



MISSION REPORT	
<p><b>DISTRIBUTION</b></p> <p>Kaveh Zahedi Isabelle Loius Tim Christophersen Edoardo Zandri Keiko Nomura Nguyen Thanh Phuong</p> <p>TN: 9017</p>	<p><b>NAME(S):</b> Thomas Enters</p> <p><b>PERIOD:</b> 03 to 07 August 2015</p> <p><b>PROJECT NUMBER &amp; TITLE:</b> UN-REDD Programme</p> <p><b>INSTITUTION(S) OR MEETING(S) and VENUE(S):</b> UN Technical Team meeting under the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme, Embassy of Norway and WWF.</p> <p><b>MAIN PERSON(S) CONTACTED:</b> Colleagues of FAO and UNDP, Eirik Brun Sorlie (Counselor, Climate Change and Forest, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Hanoi), Huyen Tien Dung and Katherine Birch (WWF - Viet Nam)</p> <p><b>OBJECTIVE(S):</b> Participate in the third UN Technical Team meeting, share perception on the implementation of the Programme with Eirik and discuss an SSFA between UNEP and WWF for work under the Programme Outcome 6.</p>

**BRIEF SUMMARY:**


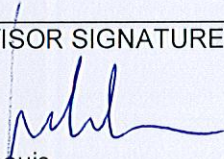
During the preparations for the EG meeting of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme in March 2015, it was decided to set up a UN Technical Team with the following objectives:

- o Jointly ensure the coherence of programme strategies and technical advice to national counterparts;
  - o Work towards a common technical strategy and resolve matters of technical divergence in the interest of the best overall optimal solution for the country;
  - o Provide coherent advice to LFA on risks and issues that escalate from the risk log; and
  - o Build capacity for Programme technical staff (i.e. Outcome officers and other national technical officers hired under the PMU).
- The Team met for the third time (I was not able to participate in the first two meetings) on 04 and 05 March to discuss *inter alia* the following matters:
    - o Update of the internal risk log (The purpose of the UN internal Risk Log is to provide the UN Agencies with a joint clear overview of the most important technical and management risks and issues that affect programme implementation, and to provide a transparent framework for identifying and monitoring actions to mitigate risks, address issues, and record the progress in resolution of those issues).
    - o Various definition on terms such as Site-level REDD+ Action Plans, Packages, Activities, Pilots etc. and their acronyms, as such terms were only loosely defined and translated into Vietnamese in different and at times confusing ways.
    - o The status of the geoportal that FAO is working on (see: <http://redd.vnforest.gov.vn/portal/index.html>).
    - o Upcoming review of the National REDD+ Action Program (passed on 27 June 2012).
    - o Progress of the development of Provincial REDD+ Action Plans.
    - o Challenges facing communication and awareness raising of the Programme (it was decided to organize a review).
    - o Upcoming National REDD+ Academy for which 15 to 16 September 2015 were set as dates.
  - Overall, the meeting was quite constructive and numerous action points were noted. However, the meetings still face some challenges, such as:
    - o Action points are not followed up between meetings. Therefore, the minutes of the third meeting included dates and clear responsibilities.

- At various times, organizational matters were discussed, although this distracted from discussions on technical matters. It was therefore decided to look into the possibility of setting up a "UN Organization Team" and UNDP was tasked to draft ToR.
  - The meeting lacked a clear facilitator, due in many ways to the weakness of the CTA. The current CTA will leave the position in September and it is hoped that a new CTA will be able to fill the position soonest.
  - Numerous issues were discussed which do not actually require any coordination, and could have been dealt with before the meeting through emails.
- The discussions with Mr. Eirik Brun Sorlie of the Royal Norwegian Embassy focused on the progress of Programme implementation. Before the EG in March, the UN agencies went to considerable lengths to streamline their operations and fund transfers, and enhance coordination amongst themselves. The establishment of UN Technical Team was one result of the efforts. VNForest, the Programme's national implementing partner has been far slower in responding to the recommendations of the mid-term review. It was agreed that currently the key impediment is the delay in signing agreement with Co-implementing partners (CIP). This matter appears to have been address at the end of August when Dr. Ha Cong Tuan, MARD Vice Minister, approved the detailed budget and bidding plan for two CIPs, with others to follow in the near future.
  - During a meeting with Huyen Tien Dung and Katherine Birch (WWF - Viet Nam), the implementation plan and budget for the upcoming SSFA, on "Lower Mekong Sub-regional collaboration on enhancing biodiversity conservation through REDD+", between UNEP and WWF were discussed. Based on the discussions and further input received after the meeting, Phuong has prepared an SSFA, which should be ready for signature soon.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)/ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:**

- Draft SSFA with WWF
- Draft ToR for "Reviewing the relevance and effectiveness of communication activities and training measures of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme".

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:  07.09.2015
CLASSIFICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> CONFIDENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESTRICTED	SIGNATURE(S)  Thomas Enters	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE  Isabelle Louis