

**Minutes of Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting on
UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme**

Date:	26 May, 2015, Friday, 9:00-11:00 AM.
Venue:	6 th floor Meeting Hall of the UN Premises, Ulaanbaatar
Objectives:	To review UNDP responsible Outputs of the National Programme and provide inputs to the programme design (objectives, intended outputs and targets), resources framework, management arrangements and roles and responsibilities of key partners jointly
Outcome:	To reach a common understanding on the programme design and implementation arrangements.
Participants:	Key stakeholders, representatives of Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism (MEGDT), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and agencies, academia, private sector, UNDP and other UN agencies
Meeting chair:	Thomas Eriksson, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Mongolia

INTRODUCTION

A total of 25 participants, representing different key stakeholders including Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism (MEGDT), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and agencies, development partners, academia, private sector, UNDP and other UN agencies (please see Annex 2), took part in the meeting.

The Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting on UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme was opened by Mr. M.Khurelsukh, Vice Minister, Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism (MEGDT) and Mr. Thomas Eriksson, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Mongolia.

Mr. M.Khurelsukh noted in 2004, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) elaborated that 17.4% of the global emissions due to human activities accounted to the forestry sector (including deforestation). After this fact was published, international communities started to initiate different initiatives, such as forest conservation, reforestation and afforestation, rehabilitation and raisings awareness on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. One of these activities is REDD+ initiative and mentioned REDD+ five key activities and three phases. He emphasized that after becoming a partner to the UN-REDD Programme in 2011, Mongolia has quickly taken steps to prepare its National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, which officially adopted by the Government of Mongolia (GoM) in 2014. He also mentioned the 12th meeting of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board approved a funding of 4 million US Dollar for full-scale implementation of UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme. Through the National Programme implementation, a National REDD+ Strategy will be developed in the next three years.

The Vice Minister highlighted that the GoM is giving importance to a successful implementation of the UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme in order to receive result-based payment. He further

emphasized the importance of this meeting, expressed his hope for a positive outcome of the meeting and urged the participants to provide inputs to the document design and management arrangements.

Mr. T.Eriksson, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Mongolia, noted that Mongolia had developed and finalized UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme with technical assistance by three participating agencies, UNDP, FAO and UNEP. The overall goal of the National Programme is to support the Government of Mongolia in designing and implementing its National REDD+ Strategy and in meeting the requirements under the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework to receive REDD+ results-based payments. He highlighted the National Programme also counts on key national counterpart institutions and development partners to play active roles and take on specific responsibilities in maintaining the momentum in the REDD+ management processes and prioritizing and implementing those strategic options identified through the Programme.

After opening remarks, according to the agenda (please see Annex 1), Dr. B.Enkhtsetseg, UNDP/UN-REDD Targeted Support Activity Coordinator presented the UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme (UNDP's Components) (please see annex 3). The introduction started by reminding the participants what REDD+ and UN-REDD are, Mongolia REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and contributions and co-financing initiatives to the implementation of the REDD+ Roadmap.

Dr. B.Enkhtsetseg further introduced the UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme and details of UNDP Components or Outcomes 1 and 2 and activities planned underneath. Programme Management part was elaborated in detail: Management structure-Taskforce, Programme management unit and resources allocation and indicative time frame for component 1 and 2. At the end of the presentation, she briefly introduced FAO and UNEP components as well.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

After the introduction, the chair invited participants' enquiries and inputs. Summary of the comments and feedbacks are as the following:


- The REDD+ management structure includes the Cabinet as a leading entity for the NDP. As the Cabinet has own tasks and duties and it's an office of the Government, the overall leadership and coordination by the relevant Ministry is appropriate. Ministry of Environment and Tourism (by former name) evolved from the sector Ministry to a mainstream policy making Ministry. Other ministries can be a part of the Executive board, Taskforce and Technical working groups.
- Gender issue is very important. But gender aspect in forestry as a sector and REDD+ is unclear. Stakeholders do not understand the importance of the issue. Therefore, the UNDP and UN-REDD Programme need to develop definition of gender issues in the REDD+ and conduct awareness raising activities.
- On 14 May 2015, the Mongolian Parliament adopted the State Policy on Forest. The policy will be implemented until 2030 and consists of important goals and targets. Therefore, recommend to reflect such developments in the UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme, as the Programme will provide important inputs to the Policy implementation.
- In the Programme Management Unit, we suggest that a professional forester and forest engineer to become a manager of the programme.


- Forest Research and Development Centre has relevant experience and expertise, such as organizing Multi-purpose National Forest Inventory last year and data analysis. The Centre will be pleased to cooperate on the Programme implementation and provide an office space for the PMU
- UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme will develop a REDD+ strategy and a number of Systems. There is need to develop criteria and indicators which must be measurable. The National Statistical Office (NSO) can cooperate and help you to develop criteria and indicators for the Strategy and systems (MRV for Forest emissions reference levels/forest reference levels and Safeguards Information systems).
- Some staffs of the NSO can be specialized by environmental and REDD+ issues and cooperate with us in the future.
- Cooperation with Climate Change Coordination Office (CCCO) is very important for reporting to the UNFCCC secretariat.
- Deforestation is linked with poverty. Therefore, the programme needs to have linkages with poverty reduction strategy and other related policies.
- Function of the CSO/LC Forum is unclear and need to make some clarifications in this regard.


During the LPAC meeting, Ms. B.Bunchingiv provided explanations and clarified specific issues to the participants and ensured a common understanding on the programme design and implementation arrangements. The Chair of the LPAC meeting summarized feedbacks and concluded that the participants agreed to approve the Programme.


RECOMMENDATIONS / CONCLUSION

- Overall, the participants unanimously agreed on the importance of implementing the UN-REDD programme and development of REDD+ Strategy in Mongolia.
- A common understanding was reached on the programme design, proposed objective outcomes, outputs and activities, implementation arrangements, risks and result frameworks.
- Agreed that REDD+ Taskforce consists of key stakeholders: representatives of other key ministries, National Statistics Office, Gender National Committee and etc.
- Agreed to change the structure of the UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme management by indicating MEGDT as a programme lead entity.

Minutes taken by:  B.Enkhtsetseg, UNDP/UN-REDD Programme Targeted Support Activity Coordinator

Reviewed by:  B. Bunchingiv, Environment Team Leader, UNDP Mongolia

Cleared by:  Thomas Eriksson, DRR, UNDP Mongolia

 Ts.Banzragch, Director of Department of Forest Policy and Coordination and National Operational Focal Point of the UN-REDD Programme.

Annex 1. LPAC Meeting Agenda



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
GREEN DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme” Local Project Appraisal Committee meeting

UN House, Ulaanbaatar,
26 June 2015

AGENDA

Purpose: Jointly review and provide inputs to the programme design (objectives, intended outputs and targets), resources framework, management arrangements and roles and responsibilities of key partners

Outcome: A common understanding reached on the project design and implementation arrangement

Participants: Key stakeholders, representatives of Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism (MEGDT), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and agencies, academia, private sector, UNDP and other UN agencies

Venue: 6th Floor meeting hall, UNDP Meeting, UN Premises

Meeting chair: Thomas Eriksson, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Mongolia

09:15- 09:30	Tea/Coffee/Registration
09:30- 09:40	Opening remarks M. Khurelsukh, Vice Minister, MEGDT Thomas Eriksson, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Mongolia
09:40-10:20	UN-REDD National Programme Document introduction with focus on UNDP components B. Enkhtsetseg, UN-REDD Targeted support coordinator, UNDP Mongolia
10:20-11:20	Q&A and comments
11:20-11:30	Wrap-up and closing Thomas Eriksson, DRR, UNDP Mongolia

Annex 2. List of participants

**“UN-REDD Mongolia National Programme”
Project Appraisal Committee meeting
List of participants**

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
26 June 2015**

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