

## Minutes, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012

### UNDP's Responsibilities under the UN-REDD (pass-through) Joint Programme with FAO and UNEP;

#### "Support to National REDD+ Actions – global programme 2011-2015"

#### Project Appraisal Committee Meeting

**Chair:** Nils Boesen (as acting Deputy Director, BDP Directorate)

**Present:** Tim Clairs (EEG-BDP), Charles McNeill (EEG-BDP), Lucy Wanjiru (Gender-BDP), Tsegaye Lemma (DGG-BDP), Angkana Santhiprechachit (Operations-BDP), Emmanuel Hatangimana (Finance – BDP), Matilde Mordt (EEG-BDP), Kimberly Todd (EEG-BDP), Silje Haugland (EEG-BDP)

**Regrets & written comments:** Emma Torres (RBLAC), Shalina Miah (BERA), Yvonne Helle (BERA), Selva Ramachandran (RBAP), Pedro Conceicao (RBA), Silke Hollander (CDG-BDP), Bharati Sadasivam (CSO Unit – BERA).

The written comments from RBLAC and RBAP reiterated the importance of the programme and endorsed the PAC package.

RBLAC particularly welcomed the engagement of indigenous people and the UN-REDD Programme's instrumental role in the region to facilitate the participation and engagement of all stakeholders. RBLAC will ensure collaboration is established with other clusters in the region in particular capacity development, governance, gender and CPR among others. RBLAC will also undertake periodic planning meetings with the UNDP REDD central team to provide advice and guidance on country selection and to ensure that appropriate implementation mechanisms are established and financed at the country level.

RBAP also looked forward to strong engagement with UNDP REDD central team and with the approval of the programme, specifically mentioned the funding support to the creation of the new UN coordinating office for REDD in Indonesia (UNORCID).

1. **Chair:** Opening remarks and introduction of participants. Also recalled that an invitation was sent to the Regional Bureaux, BERA, BoM and BDP Practice Directors & Managers on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012, setting out the background to the UN-REDD Programme and rationale for the PAC.
2. **Presentation:** The programme was presented by Tim Clairs, Principal Policy & Technical Advisor for REDD, and Charles McNeill, Senior Policy Advisor. Key points:
  - The "Support to National REDD+ Actions – global programme" has been approved by the UN-REDD Policy Board in 2011
  - It extends the duration of UNDP's participation in the global component of the UN-REDD Programme through 2015, in-line with the approved 2011-2015 UN-REDD Strategy

- The overall budget is dependent on the scale achieved by the UN-REDD Programme, however the “Support to National REDD+ Actions – global programme” has been designed at the \$100m scale (with roughly one third allocated to UNDP).
- The UN-REDD Policy Board has approved an initial 2-year budget of \$51.5m (of which \$17.5m allocated to UNDP)
- UNDP’s allocation will be channeled through UNOPS who is managing the existing Global REDD Project
- \$7.9m has been released from the UN-REDD MDTF for UNDP in 2012 (plus 7% indirect costs)
- This budget will be used for three main functions:
  - i. Delivering UNDP’s “work areas”
    - **Outcome 1:** REDD+ countries have systems and capacities to develop and implement MRV and monitoring (led by FAO)
    - **Outcome 2:** Credible, inclusive national governance systems are developed for REDD+ implementation (led by UNDP, with some budget allocated to FAO)
    - **Outcome 3:** National systems for transparent, equitable, credible and accountable management of REDD+ funding are strengthened (led by UNDP)
    - **Outcome 4:** Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders participate effectively in national and international REDD+ decision-making, strategy development and implementation (led by UNDP)
    - **Outcome 5:** Multiple benefits of forests are realized and safeguarded in REDD+ strategies and actions (led by UNEP, with a significant role for UNDP)
    - **Outcome 6:** Green economy transformation processes catalyzed as a result of REDD+ strategies and investments (led by UNEP, with some budget allocated to UNDP)
  - ii. Funding the UNDP REDD central team (NY/Geneva/Oslo) and the regional technical advisors (Panama/Nairobi/Bangkok)
  - iii. Providing Targeted Support (funding and policy and technical support to UN-REDD countries), in-line with UNDP’s work areas
- Strongly support the suggestions for closer engagement with the Regional Bureaux and welcome the comments from RBLAC and RBAP. Suggest formalizing an Advisory Group between EEG, RBA, RBAP and RBLAC

### 3. Comments from participants:

Tsegaye Lemma (DGG Anti-Corruption Programme - PACDE)

- Passed on apologies from Geraldine Frasermoleketi, Director DGG
- UN-REDD is a success story for EEG-DGG cooperation. Very satisfied with the programme
- The 2 practices are working effectively. This has been recognized by BDP senior management
- UN-REDD has helped DGG/PACDE work in a sectoral manner

*Response: Thank you for the comments and we look forward to continuing the collaboration with PACDE in 2012*

Lucy Wanjiru (Gender)

- Congratulated the team for the excellent progress and good content in the document
- Also very good process of engagement with the Gender Unit
- Suggested using Targeted Support to develop country-level pilots and case studies

*Response: The suggestion for Targeted Support is very much in-line with our plans, in the context of funds available under the Gender budget line. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Gender Unit.*

Nils Boesen (in capacity as Director of CDG)

- Delighted to hear the level of cross-practice engagement
- Country implementation capacity is a critical issue, in particular:
  - o Fiduciary risks
  - o Sector vulnerabilities
- The document is weak on results indicators. The joint programme reads as a classical 'technical assistance' document
- Recognized the importance the REDD+ issue is making in terms of performance-based payments. The UN-REDD Programme is therefore of strategic value to UNDP in terms of gaining experience in this area. There is a need for an output that captures UNDP's learning on this matter
- The involvement of Regional Bureaux is critical. Need to meaningfully operationalize this involvement

*Response: These are excellent points. Country implementation capacity is indeed critical. This is explicitly acknowledged in the joint programme document and the focus of UNDP's work is on building implementation capacity, particularly through Targeted Support. Fiduciary risks are addressed in Output 3.1 "Trusted national fiduciary systems for performance-based payments" and sector vulnerabilities are addressed under Output 3.3 "Corruption risks in REDD+".*

*The weak results indicators are recognized and are an unfortunate product of joint programming. The UN-REDD inter-agency secretariat is expected to take the lead on the results framework. Nevertheless, the UNDP REDD central team will ensure the workplan for 2012 includes considerably strengthened results indicators. This is also a priority for the major donor – the Government of Norway.*

*Agree with the need to capture lessons. There is a small budget for knowledge management and we will include an output on lessons for UNDP with regards to performance-based payments.*

*Also agree with the critical role of Regional Bureaux. It is good that there is support for the proposal of having an Advisory Group with EEG. We will operationalize this.*

Angkana Santhiprechachit (Operations-BDP)

- Requested a clarification on the size of the budget
- Queried the chronology of events leading to the PAC being held after the joint programme document was approved, but recognized that the document has gone through a rigorous review and approval process through the UN-REDD Policy Board
- Requested that it be made clear in the minutes that the implementation modality for the UNDP's participation in the global component of the UN-REDD Programme is UNOPS-managed

*Response: The budget for UNDP that has been initially approved by the UN-REDD Policy for the first 2 years (2012-2013) is \$17.5m, however only the funds for 2012 (\$7.9m) have been released from the UN-REDD Multi-Donor Trust Fund. The overall budget for UNDP's participation in the global component through 2015 is expected to be around \$35m.*

*The timing issues with the approval of the joint programme are recognized. Initially it was considered that perhaps the new programme could be added to the existing global project through a budget revision. After the joint programme document was signed with FAO and UNDP it was determined that it would be prudent to request a new PAC.*

*The implementation modality will be duly noted in the minutes.*

Matilde Mordt (EEG)

- It would be good to have corporate guidelines for the UNDP approval of these sorts of joint programmes (general comment, not directed to the UNDP REDD team)
- What is the resource mobilization scenario after the first 2 years?
- Recognized the political dimension of the UN-REDD Programme:
  - o UN-REDD is one of the most exciting programs in UNDP
  - o However it is dependent upon the political process of the UNFCCC negotiations
- The relations with the Multilateral banks, especially the World Bank, is critical. UNDP should continue to prioritise this partnership under the UN-REDD Programme

*Response: The resource mobilization scenario beyond the 2-year pledge made by the Government of Norway is unclear. This is due, in part, to the uncertainty of the UNFCCC negotiations and the progress of the REDD+ agenda item and, more importantly, the progress in establishing the Green Climate Fund. Moreover, the UN-REDD Programme is not immune to the impacts of the global financial crisis and reduction in available resources particularly from European donors. Nevertheless, the UN-REDD Programme is now recognized as one of the leading multi-lateral REDD+ initiatives. More and more REDD+ countries request to join the programme and it is expected to play a significant role through 2015. Therefore, there will be funding opportunities. The inter-agency UN-REDD secretariat is expected to play a stronger role in mobilizing resources.*

4. **Chair's summary:** appreciating the contributions of the participants and taking into consideration the written comments received, the project is approved subject to:

- The operationalization of an Advisory Group between EEG, RBA, RBAP and RBLAC to provide advice and guidance on country selection and to ensure that appropriate implementation mechanisms are established and financed at the country level
- Improved results-based indicators for UNDP outcomes are included in the workplan

**This project is approved, subject to the revisions outlined in the minutes of the meeting.**



15.03.2012

Approved By: Nils Boesen  
Acting Deputy Director  
Bureau for Development Policy