







UNEP UN-REDD retreat

Kaetsu Centre, Cambridge 21-23 January

Meeting Record











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Executive summary







- The UNEP UN-REDD Team retreat gathered 40 participants, including representatives from the UN-REDD Secretariat and the 3 regional Knowledge Management specialists (UNDP) for 3 days.
- The Team got a good **overview of the work** which had been achieved in 2014 and reflected on the **lessons learned** to improve its work in 2015.
- In light of the main changes brought by the **new UN-REDD Strategy 2016-2020**, the Team discussed more in depth the role of UNEP within UN-REDD, how to shift towards increased country support and how to enhance collaboration with FAO and UNDP.
- The retreat was also a great opportunity for internal team building and networking: to meet every member in person and to learn more about the knowledge centres' and regional offices' work.
- The retreat was overall **very positive** (see evaluation results in Annex IX) and messages to take to the following interagency retreat in Geneva were agreed upon. Most of the pending questions related to the new Strategy and its operationalization are to be refined in the coming months.









Welcome and introductions (1)



Tim Christophersen welcomed all participants and recalled the main objectives of the retreat:

Ensure the team is well aligned on the new Strategy

Ensure a collective understanding of the upcoming work in 2015

Ensure efficiency of operations within UNEP UN-REDD Team

Explore the training needs and development opportunity









Welcome and introductions (2)

Tim Johnson, Chief Operating Officer of UNEP-WCMC, gave a short presentation on the Centre, where 13 members of the UNEP UN-REDD Team are based.

Participants then introduced themselves, after having sorted themselves by number of years of experience on deforestation.

They then worked in trios to test their knowledge on the REDD+ UNFCCC decisions. The results revealed that even within the Team, there are different interpretation of the ambiguous texts adopted.

It is therefore important to agree on a common interpretation, to deliver consistent messages.









Welcome and introductions

People expressed what they expected from the retreat.

Better understand UNEP's role in the new strategy

Focus more on implementation and less on readiness

Learn more about inter-agency coordination

See how the different elements articulate in the new strategy

Have an overview of the various work areas









Key developments in 2014-2015

Tim highlighted some of **UNEP main achievements** in 2014:

- Record level of TS requests on private sector and Green Economy
- High number of countries with work on safeguards
- General understanding of REDD+ being part of sustainable development at large
- REDD+ Academy and its lessons learned
- Involvement in the preparation of the New York Declaration on forests

... and provided an **outlook for 2015**:

- Publication of a chapter on REDD+ in the Emission Gap Report (which will be coordinated by L. Miles and R. Mant at UNEP-WCMC)
- REDD+ Academy in Africa (Nigeria) and LAC (Argentina)
- Development of REDD+ Academy into an online course with UNITAR
- Participation at the **Global Landscape Forum in COP 21** in Paris 5-6- December
- Publications on finance, results of the TS on private sector in LAC









Safeguards and spatial planning highlights (1)



Val gave an update on the past and future work of UNEP-WCMC on safeguards and land-use planning.

Some achievements in 2014, to be build upon in 2015

- Active participation in the SCG
- Countries' interest and application for CAST and BeRT
- Work on designing SIS for countries
- Global learning workshop on safeguards scheduled for 2015
- Cost-benefits analysis of REDD+ and GIS visualisation
- Capacity building in countries for spatial analysis
- Uptake of REDD+ spatial analysis into countries NBSAPs
- Support on integrating spatial planning into REDD+ strategies
- Bring expertise closer to regions





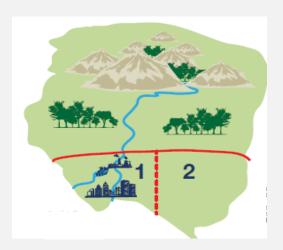




Safeguards and spatial planning highlights (2)

Main questions raised after Val's presentation were:

 What are the next steps when the maps of the spatial analysis are produced?



 How to make sure our work on economics do not overlap with the one of other agencies, such as ICIMOD and WCS?

- The maps aim at providing information to support decisionmaking. Some countries might want to produce more detailed maps to plan at the provincial scale, or use it for information on safeguards. The maps allow to visualise the general parameters to take into account when planning REDD+, this is a first stage of thinking when countries develop their R-PP.
- The work is coordinated by Ivo
 Mulder to ensure that there is no
 double work in this area, which
 raised a lot of interest from countries
 after the valuation study in Kenya.









Green Economy and private sector (1)

Ivo gave an update on the past and future work on REDD+ and the Green Economy. He emphasized the importance for our work to lead to a change in the government's behaviour.

Some achievements in 2014

- Forest valuation study (Panama, Argentina)
- Module on Green Economy in the 1st REDD+ Academy
- 2 sessions on Green Economy at the GLF in 2014
- Numerous partnerships for further work

A vision for 2015

- Finalize forests valuation studies
- Focus on countries ready to move towards implementation
- Identify economically-attractive solutions to address main drivers of deforestation
- Present and outreach of this area of work, including at COP 21











Green Economy and private sector (2)

Jacinto and lain gave an update on the work on REDD+ and the private sector undertaken by UNEP-FI, aiming at building the business case for REDD+. Their work aim at moving REDD+

from emotion to empirical evidence, in order

to embark private sector.

Some achievements in 2014

- Workshop with governments on how to engage private sector
- Workshops in LAC on REDD+ and financial strategies
- Work to make countries ready to apply to GCF (e.g. link NAMAS and REDD)
- Work on fiscal instruments to support the environment and sustainability

Outlook for 2015

- TS in Côte d'Ivoire, Peru and Costa Rica on engaging the private sector
- Work on fiscal instruments in Brazil and Indonesia to address drivers of deforestation.









Update on Africa



Daniel gave an update on the work in the Africa region. Currently, UNEP is effectively present in 9 countries in Africa.

At the **country** level, in 2014, much work was done on assessing forests and/or REDD+ **contributions to national economies**, **mapping** of multiple benefits and linking REDD+ and **Green Economy**. 2 NPs were launched.

At the **regional** level, several workshops were held on legal preparedness and on national strategies. A report on mangroves and REDD+ in Central Africa was finalised.

In **2015**, the objective is to be present in at least 9 countries, mostly building on the work undertaken in 2014. More work on **SIS** and **communications** on REDD+ is planned. The **REDD+ Academy session in Africa** is planned in Nigeria.

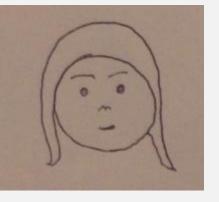












Thomas and Keiko gave an update on the work in the Asia-Pacific countries:

- 2015 is the last year of Cambodia's and PNG's NPs
- a TS started in Myanmar and Pakistan asked for a CNA
- TS in Malaysia is on hold
- Work on Green Economy in Nepal and Sri Lanka
- Phuong presented the work in Phase II of the NP in Viet Nam.
 Progress has been very slow and only 10% of the Programme budget has been spent.



At the **regional** level:

- Private sector engagement with the Social Enterprise Facility for the South
- Regional REDD+ Readiness Assessment showed that usually, UN-REDD countries get a higher score than non UN-REDD countries.









Update on Latin America and the Caribbean



Dani, who was pretty cold, gave an update on the work in LAC, and highlighted the growing demand on **private sector engagement**. UNEP will work more on **REDD+ financing options**, gaps and institutions.

Some achievements in 2014

- 3 new NJPs, 5 new TS
- Increased inter-agency coordination, with FPs in each agency
- Regional workshop on National Strategies

Outlook for 2015

- 3 NJPs will finish, 3 will start
- 2 TS will finish, 5 will start
- Technical inputs to the strategies (e.g. economic analysis)
- REDD+ Academy in Argentina
- Series of discussion papers









Key lessons from 2014: Brainstorming session (1)

People had 25min to think about the following:

- What were the main achievements of the UNEP UN-REDD Team in 2014?
- What worked well? What did not work well?
- What could be done better?

Answers are compiled in Annex I.



They were then asked for their impressions on the survey results: was there anything striking? Surprising?

"Inter-agency collaboration" was the answer to questions on what worked well, what did not work and what can be done better! This is mainly because regional experiences quite vary: it works well in Asia but it is more challenging in Africa. It also depends a lot on individuals.









Key lessons from 2014: Brainstorming session (2)

The topic of the analysis of the drivers of deforestation in country has raised a particular interest.

This is the most important piece of analysis for REDD+ to build the rights policies and measures.

Even if UNEP is not involved much in the country, results should be shared with other agencies.

Ultimately, you need to get the political will to tackle the drivers of deforestation.

UNEP should keep an eye to make sure this crucial analysis is referred to in the REDD+ Strategies.

Though politically sensitive, UNEP can help countries identify the least costly and most feasible options.









UNEP's role and links to Warsaw Frameworks in UN-REDD Strategy 2016-2020 (1)

Tim presented the key elements of the **new UN-REDD Strategy.** Key points are as follows:

- Revised draft should be ready by 06/02, for the final draft to be online by 28/02. To be
 adopted at the Policy Board in May.
- Collaboration with other agencies is not an option, this is a necessity, especially to bring our work to countries as UNEP has very few country offices compared to FAO and UNDP.
- The management revolution refers to the joint decision making by all 3 agencies, especially regarding the budget.



- Budget will shift from global support to country support
- A few countries ready for RBAs will receive significant support, but support for readiness will be provided to <u>all</u> demanding countries. Donors and some staff think we should work only with countries having made good progress on REDD+ but as the UN, we cannot leave any country behind.









UNEP's role and links to Warsaw Frameworks in UN-REDD Strategy 2016-2020 (2)

- The Programme's objectives are placed ahead of agencies' interests, i.e. we really need to 'deliver as one'. This is a requirement from the donors.
- → Hence the idea of @un-redd.org email addresses instead of @unep.org when communicating with countries.
- UNEP is not a large Team within UN-REDD but plays a large role. Remember that this is the
 only agency to have full membership in its general assembly and who had an increase in
 core budget.
- Regional and technical country advisors will directly report to the MG. The lead advisor will report on the work of UN-REDD in a country, not on a specific agency. The advisor will be the face and phone number of the country for the Programme. The lead advisor will be based in country only for the ones benefitting of large scale investment. His role will be to gather the support team based on the country demand, finding who in UN-REDD is best suited to fulfil the need.
- 2015 will be a year of transition between the current practices and the new Strategy.









UNEP's role and links to Warsaw Frameworks in UN-REDD Strategy 2016-2020 (3)

- Norway has already indicated **support for UN-REDD work** in 2016 and beyond, and there may be additional donors expressing their interest in November. The **background** of the strategy was approved in Arusha but we need now to convince donors of our strategy to **improve**. In Lima, Norway expressed **satisfaction** on what was prepared so far.
- A crucial point for UNEP is to increase its visibility and emphasize the importance of its
 work for readiness. Internally, the Team should be well aware of the range of services and
 support that we provide. A suggestion could be for key teams to go in the regions to give
 updates on their work on a series of topic.



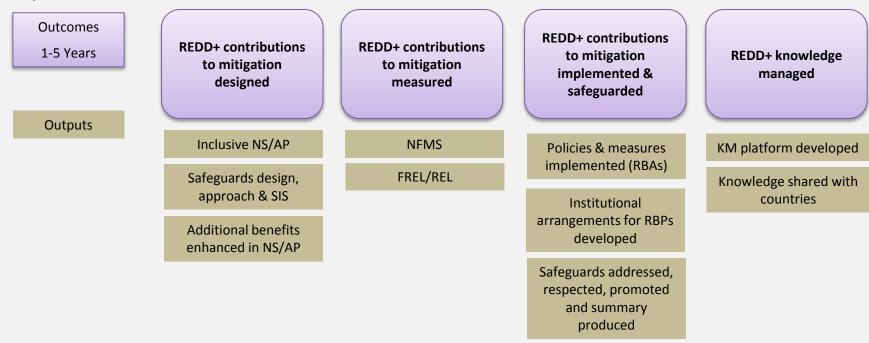






UNEP's role and links to Warsaw Frameworks in UN-REDD Strategy 2016-2020 (4)

 Outcomes under the Theory of change (see Annex II) in the new strategy can be compressed into 4 outcomes:



- It would be really useful to have a working group similar to the SCG for National Strategies.
- There is always a risk that the lead advisors favour the area their agency is most involved in, but they will now be accountable to the MG and will have to report on interagency work.









UNEP's work on finance and private sector engagement (1)

Ivo gave a presentation on *Bending the curve: identifying country-specific economically attractive solutions to implement REDD+.*

- Brazil showed that this is possible to **reduce deforestation** <u>and</u> **grow economically**. Its emission reductions were paid, but for less than \$1/tCo2. The price of carbon is core to REDD+ and there are **few incentives** to cut carbon emissions.
- UNEP can work with governments to help them identify the most attractive options in terms of carbon and non-carbon benefits that REDD+ can bring.
 - UNEP has also a big role to play in helping countries work on fiscal and trade policies e.g. use FLEGT policies as REDD+ RBAs.
 - UNEP can work with companies to highlight the risks associated with environmental degradation.
 - Ralph presented the spreadsheet on costs and benefits of REDD+ implementation that he created for Cambodia. He explained the methodology used and the technical functioning of the tool.











UNEP's work on finance and private sector engagement (2)

Jonathan presented on Wilmar, the largest agribusiness company in Asia, to ban deforestation from its supply chain. This **internalisation of risks** linked to deforestation revealed that companies bear **high costs** when adopting such strategies:

- Impact on **profit**s by setting aside parts of the concession for conservation
- Lose tax revenues from the government which requires all the land to be exploited
- Impact on local employment

Government and local communities might still **prefer business-as-usual**. When building the case for REDD+ for the private sector, all small details on the ground must be taken into account.

The discussion following the presentation covered, among others:

- Various **perceptions** across the local communities (smallholders vs indigenous peoples)
- **Inherent value** of forests, beyond the speech on losses or benefits
- REDD-PAC project modelling the impact on fluctuating prices of commodities on deforestation in the Congo Basin and Brazil.



Day 1 RECAP







Important insights

- Got to know each other
- Better understanding of each other's work
- Some answers on the new Strategy but still questions on how it will work
- Learned more on the Regional Technical Advisors
- Impressive numbers on the costs for a company to internalize deforestation risks

Critical for Day 2

- More details on the new Strategy and on interagency work
- Keep on time to cover all agenda items

Discussions continued at the Architect pub around pots of soup...





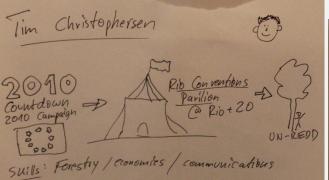
Welcome and bios



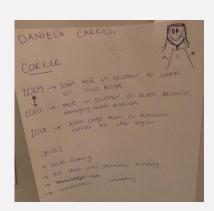




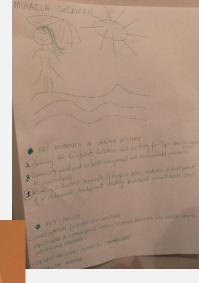
Participants prepared short bios to share with the team.





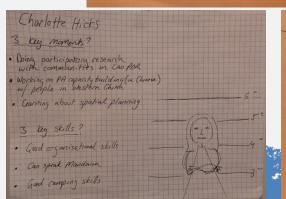


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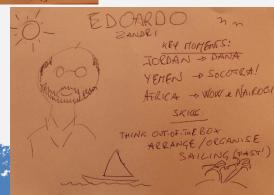








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UNEP's role and links to Warsaw Frameworks in UN-REDD Strategy 2016-2020 (5)

Tim and Mirey answered to the questions pending from the day before about the new Strategy. Main points are summarized below:

- Ongoing NPs and the ones approved in 2015 won't have to change their functioning in 2016. However, they will start using the new format for annual reports making the link to the Warsaw Framework.
- Building on lessons learned is key in the Strategy, and this corresponds to the new emphasis on KM and Communications.
- The actual operating of the Design and Implementation streams of work will vary, based on the type of support requested by countries.
- The 3 agencies will all be involved in DMIK (maybe not for M), and in **all outcomes** of the new Strategy.
- UNEP's main contribution to UN-REDD is not financial but to develop and test innovative tools.









Pipelining and country selection of the UN-REDD Programme (1)



Mirey opened a session on the **selection criteria** for countries in which UN-REDD works. We are clearly moving from NPs to **increasing TS requests**, which cover broader areas of support than originally.

In the previous selection process, NPs were supplied by UN-REDD rather than being a demand from countries. From 2016 onwards, a new, **country-driven approach** will be tested.

Countries were invited to submit **expressions of interest** for a NP, which will be assessed by a committee. Countries should include information on their **level of advancement** in REDD+, funding **needs** and existing **domestic financing**, institutional capacity and budget absorption capacity. So far, US\$ 15M were secured from donors for NPs, and 9 countries are more or less advanced in submitting.









Pipelining and country selection of the UN-REDD Programme (2)

Mirey then presented **RADAR** (see Annex III) which will be used as an **internal decision-support tool** for UN-REDD management and an external tool for the Policy Board. This is still in a maturing process, and details on how **country assessments** will be conducted or whether to disclose information publically still needs to be discussed.

Tim flagged the importance of including in RADAR the **analysis of deforestation drivers** and potential **responses**, which is, along with a reference level, key for REDD+ implementation. **Mirey** questioned whether this should be taken into account in the **selection process** or when UN-REDD is **designing its intervention** in the country.

But should we **focus on countries with the highest potential** for emission reductions? Or the **countries with less capacities** and stability?









Pipelining and country selection of the UN-REDD Programme (3)

Participants were asked to weigh the different parameters of RADAR: should the **performance**, **risks and impact assessments** be of equal weight?

Risks deserve a special attention but this is also the parameter one has least control on

Should be really multicriteria analysis

When looking at risks, consider not only country focus but broader picture to take into account potential displacement of drivers.

Look at the ratio between previous investments and the results achieved

Thomas will be UNEP Focal Point for RADAR and any related suggestion should be sent to him











Pipelining and country selection of the UN-REDD Programme (4)

Participants were asked whether UN-REDD should **prioritize countries** were the Programme is already involved or countries with other initiatives going on.

The more actors present in countries, the better: larger REDD+ understanding in countries and easier

Good momentum to build on when there are already donors present

Depends on the quality of management in country

Take into account the transaction cost of coordinating

How **frequent** should the assessment be conducted?

At the beginning of the work and mid-way

Do not burden with reporting

Need to check countries are OK for these assessments



Increasing UNEP's visibility in country (1)







Tim wanted to hear especially from the **regional teams** on that point. UN-REDD type of work has evolved in the past 2 years and requests now more visibility in country.

Thomas suggested to work with other agencies for them to make presentations or distribute materials on UNEP's areas of work during their own missions [note that the updated REDD+ Academy material will contribute to this].

When on longer missions, coordinate within UNEP and with FAO and UNDP to be clear on what can be offered to countries.

lain suggested to focus on blogs and infographics, to communicate better with government about our work.

Blaise noted that this might not be the most relevant media in all countries. Summary posters can work very well.

Emelyne shared her experience of being **hosted by UNDP office** in Brazzaville:

- Working great, esp. to build relationships
- UNDP colleagues are key to help work in country
- Coordinates government/UNEP action, incl. UNEP-WCMC
- Suggestion for longer missions from technical experts welcomed by government

UN-REDD t-shirts



Cordula highlighted that we need to **keep a global overview** which allows ideas exchange and countries' experience comparison.



Increasing UNEP's visibility in country (2)







See also Annex IV

Higher presence in country will help us better **understand countries expectations** prior to key missions.

Phuong said that our work is still too global, and make it more country specific will increase our relevance and visibility.

Corinna suggested to encourage countries and regions to exchange as they could answer each other's questions instead of directing queries to technical staff [Note that the new workspace will allow for the creation of technical forums].

Thais explained that we should combine force with others, such as the GEF, for more concrete implementation. [Note that UNEP and GEF are looking at working together on restoration and green economy and commodities].

Dani highlighted that by working more closely with **national partners**, our work could be brought to other sectors in the country.

Levis emphasized that we should make the impact of our work very clear and show countries how useful it is.

Thais also pointed that we should increase the technical quality of our work, as currently technical staff spends too much time on institutional arrangements.

Donors have highlighted the fact that less workshops are wanted, but the Team still sees them as one of the best way to engage with countries. Therefore, reporting on the outcome of workshops at the national level needs to be emphasized, along with support to national reporting.









The Interagency Safeguards Coordination Group (1)

Steve presented the work of the **SCG** and how it links to the regional teams. It is a generic model for other **thematic communities of practices** and working groups which are suggested in the new Strategy as a way to **increase interagency collaboration**.



Major achievements of SCG from internal review:

- Existence of the SCG, representative of all agencies and on the same page
- Country approach to safeguards (CAS) and tool (CAST)

Weaknesses identified

Poor transfer of knowledge between global and regional/country level

Solutions

Role of KM to facilitate the transfer of lessons learned



The Interagency Safeguards Coordination Group (2)





Steve's presentation was followed by a discussion which main points were:

- Now that global tools were developed, we need to test and use them at the country level.
- The SCG developed options to get closer to regional/country work but it does no have the sole responsibility. This would be too much a burden for SCG members who are not working on safeguards only. The option of 'dedicated support' is in line with the increased support to countries of the New Strategy but does not mean that SCG members need to be based in countries.
- The sequencing of safeguards activities in country need to be thought about before starting. The analysis of the drivers of deforestation comes first, and then the safeguards process can start. It can also be associated with the identification of multiple benefits when options for the REDD+ Strategy are designed.











Improving interagency collaboration: options on administrative platforms (1)



Gabriel presented the experience of interagency collaboration in the LAC region. It explored opportunities for collaboration at the **administrative level**, acknowledging that each agency has its own requirements.

UNEP's work in several countries went through UNDP, and there were arrangements about the management service fees charged by UNDP.

Administrative processes can be simplified when resorting to the UN resident coordinator.

OPBS are a burden-free process for UNDP office in country to incur expenditures on behalf of UNEP and needs only approval **by email**.

Streamlining administrative processes contribute to deliver as UN-REDD rather as by agency, as there is a **single administrative interface**.

It came out of the discussion following that the Team's experiences regarding MoUs with UNDP, the payment of services fees etc varied a lot. **Specific questions on that matter should be addressed to Florence, Levis and Gabriel**.









Improving interagency collaboration: options on administrative platforms (2)

We need to keep in mind that there are **trade-off** transaction costs when resorting to UNDP for instance, which is to which extent we want to retain **programmatic control**. Activities must be precisely described in the project document and closely monitored, which is demanding.

It was noted that success of such collaboration relies a lot on individual relationships.

Keiko asked about the **reporting responsibility** in such cases, which is where the money for the activity lies: in this case, UNDP.

When money is **pooled** between UNEP and UNDP for activities, it might be more difficult to convince UNDP to follow UNEP's priorities.

This discussion in LAC came when countries were asking support for REDD+ financing: agencies had to agree on an **harmonized vision of REDD+.** While UNDP can provide support to establish REDD+ funds, UNEP support countries in **identifying financing options available** (e.g. centralised or not).









Improving interagency collaboration: options on administrative platforms (3)

Tim explained that this discussion will be brought to the interagency retreat in Geneva. The Programme will need to move to streamlined administrative arrangements, and possibly to operating only one financial interface (disbursement) per country.

<u>Pros</u> <u>Cons</u>

Limited administrative costs

Transaction costs and monitoring

A quick vote revealed that a dozen of participants were favourable to this type of administrative arrangements, about 5 wanted to debate the question and about 5 were not sure.

→ If we don't manage to agree on a single administrative platform, will UN-REDD continue to exist?





Training session on safeguards







The last session of the day focused on safeguards:

- **Lera** presented the 7 Cancun safeguards and UN-REDD Framework for Supporting the Development of Country Approaches to Safeguards
- **Judith** presented the structure of the CAST and recent countries experiences
- Amor presented the structure of the BeRT
- **UNEP-WCMC** facilitated a series of activities on country progress within the UN-REDD Framework for CAS (see results in Annex V), filling the BeRT (see results in Annex VI) and testing the Team's knowledge on safeguards.















At the end of the day, participants went for dinner together and continued discussions over ricotta, penne and tiramisu...

This was followed by a typical British pub quiz and a few pints!

4 teams answered the tricky questions submitted through the preliminary survey.

Some extracts:

"Whose quote is this: success consist of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm? — Tim Christophersen (before he was famous)"

"How many legs do butterfly have? - 6 (2 in Viet Nam)"











Welcome - Achievements of the retreat

Participants mingled in groups reflecting the diversity of regions and functions within the Team. They looked at the **retreat objectives** and assessed whether they where well on track. Results of the assessment were encouraging.

- The Team understands the role and key opportunities for UNEP in 2015 and 2016. The Team is aligned with the new strategic direction of the UN-REDD Programme 2016-2020
- The Team has provided input to enhance Programme delivery in the new Strategy; and to
- Improve impact and collaboration between agencies -"management revolution"
- The Team has optimized internal collaboration between knowledge hubs - UNEP Finance Initiative; UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre; Headquarters and Regional Teams
- The Team has identified key training needs for 2015

Need more concrete and articulated message to take to Geneva, wrap up the discussion

Not much discussed. Need to use bilateral meetings

Not discussed yet



UN-REDD





Strategy 2016-2020: roadmap and input to date (1)

Mario opened a session on the preparation of the new strategy. He congratulated the Team for its level of understanding, thinking and questioning revealed during the past 2 days of the retreat.

- The Team believes in the direction the strategy is taking, but questions its potential to be delivered.
- Strategy development was perceived as a top-down process internally, but it was much broader externally: stakeholders meetings, Policy Board members interviews,

online survey, regional workshops

- Most inspiring is the level of convergence among all stakeholders: UN-REDD fundamentals are very clear, views differ on how to implement it, to be agreed within the next 8 months.
- Still need to raise funds

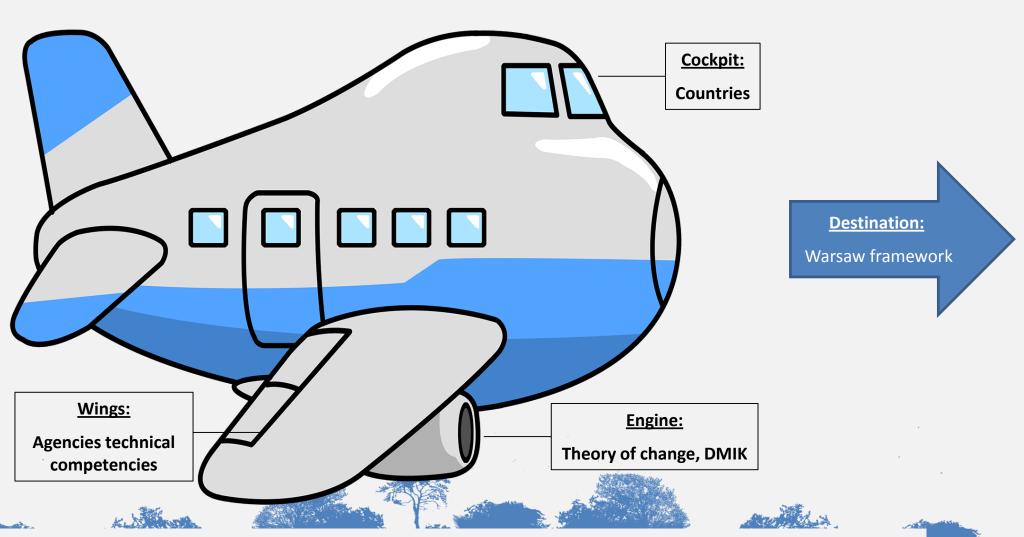
UN-REDD





Strategy 2016-2020: roadmap and input to date (2)

UN-REDD Aircraft











New knowledge management and communications structure (1)

Jennifer made a presentation on the new communication and KM strategy.



KM Team	and Comm Team
reflects on and compiles lessons learned	shares this information
helps you understand your audience better	helps you design the appropriate material
is split across regions	is split across agencies

See in Annex VIII who to contact for your KM and Communications questions.









New knowledge management and communications structure (2)

This was followed by a demo of the new workspace, to be launched by the end of February.

- Upgrade was a consultative process involving about 70 stakeholders and technical pers.
- In the 'Contact' session, possibility to **search and connect** with technical experts
- Will allow to create groups and forums where docs can be uploaded
- Resource library with **templates and presentations** to re-use
- Developers will work on a function to be able to work simultaneously on the same doc but for the moment, will keep to use SharedDoc
- Calendar will be on the front page and you'll be able to turn on/off the one(s) to view.
 Calendars by country can be created if needed.
- Better **search tool** for docs (incl. type of doc) but current folders will remain the same
- Workspace will be down for 2 weeks for migration in February









New knowledge management and communications structure (3)

- The website was redesigned to increase visibility
- Newsletters were redesigned and will be re-launched in February, with more country perspectives and an editorial on UNFCCC guidelines.
- 'Mini-round up' to become 'weekly round up' and will be on again starting next month
- Call for more blog articles. Tim should agree on the article idea, then liaise with Mihaela and Jenifer. Tim encouraged everyone to write at least 1 article by the end of the year.
- New LinkedIn account; number of followers on Twitter and shared tweets keep increasing
- Templates are currently being redeveloped, and will be available from Mihaela and the Secretariat once approved by MG.
- Please populate the image library and upload your high res images









New knowledge management and communications structure (4)



Mihaela explained how closely she works with the KM specialists. You can send her any Comm or KM request and she will liaise with KM if needed. She highlighted her main areas of work:

- Coordinates UNEP's communications and knowledge management work in the UN-REDD Programme
 - Make UNEP work visible: UNEP is a great knowledge centre, she will work to bring this knowledge out to the world, but also to circulate it across the team and regions.
 - Identify new communication channels, beyond the traditional iisd mailing lists.
 - Provide **guidance** on products: when you think of a product, contact Mihaela as soon as the inception phase.
- Support work on the REDD+ Academy



REDD+ Academy (1)







Levis presented the results of the first REDD+ Academy session for Asia-Pacific and upcoming work.



- Real interest about safeguards: countries said they will use CAST
- Academy to build capacity at the country level
- The regional sessions should lead to training at the national level. 3 scheduled in Asia-Pacific countries, 2 in Africa
- Next sessions: more 'training of trainers', better selection
- Build also capacity on how to communicate, to convince other sectors and stakeholders at home
- Conveys a **consistent message**: UN-REDD position and **standardised** knowledge from UN-REDD perspective. Then flavoured at the regional level (e.g. case studies)
- Material to be turned into online resources
 - Steering group coordinated by Levis to review material and consistency with UNFCCC and UN-REDD approach
 - Redesign of material: instead of exhaustive presentations, independent **toolkits** for trainers.



REDD+ Academy (2)







Participants had some additional comments about the REDD+ Academy.

Really think about your audience, don't make it too technical

Regional offices are supportive to the trainings at national level but this creates a lot of extra work for regional staff. Even if KM helps, initial input comes from technical staff.

Still an issue to reach participants from other sectors

Universities are not good partners: different audience and purposes

Universities might be useful partners at the national level. Some countries want to include universities in REDD+ capacity building to deliver the training regularly.



Knowledge management in regions (1)







Ela (Africa), **Heang** (Asia-Pacific) and **Patricia** (LAC) presented the KM workplan for 2015, region by region. This is much linked to the REDD+ Academy work.

- KM is about capturing, storing and sharing knowledge. By reflecting on and sharing experiences, UN-REDD can improve its way of working.
- Most of knowledge is tacit: KM's role is to bring it up.
- KM budget is between \$130,000 and \$330,000 per region (note that REDD+ Academy is a separate budget)





Knowledge management in regions (2)







The KM and Comm Team wanted to hear from the Team and answer questions.

The Academy is really valuable to absorb knowledge from the other agencies. Can it be used to train new starters?

It would be useful to have statistics on the number of downloads, geography of users, types of media etc...

They are not the target audience but the material is available and there will be some work on how to make it relevant for internal purposes.

These statistics exists. Contact Jennifer if you want more info. This is also included in the annual report.

How KM Team intends to bring other sectors and a new audience for UN-REDD products?

This will mostly depend on countries. Note that the REDD+ Academy had a session for journalists, who have a key role to play to reach other sectors. There will be a pilot project in Zambia as well.

What are the next steps for UN-REDD when national sessions of the Academy are decided?

UN-REDD will build trainers' facilitation skills and bring technical support.



Knowledge management in regions (3)







A few additional suggestions were made by the Team:

REDD+ Academy might need rebranding if we want to address the private sector: e.g. "0 deforestation in my supply chain: how can REDD+ help"

Regional teams could commit to send to Mihaela the TS requests so that she identifies if something similar/relevant was already done within the Team and put people in touch.

A way to reach other sectors could be to develop a series of fliers such as "REDD+ and agriculture", and attach them to invitations to events.

The KM regional coordinator have to make sure that the regional teams are aware of, if not participating, to all South-South exchange events as many input could be shared.



Wrap-up session







The Team split into 3 groups to wrap-up discussions which had been ongoing at the retreat, by deciding:

- What message to take to the interagency retreat in Geneva
- **Next steps** for the next 5, 30 and 90 days

The groups suggested where:

- 1. Discuss further KM & Communications process
- 2. Identify UNEP strengths for the new Strategy
- 3. Think through new approaches to work at the country level











Wrap-up session: new approaches at country level

- We need to ensure that **Country Lead Advisors** have all support and information needed to use the best available expertise in the programme and dedicate equal, unbiased attention to the **portfolios of the 3 agencies**.
- There might be a problem of staff allocation as some countries are more attractive than others.
- The National Coordinator has a facilitating role to liaise between agencies and governments. He/she should be hired by the UN agencies in order to attract good profiles (as in most regions this corresponds to higher salaries), but the government should be involved in the interview process as they will be collaborating.
- The work of **Lead Technical Experts** will depend on countries' demands, and some might be **overburdened**. People's availability will need to be taken into account. A **trial period** would be very useful, maybe with the new NPs in 2015?









Wrap-up session: strengths and next steps for UNEP

- In the Theory of Change, 'additional benefits' mentioned in the 'Design' phase should be linked to the 'Implementation' as well. 'Financing' should be added as a cross-cutting issue.
- It is good to have an **interagency coordination group** on NS/APs but we should limit the number of such groups to avoid bottlenecks.
- **Reporting** should be streamlined; Lead Advisors cannot all report to MG. They should report to their agency but be accountable to the whole group.
- Identifying the areas of the New Strategy UNEP will be involved in will be
 determined in the coming weeks. UNEP's general role is to be the voice and
 advocate for the environment, but also to develop innovative pieces of work which
 can then be taken over by over UN agencies (e.g. REDD+ Academy).









Wrap-up session: KM and Communications

- KM and Comm Team discussed further several of the points mentioned in the past 3 days, such as how to improve the upcoming regional sessions of REDD+ Academy based on the experience in Indonesia, creating T-shirts and posters as promotional material...
- Members of the Team expressed their wishes regarding communications, such as
 having a standard 2 pager when a report is produced, standard presentations which
 can be re-used, translations other than Spanish and French, recommendations to
 budget for infographics and picture costs for reports...
- The process for **product approval** has not been decided by MG yet. It will need to be flexible depending on the type of output. It should also be as simple as possible because this is very difficult to get clearance for a product.









Wrap-up session: Messages to take to Geneva

- UNEP has a unique and important role to play in the UN REDD Programme
- As a Team, we need to have better understanding of what each other does.
- UNEP UN-REDD Team looks forward to collaborate with other agencies in the future
- The group has been very positive on the direction UN-REDD is taking. There
 are still questions on how it will be operating, e.g. thematically, but happy to
 go.
- More confident about the Strategy, the Team is less worried about where it is going and its role in it.
- UNEP really wants a collective understanding with its colleagues and will strive for it. The SCG is a good model, and there must be other ways to build consensus.









Action points

- Upload Mirey's presentation on the workspace
- Complete the final survey on the retreat sent by Mihaela and include your training needs, i.e. the skills you'd like UNEP to offer you.
- UNEP FI will visit WCMC for 2 days of brainstorming to firm up synergies.
- All staff to follow up on the bilateral elements initiated at the retreat
- Keiko, UNEP FI and Thomas to discuss practical dates for an event in Bangkok.









Closing remarks

Tim closed the retreat by highlighting how far UNEP UN-REDD Team has gone since its first retreat in January 2013:

- Increased size of the Team
- Increased the number of themes it works on
- Excellent substantive work was achieved
- Administrative improvements (spending, regional coordinator for Africa...)
- Learned to work with other agencies: mutual respect and interest despite different views
- Still a lot to do, including on how to support countries better, but UNEP's contribution is clearer
- This was a great retreat, with an excellent team
- Thank UNEP-WCMC for organising and hosting the retreat!





Annex I (1)







Achievements	Worked well	Did not work well	To do better
Concrete results of our work and moving towards implementation e.g. REDD+ Academy has moved from being an idea to action	High quality of technical work	Administrative procedures, delays	1)More in-depth technical support to countries and uptake by the countries 2)Improving interagency collaboration
1)Continued and increased country requests for support on 2)UNEP areas of work REDD+ Academy	1)Strengthened relationship with national counterparts 2)Better collaboration with other agencies (in some areas): in country working sessions, collaborative workshops on strategies and finance, enhanced communications in NPs in A-P	1)Admin/finance procedures 2)Collaboration with agencies (still overlap)	1)Diversification of implementing partners 2)Not spread too thinly (country engagement) 3)Info flow enhanced 4)Realistic expectations (timeframe) 5)Collaboration within agencies
UNEP has been able to increaqualified staff, who are able to support		Cumbersome internal administrative procedures	Harmonisation of procedures



Annex I (2)







Achievements	Worked well	Did not work well	To do better
1)Technical quality of work 2)Safeguards and multiple benefits work well received	1)Work with national counterpart 2)Innovative approaches and thinking	1)Inter-agency collaboration 2)Administrative procedures	1)Better communication channels with UN-REDD country focal points 2)Coordinate/centralize UN-REDD agencies (administratively) in countries
Worded in a way that only provided mentions of activities but not on the impacts/achievements/out comes	Can see improvements of working with other agencies	1)Administrative procedures 2)Different objectives UN-REDD/countries	1)There will be one UN- Agency from which funding will flow for activities work 2)Streamlining procedures
1)Engagement with countries, more in-country support 2)A new strategy 2016-2020	1)Better coordination with other agencies 2)Commitment to new strategy, common goal 3)Team spirit	1)Lack of coordination/communication 2)Not enough sharing of experiences	1)Improved coordination2)Increased UNEP presence in countries3)Hiring a local focal point4)Administrative support



Annex I (3)







Achievements	Worked well	Did not work well	To do better
1)Work in LAC on financing, spatial analysis 2)Increase in TS for African countries 3)More engagement with countries and adapting tools/approaches to meet needs 4)Cross UNEP team collaboration, e.g. UNEP FI UNEP-WCMC joint work	1)Strong information/knowledge base from previous work to build on 2)Countries acting as examples/REDD+champions 3)Working with in-country partners 4)More staff in the right places	1)Logistical/admin problems, e.g. transfer of funds to countries 2)Interagency collaboration 3)Lack of well-defined Theory of Change	N/A
1)Enhanced capacity 2)Interagency collaboration mentioned in both achievements & challenges: is it both? 3)UNEP approach validated in the LAC region, as shown by country uptake 4) REDD+ Academy 5)Quality of technical work 6)Innovative UN-REDD approaches and tools		 1)Administrative procedures 2)Transfer of funds 3)Getting innovative approaches and tools better across at country level 4)Enhancing communication of approaches and tools and having them trickle down: thinking about communications strategy → producing a checklist for comms tasks and avenues (options for different knowledge products) 5)Having work taken up in decision-making 	



Annex I (4)







Achievements	Worked well	Did not work well	To do better
1)Internal coordination much stronger 2)Technical quality of work increased and knowledge base growing 3)Improved (and yet to improve even more) visibility at country level	1)Coordination amongst all 3 agencies (REDD+ Academy) 2) Countries have become clearer as to what their REDD Readiness priorities are	Administrative delays	Clearer picture/ understanding of UNEP UN- REDD goals
1)Increased volume of country support (based on request, needs-driven) 2)Increased regional capacity (human resources) Quality of 3)Maintenance of high quality of technical work	1)SCG 2)Interagency regional workshop 3)Innovative thinking on private sector engagement	1)Lack of in-country presence (operationally) 2)Inconsistent recognition of UNEP's contributions to UN-REDD	1)Improved two-way cooperation between technical specialists and regional/country teams 2)Interagency country support teams?

Annex II

Illustrative ToC with shorthand outcomes and outputs agreed on 20.1.15 - WORK IN PROGRESS

Development Goal

10-15 Years

Programme Impacts

5 Years

Outcomes

1-5 Years

Outputs

Reduce emissions and enhance carbon stocks from forests while contributing to national sustainable development

Assuming (i) political commitments are made to REDD+ within the UNFCCC and consistent with national sustainable development strategies; (ii) finance is available for Results Based Actions to tackle the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and to implement REDD+ policies and measures; (iii) there is willingness to engage in a comprehensive multi stakeholder consultative process, seeking sustainable natural resource management solutions; Then, GHG emissions from forests will be reduced and carbon stocks will be enhanced while at the same time sustainable, equitable, low carbon development paths will be identified and put into practice.

1) Increased effective participation and recognition in the UNFCCC process [Readiness and beyond]

2) Increased Result-Based Payments [RBPs]

3) Enhanced capacities to support achievement of additional benefits of REDD+ [including adaptation to climate change, conservation of biological diversity and other ecosystem services and Improved livelihoods]

Strategic consultations undertaken

REDD+ finance

Policies and measures developed

Drivers of impact

REDD+ contributions to mitigation designed

Inclusive NS/AP

Safeguards design, approach & SIS

Additional benefits enhanced in NS/AP

REDD+ contributions to mitigation measured

NFMS

FREL/REL

REDD+ contributions to mitigation implemented & safeguarded

Policies & measures implemented (RBAs)

Institutional arrangements for RBPs developed

Safeguards addressed, respected, promoted and summary produced

REDD+ knowledge managed

KM platform developed

Knowledge shared with countries



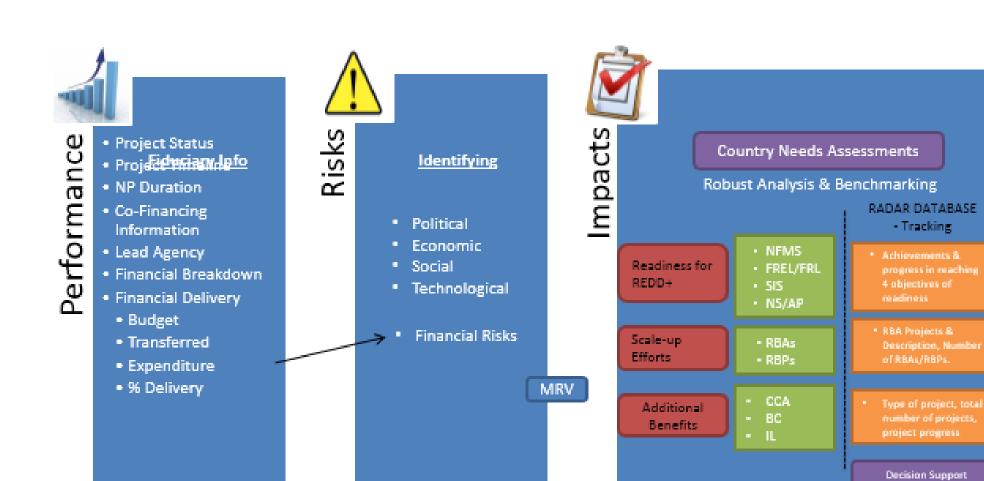








DATA, ASSESSMENT & REPORTING





Annex IV (1)







How to increase UNEP's visibility in country

- Fragmented country efforts → work towards key case studies
- Better collect and document 'anecdotal' evidence of impact
- Better reporting at national level
- Build partnerships with other IGOs/BINGOs
- More in-depth in-country support through support teams, incl. involving other sectors than environment
- Spatial analysis **knowledge exchange and experience** → global knowledge forum/communities of practice
- Ensure relationships with key in-country staff
- Model of providing link between technical work and liaison with government
- Specific expertise in workshops other than focal points/community of practice
- Expert workshops at the regional level → **follow up** at national level
- Follow through and document workshops
- Follow up on workshops results through time
- Link missions of teams for longer in-country presence
- Liaise in team before missions
- No pre-conceived ideas for mission delivery: 'hands on' flexible approach
- Longer in-country missions (1 month at least) but not at the expense of hub function
- Better timing of interventions



Annex IV (2)







How to increase UNEP's visibility in country

- Raising awareness about UNEP structures
- More use of blogs and infographics (each staff should write at least 1 blog post in 2015)
- Communications strategically tailored towards key audiences
- Powerpoints about new/innovative UNEP work
- Short versions of key REDD+ Academy powerpoints
- Developing countries-targeted material: posters
- UN-REDD T-shirts
- Translate into national languages
- Start to pilot activities
- UNEP convening power
- GEF piloting for REDD+
- Technical quality of work, more in-depth work in countries
- Link UN-REDD work with the Regional Office in Africa and other regions
- Regional differences reflected in UNEP work and advice
- Drivers of deforestation addressing key global drivers



Annex V (1)

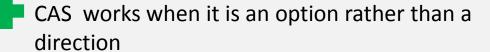


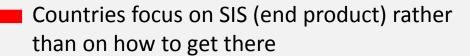




What progress countries made towards the development of a country approach to safeguards (CAS)?

Global Team





- Be careful not to convey message that this is too complicated to think straight to SIS without taking first steps
- But make countries understand they have to work on several things so that designing SIS is easier

Africa Team

Tanzania: set of safeguards documents: PLR review, other country methodologies, workshops. Consultant: executive director of influential community group.

Indicators not all measurable

LAC Team

Ecuador: national interpretation

Developing SIS building on previous work (e.g. REDD+ SES) for principles, criteria and indicators increases complexity

Asia-Pacific Team

Number of countries have done PLRs analysis, some better than others

Most have no drivers analysis, pb of scope: too many PLRs or too narrow. Cambodia: technical working group set up by government (UNDP, CamREDD)+consultant. Feedback provided on analysis. Workshops organised nationally, focus on national ownership. Didn't want to share outside the country for comments. Potential issues, donor pressure



Annex V (2)







What progress countries made towards the development of a country approach to safeguards (CAS)?

- When sending draft sent to SCG
 - Input from different agencies
 - Comments can be overwhelming, especially if haven't included wider groups from the beginning
- → Someone from the SCG be involved at early stage with the formulation of NPs if work on safeguards is being considered
- SCG parking lot
 - Questions & Answers and quality support
 - At what level in design of NP? Further upstream for inputs the better, as long as it doesn't complicate/delay more.



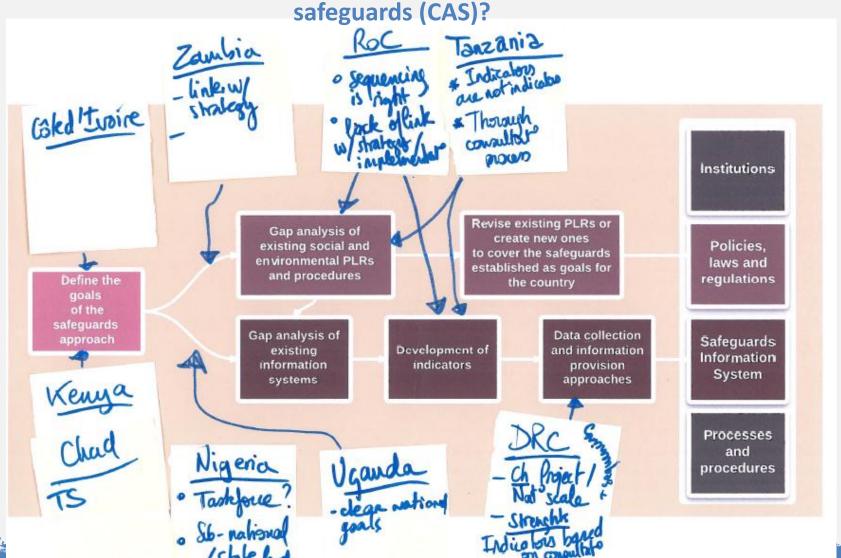
Annex V (3)







What progress countries made towards the development of a country approach to





Annex V (4)







What progress countries made towards the development of a country approach to safeguards (CAS)?





Annex VI (1)







Would you go on a second date with BeRT?



Asia-Pacific Team

- Not best first impression but worked well with Lucy in Bhutan and problems had been addressed
- Not a good tool for long workshops: fatigue because of the repetitions
- Need info on PLRs ahead, incl. oral & customary
- Don't mix up 'addressing' and 'respecting'
- 1.5 day workshop, and then people go back in country and tidy it up
- Most important is to generate discussion in the groups at the workshop, the tool can be filled later



Africa Team

- Need more time to explore the tool!
- Not used in Africa yet
- Mix of stakeholders in workshop needs to be defined and then break out into main groups
- Most important is to take minutes of the discussions
- BeRT shows the summary of discussions between people
- Tried briefly in Congo, question of sequencing. When CAS is introduced, groundwork for Module 2.
- Reduce to one day workshop: so comprehensive that generates fatigue



Annex VI (2)







Would you go on a second date with BeRT?



but.. LAC Team

- Challenge to use in big groups without strong facilitation and information
- Need good knowledge on PLRs
- Hard to use on a laptop screen: think on how to present
- Conversation should bear on issues and identification of other materials and activities, and then someone puts the info into the tool
- Can be the repository of information for the country



Global Team

- Design needs to be more user friendly: less blank spaces, better indication where to go next, more appealing final table
- Worth investing in a developer for a better interface
- Logic behind is excellent and facilitates discussion
- Outputs should look polished to be taken to decision-makers
- Split the work between groups according to expertise rather than doing it in plenary



Annex VI (3)







How would you make facilitating BeRT engaging in a workshop setting?

- Emphasize its 'minute taker' function: aim of the workshop is to harvest information, not to have a
 polished output with the tool
- Need to get it at to countries, experts there only to help participants
- Make the outputs more appealing, this could make them easier to address
- Define clearly what is the **objective** of using BeRT and the **level** at which information should be collected (e.g. national/local level). Take into account different views from different groups and levels by breaking participants into **target groups**.
- Legal agencies could be involved.
- Some countries have already done PLR analysis through consultants. Do countries prefer
 participatory process or expert teams? Or the expert teams could use the tool as a methodology and
 then validate the outputs in a workshop.
- Example of Viet Nam action plan: lacks strategies related to drivers. Tool can **provide measures against actions**. PLRs in Viet Nam are so broad, NRAP lacks concrete actions to test against → at the **sub-national level**, more specific actions to measure against the tool.
- 2 tools in 1: 1st about benefits/risks to do with broad stakeholders. Not just for safeguards but helps with developing national strategies.



Annex VII



Questions & Answers Strategy 2016-2020: roadmap and input to date

- In determining the role of the 3 agencies, emphasis on UNEP focus on multiple benefits. Is it how others perceive UNEP added value?
- → We should go **beyond which agency** does what and what UN-REDD is more about. In order to achieve emissions reductions, countries need to take into account **economic, social and environmental** aspects.
- The evaluation report was critical of the agencies' work but also of countries'. There can be an internal management revolution but what if **countries** do not change?
- There has been progress in the past years and there are now **champion countries** which can push for REDD in international negotiations. In most countries, there is now an **authoritative interlocutor** to talk to about forests.
- → If UN-REDD truly delivers as one, inefficiencies at the country level will not be attributed to the Programme and will highlight countries' responsibilities.
- A long-term clear incentive for countries to change is still lacking.
- This is why UNEP-FI's role to develop a **business case for REDD** is crucial. We won't manage to have all countries on board but champion countries **willing to invest** in the next 5 years will get this incentive.
- What is the stance on our relationship with the World Bank and other REDD players?
- → FCPF is more willing to engage with us, we need to **join forces to trigger change**. There will be more and more engagement with FCPF, FIP, BioCarbon Fund...
- Regarding the Theory of Change, which outcomes and outputs will UNEP lead on? This is clear for additional benefits which
 are under 'Design', though this is a cross-cutting theme. UNEP will also lead on safeguards, and on private sector
 engagement and long-term finance options. The growing demand from countries on Green Economy and private sector
 engagement is not clearly reflected in the Theory of Change.
- This will be clearer when we start working. Outcomes and outputs are listed but still need to be associated with meaningful actions and most relevant agency(ies) to implement them still to be identified.
- How to comply with Norway's requirement to focus on countries with highest potential for results without leaving countries behind?

→ We have to manage expectations. Countries are aware whether they are ready to implement REDD+ or not and we can work with the countries ready, while helping others **to start building capacity** for it.



Annex VIII (1)







Structure: Communications and KM

Regional Level

KM Regional Specialists Heang Thy (Asia), Patricia Torquica (LAC), Ela Ionescu (Africa)

> 50% KM Regional Coordinator Tim Boyle

Agency Level

UN Agency Communications and KM Focal Points Dearbhla Keegan (UNDP), Denise Martinez (FAO), Mihaela Secrieru (UNEP)

Organizational Coordination

Communications Working Group: agency focal points, communications officer, partner UN communications colleagues, Document Manager, Comms/KM Associate

KM Working Group: KM Specialist, agency focal points, KM Regional Specialists, KM Regional Coordinator, Document Manager, Comms/KM Associate

Organizational Level

Comms/KM/Events **Associate** Maddie West

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Documentation Officer / Editor Mark Grassi

KM Specialist In process of being hired

Communications Officer (Communications, Events & KM) Jennifer Ferguson-Mitchell

Management Group -



Secretariat



Annex VIII (2)







Structure: Communications and KM

- Contribute newsletter article/blog post: KM regional focus -- KM regional specialist, general news -- Comms focal point, Mihaela.
- Need template to produce a publication: agency focal point, Mihaela
- Want to produce a regional or national level KM related publication (e.g. case study, lessons learned): KM regional specialist
- Want to organize a regional/national knowledge exchange event: KM regional specialist
- > Submit photos from field to image library: you can post to image library on Workspace (include photographer name, location, date, caption)
- Want help with using the Workspace: Maddie West
- Want to post an announcement to the Workspace for your region: KM regional specialist

- Need to update your region's info on the Workspace or Website: KM regional specialist
- Want to promote news/info across social media channels: contact Jennifer (copy agency Comms focal point)
- Want to promote publication across Programme and externally: Jennifer (copy agency Comms focal point)
- Translations of key publications: contact Jennifer and Mark (copy agency Comms focal point)
- Need overall Communications support agency focal point, Mihaela.
- Have questions on UN-REDD Programme Editorial writing style - access the Style Guide (Mark)
- Also Jennifer available anytime as a resource or if you have questions



Annex IX (1) Evaluation survey







- 19 responses (51% of participants)
- Overall very satisfied (90% rating as "very valuable"). Remaining 5% expressed "partial" satisfaction, pointing at some sessions being more useful than others
- 85% found an answer to their pre-retreat questions, with 43% having found a response to all of their questions
- Most highly valued sessions were the ones related to the new Strategy
- Most common comments:
 - True value is in interaction! Need more time for discussions and group exercises
 - Discussions to focus more on substance (vs. process)
 - No clear conclusions and concrete action points identified
 - 2.5 days is too short and more time needed for bilaterals



Annex IX (2) Evaluation survey







Suggestions for improvement:

- Longer meeting or less ambitious agenda
- Less PowerPoint presentations, keep it short and interactive
- Warmer venue! Warmer location (Panama, Bangkok)
- Allow more time for informal interaction (more than meal times): field trip/excursion
- Pursue conclusions and action points
- Follow up: video conference in 2-3 months to go back to main points and assess progress
- Regional updates to use more country case studies (e.g., presentation on Indonesia) to stimulate discussion and exchanges between regions
- Circulate documents related to the agenda prior to the meeting

Overall:

- Little time to discuss some of the substantive issues related to REDD+ implementation, forge a common understanding and identify the challenges ahead as a team.
- + Better understanding of the package UNEP can offer to countries, how that package fits within the overall Warsaw pillars and in the framework suggested for the new Programme Strategy.