

Management response

Final Evaluation of the UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme

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Evaluation recommendation 1. A request should be made for a three-month no-cost extension with the main objective of completing the unfinished readiness agenda so that national capacity to apply for future adaptation or mitigation funding (with a focus on SFM) is strengthened. The priorities are completion of the REDD+ National Program document and development of a donor proposal for work on soil carbon, especially in permafrost layer areas.

Management response: Agreed, with following actions to be taken.

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking ¹	
			Comments	Status
1.1 Present findings and recommendations of the Final Evaluation to the PEB and request endorsement for no cost extension	November 2018	PIU and TE consultants.		Completed
1.2 if endorsed by the PEB, request no-cost extension from the UN-REDD secretariat.	November 2018	PIU, three UN agencies, PEB		Completed
1.3 Arrange technical backstopping to complete the REDD+ National Programme Document	Jan 2019	UNDP CO	Individual consultant was hired to complete the document.	Completed

Evaluation recommendation 2. Given the very strong synergy of the actions needed for both mitigation (or REDD+) and adaptation, amend the REDD+ NP so that it is more in line with the Programme's "REDD+ Vision" and becomes a REDD+ and Adaptation NP. This would require modified or additional PAMs to increase adaptation capacity in the forest sector, especially as regards livelihood resilience of vulnerable stakeholder groups, including reconciling grazing and forestry issues, and enhancing local institutional capacity. There should also be more emphasis in the PAMs on an enabling policy and regulatory framework for SFM by FUGs, including strengthening rights, and for wood and NTFP processing.

Management response:

This recommends that the REDD+ NP be re-oriented to become a REDD+ and adaptation NP. This is beyond the scope of the NP and the UN-REDD Programme. We provide support to countries in terms of mitigation actions, particularly so in the land-use sector and therefore REDD+. Links can be made with adaptation programmes that a country, in this case Mongolia, would like to / needs to make – but it cannot be a core part of a REDD+ NP as suggested by the evaluators. We therefore

¹ Status of implementation is tracked electronically in the ERC database.

disagree with this recommendation as it is not our mandate and beyond the scope of the UN-REDD Programme and the Mongolia NP.

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
2.1 Clarify this recommendation with evaluators via email and skype	Nov and Dec 2018	UNDP CO and RTA	UNDP do not agree with this recommendation. Clarification correspondences are documented as annex of the Final evaluation report.	Completed

Evaluation recommendation 3. The NS/NP should be based on the PAMs and not try and incorporate activities proposed in the six Sub-National Action Plans (SNAPs). The SNAPs should be re-visited after the NS has been approved, and according to whether and when they are needed in the REDD+ implementation stage.

Management response: agreed to re-visit sub-National Action Plans when REDD+ NP is approved

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
3.1 Finalize REDD+ NP	Jan 2018	MET and other implementing partners		Completed
3.2 Validate it at the national level and obtain full political commitments	Jan 2018	NPD, MET	Validated REDD+ NP at national forum organized	Completed
3.3 Re-visit sub-national action plans when REDD+ NP is approved.		MET and implementing partners		

Evaluation recommendation 4. Clearer guidance could be provided on the sequencing of national and sub-national planning and good practice as regards the substantive content of NS documents.

Management response: Agreed

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
4.1 Provide clearer guidance to MET and PIU	Jan 2018	UNDP CO and RTA		Completed

Evaluation recommendation 5. Undertake a rapid assessment of current data and understanding of the drivers in permafrost layer forest.

Management response: Agreed

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
5.1 Assess current data and discuss with key informants	Jan 2018	PIU, FAO and UNDP		Completed

Evaluation recommendation 6. The requirement of a named decision-making alternate (at all times) to the NPD needs to be explicitly specified in the National Programme Document signed by government.

Management response: Agreed

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
6.1 This recommendation is shared with the CO team	Jan 2019	UNDP and Government of Mongolia		Completed
Evaluation recommendation 7. Minimise the number of personnel changes as regards country office focal points, RTAs, CTAs and NPDs.				
Management response: Agreed				
Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
7.1 The recommendation is shared with the UNDP Region and CO teams.	Jan 2019	UNDP and Government of Mongolia		Completed
Evaluation recommendation 8. Develop common financial/accounting definitions and procedures, e.g., liquidation categories and procedures on so-called "hard" and "soft commitments"				
Management response: Agreed. Noted for future joint projects				
Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
8.1 This recommendation is shared with the CO team	Jan 2019	UN agencies		Completed
Evaluation recommendation 9. the length of the in-country evaluation mission should be increased to three weeks or 15 working days.				
Management response: Agreed. Noted for future action				
Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
6.1 This recommendation is shared with the CO team	Jan 2019	UNDP and Government of Mongolia	funding implications and scale and scope of the evaluations should also be considered	Completed

Notes:

Overall, UNDP disagrees with the ratings as provided by the evaluation team due to inconsistency in rating of outputs managed by participating UN agencies and the way the evaluation methodology and criteria have been applied across outputs and outcomes. In a number of cases, UNDP considers that outcome level changes were demanded at the Output levels. Moreover, Output ratings were applied between ratings, *i.e.* Output x is rated as between "Satisfactory" and "Moderately satisfactory". Despite repeated commenting from UNDP side, these were not sufficiently addressed by the consultants.

