



12 June 2013

Dear Mr. Boccucci,

**Subject: Request of approval of No-Cost extension of Papua New Guinea's
UN-REDD National Programme**

The UN-REDD National Programme for Papua New Guinea was approved in July 2011 and has encountered some delays in its implementation in the past year. In the last meeting of the Programme Executive Board in March 2013, there was a consensus that to avoid any disruption later on, and with the project personnel now on board, a no-cost programme extension for the Papua New Guinea's UN-REDD National Programme should be sought early.

A request for such no-cost extension is therefore being submitted based on the following:

- An initial delay of 6 months in the approval of the PNG programme in 2011, and subsequent disbursement of funds to the UN Agencies, resulted in a 6-month delay (initially projected 1 January 2011 start date) to the Papua New Guinea programme. The effective reduction in the implementation period of 3 years to 2.5 years was not taken into account at the onset of the programme to adjust the end date, which should have been 30 June 2014;
- The national elections and uncertain political climate in Papua New Guinea for the entire year of 2012 resulted in the inability to fully identify and consult with all appropriate stakeholders and sign contracts with implementing partners;
- The determination of programme needs resulting in recruitment plans being changed from hiring a *national* to an *international* Programme Manager, which subsequently entailed unexpected delays in actual recruitment;
- The non-availability of a highly qualified technical advisor on MRV, (in part) due to the political instability, to take on the most voluminous outcome of the Programme in terms of budget allocation and resulting in delays in implementation during the first two years of the Programme;
- The difficulty to set-up a strong team and management structure within Papua New Guinea during the early phases of the project resulting in the limited implementation of country-based activities.

Mr. Mario Boccucci
Head, UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
International Environment House
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland


The Programme's Executive Board for Papua New Guinea's UN-REDD National Programme, at its meeting on 21 March 2013, approved a formal submission to the UN-REDD Programme's Policy Board for a **24 months no-cost programme extension** until to **31-12 2015**.

To ensure compliance with the new completion date, the Programme's Executive Board recommended attention be given to the following:

- Adequate funds remain within the UN-REDD Programme after 2013 to pay for the delayed activities;
- Additional AusAID funds are already available and integrated to provide synergies in support of the current and new budget to cover management costs;
- In the course of 2013, 6.0 million Euro of European Union funds earmarked for the Multi-Purpose National Forest Inventory covering all forest types and vegetation types in the 22 Provinces in Papua New Guinea should become available and hence the programme linkages to the MRV activities under the UN-REDD Programme are incorporated. Both EU and FAO have expressed their intention of full integration by co-signing a Programme Document;
- FAO's international technical advisor has been recruited and is expected to enter on duty in Port Moresby in May 2013; and
- Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) funds will become available to OCCD in late 2013, and UNDP has been requested to act as the Delivery Partner to ensure harmonization of activities with the UN-REDD Programme.

As per the Programme's monitoring and evaluation framework, annual work-plans, semi-annual and annual reports would continue to be prepared and submitted to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat. The independent final evaluation will be conducted prior to the closure of the Programme, as per the signed document.

With best regards,



Dr. William Aku-Krow, MD, DrPH
UN Resident Coordinator, *a.i.*

Cc: Mr. Varigini Badira – Executive Director, Office of Climate Change & Development
Mr. Kanawi Poursu – Managing Director, PNG Forest Authority
Mr. Tim Boyle – UN-REDD Programme Senior Technical Regional Advisor, UNDP APRC, Bangkok
Mr. Tim Clair – Principal Policy & Technical Advisor, REDD, EE Group, UNDP Geneva
Mr. Danilo Mollicone, Chief Technical Advisor on UN-REDD, FAO Rome
Mr. Thomas Enters, PhD, UN-REDD Regional Coordinator, UN Environment Programme