCCB dated 29/12/2014 on delegation of responsibilities in managing and implementing UN-REDD Programme to PMU and to Provincial People Committee. It has also recommended various steps to enhance capacity.

- Not all of the points above were tabled in the EG meeting for decisions. The EG, however, expressed its satisfaction with the progress achieved, regarding efforts to improve Programme performance, and approved the extension as well as the resource allocation as per the 2015 AWP and budget (see Annex I for all of the EG's decisions).

RECOMMENDATION(S)/ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

- Prepare the letter to be signed by UNDP and UNEP (draft prepared)
- Provide comments on the EG meeting minutes

DETAILED REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> ENCLOSED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT NECESSARY	DOCUMENTATION RECEIVED <input type="checkbox"/> ENCLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> LIST ENCLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> NO DOCUMENTATION	DATE: 31.03.2015
CLASSIFICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> CONFIDENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESTRICTED	SIGNATURE(S)  Thomas Enters	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE  Isabelle Louis

Annex 1

Decisions from the Second Executive Group (EG2) Meeting of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme

23.03.2015 – Da Lat, Viet Nam

Decision 1 – EG approves the annual report and takes note of the funding framework, and also requests the UN agencies and government to move towards a joint report in content and process reflecting a shared understanding of progress and challenges. The EG requests that the next report includes information on the progress on activities related to land tenure.

Decision 7 – The EG requests that a working group be established to explore possibilities to streamline the decision making process within the existing governance structures to render them more effective.

Decision 2a – The EG takes note of the annual review report, recognizes that some steps have already been taken, in particular in harmonizing operational procedures and enhancing coordination (as outlined in the information document 4b), and requests the finalization of the management response by April 20th 2015. The revised version (in one document) should be based on joint efforts and include detailed information on response actions, timelines and status of implementation, as well as a more thorough response on recommendation #5 related to the JCG and IMB.

Decision 2b – In order to perform its oversight function, the EG requests a progress update on status and effect of implemented measures by end of June 2015. Based on this update, the EG will consider conducting a stock-taking meeting in the 3rd quarter of 2015.

Decision 3 – The EG endorses the return of funds for National Implementation (1,299,200 US\$) under UNEP to the MPTF, for the purpose of transferring and implementing those through the UNDP. The EG allocates these funds to UNDP.

Decision 4 – The EG notes the need to revise the PIM. EG approval of the PIM can be sought through a no-objection decision by email latest by June 2015, whereupon it will be recommended as the overarching framework for programme implementation.

Decision 5 – In the interest of maximizing the success of the programme and based on the risk analysis submitted, the EG supports a 3 year extension of the programme. The EG requests the PMU to provide an updated results framework, targets and timelines that reflect the 3 year extension for approval of the EG by email by end of April 2015. Based on this decision, the EG recommends the donor to extend the SAA until 31 Dec 2018.

Decision 6 – The EG approves the resource allocation as per the 2015 AWP and budget, and requests a revised workplan aligned with the new results framework including more ambitious annual targets and activities on outcome 6 as well as forest land tenure under outcome 2, by end of April 2015.

