Minutes of: the 4th REDD Network Meeting

Date & time: June 20th, 2011
13:30 – 17:00

Venue: Dai Viet Function room
Flower Garden, 46 Nguyen Truong To, Ha Noi

Chair by: H.E. Vice Minister, Hua Duc Nhi, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development
H.E. Ambassador, Ståle Torstein Risa, Norwegian Embassy in Viet Nam

Agenda items:
1. Updated on REDD+
2. Report from Technical Working Group
3. Updated: development of UN-RED Viet Nam Phase 2 and recommendations from NORAD mission team

The meeting was started with welcoming remarks of H.E. Vice Minister, Hua Duc Nhi and H.E. Ambassador, Ståle Torstein Risa.

1. **Updated on REDD+**

   **Discussion:**
   - What is MARD prepartion for COP 17?
     - Pilot REDD+ countries have given the initiative to make recommendations for the Advisory Board on Science and Technology. With its own experiences, Viet Nam helped the REDD community to develop the FPIC and PCM manual. At one of the side events at COP 16, Viet Nam was invited to share experience of the implementation of FPIC. At the Oslo REDD+ exchange in June 2011, Viet Nam was invited to share experience in piloting PCM.
   - REL:
     - Finland supported VNFOREST to build a temporary REL last year, Viet Nam can use this as an experience for the discussion in REL development to help Viet Nam in the future.
   - Agricultural issues, that have been discussed at the meeting in Bangkok in April 2011, were included in the agenda but they will be discuss more at COP 17 in Durban. The issues were discuss more in the side events at Bonn meeting.

2. **Report from Technical Working Group**
- Intergrate REDD into other development projects: Viet Nam REDD+ Steering Committee, was established with the participation of relevant ministries (MONRE, MPI, MoF, MOST, National Ethnic Committee, MOFA), active participating in sustainable livelihoods programs/projects. To ensure good coordination, MPI has included REDD+ in the National Economic & Society Development Program of the Agenda 21. Vice Minister Hua Duc Nhi also raised the issue of how to intergrate REDD into the Provincial Economic & Society Development Program and Forest Protection and Development of province and districts in Bac Kan. This showed the great interest of MARD on the issue of intergrating REDD into other development projects.

- Need to pay attention to the conclusions & recommendations from STWG and to send them to the higher level of GoV to help the GoV to make decisions relating to REDD initiatives in Viet Nam.

- Participation in STWGs:
  o VNFOREST sent out invitation to Ministries, Department of Agricultural & Rural development from provinces, NGOs to join the REDD Network and STWGs.
  o Truong Thanh company wish to join the REDD network, STWG-LI and STWG-Governance.
  o There is no representative of MoF at the STWG-BDS but MoF has a representative in the Viet Nam REDD+ Steering Committee.
  o We need to encourage ethnic minorities to join STWGs to share their experiences, ideas. Need to determent what benefit ethnic minorities will receive when they join STWGs and what can they contribute to the UN-REDD Viet Nam?
  o STWGs always welcome ethnic minorities to join because they could bring information from the gound to share with the STWGs and STWGs could use that lesson learn to recommendir for GoV.

3. **Updated: development of UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 and recommendations from NORAD mission team:**

- The Norwegian Ambasador is not certain that the Government of Norway would be the proper receiver of the UN-REDD Viet Nam phase 2 document. Maybe it should be submitted to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat.

- Who will be responsible for the administration of the funding of the programme? The Norwegian Embassy will be continue to support phase 2 of the UN-REDD Viet Nam. But the distribution of the fund should be from another agency, not from the Embassy.

- In the draft document submitted to Norway, the capacity building section was very clear but not the distribution system section. Therefore, the drafting team will pay more attention the distrubition system section of the outcome for phase 2. With the help of Mr. Koos Neefjes from UNDP, the funding for phase 2 might go through the MDTF.

- There is a need for the cooperation between REDD and FLEG-T.

- Viet Nam received 3.6 millions from FCPF. This funding will help fund activities under outcome 3 (regional collaboration); capacity building; data & information for national REL/RL for REDD+ available.
- For phase 2: the programme needs to consider using The Viet Nam Trust Fund for Forests or other Viet Nam forest fund instead of MTDF.
  - The Viet Nam Trust Fund for Forest (TFF) was established in 2004, had managed 4 bilateral donors. In the near future, TFF will be a part of the Forest Protection Fund of Viet Nam. Therefore, TFF is a good candidate to handle the funding for UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2. (Mrs. Van – FSSP)
  - GoV. have to be the one that makes the decision on which funds they want to use. The Norwegian Embassy does not have the capacity and ability to manage the fund. How one contemplates the money to be organized? It is the GoV. decision. (H.E. Ambassador of Norway)
  - There is 2 different issues here: The funding for operation of Phase 2 UN-REDD Viet Nam programme vs. the payment for BDS. (1) The funding for operation of phase 2 have to be managed by the UN family. (2) The payment for BDS could be managed by any Viet Nam Forest fund. (Ms. Thu Ba – CIFOR)
  - STWG – BDS are currently discussing how to manage the BDS Fund. In the beginning, we will use MTDF while all the Viet Nam Forest Fund is not ready to manage large amount of money yet. MTDF will help all the Viet Nam Forest Fund to build capacity to handle the large fund and to get ready so that after 2 years the fund will be transfer to one of the Viet Nam Forest Fund. Even the money that is in the MDTF the final decision on how to distributed the money will be made by the GoV. (Mdm. Thoa – UN REDD Viet Nam)

4. **Carbon offset: What is the GoV. position instead of just funding it?**
   - Many private companies are interested in carbon credit. Right now, the document on the regulation for the commercialization of carbon credits will be submited to the leader of MARD then submitted to the Prime Minister for approval. (Mdm. Thoa – UN REDD Viet Nam)
   - Current methods of carbon credit: (1) through the market, given licensing for carbon credits, (2) through the fund system. How to implement carbon credits through the fund system? Transfer carbon credit: the Viet Nam National Assembly assigned the Prime Minister who then assigned MARD to work on the regulation for commercialization of carbon credits, implementation of carbon credits through the market, who will verify? (Mr. Pham Xuan Phuong – Expert)

5. **Next Network meeting**
   - Time: The end of September
   - Place: Da Lat of Bac Kan (tentative): if people can pay for themselves.
   - Agenda: National REDD+ program and final discussion, comments/feedback for the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 document

6. **Conclusion**
   - H.E. Ambassador, Ståle Torstein Risa
     - A good meeting of the network. Some issues are still unclear, including the role of ethnic minorities in STWG?
     - The discussion on phase 2 proposal is very important, it gave the network members an opportunity to glance on what have been done. REDD is very complex area,
not easy, we are learning as we go along. The UN –REDD system is not something that is already fixed; it is a work in progress.

- Let's think about where the phase 2 proposal goes?
- Viet Nam is the most advance pilot countries and that fact has been acknowledge by the UN-REDD global. There is hope that Viet Nam will continue to impress everyone as we are moving forward in the programme, as long as we are engage and active.

- H.E. Vice Minister Hua Duc Nhi
  - Continue to work on the phase 2 document of UN-REDD Viet Nam.
  - REL is a difficult issue but will dicuss and have a plan to work on it soon
  - Need to attract more donors into the National REDD+ program
  - Hope that in the next meeting, we can hear from the ethnic minorities opinions through STWG-LI to improve policy mechanism.
  - Financial mangement: MDTF is one of many financial machaism. Need to combine the MDTF financial management with one of Viet Nam Forest fund management. Financial management have to be transparent.
  - The important part on the agenda for the next network meetin is the discussion on the National REDD+ program strategy and UN-REDD Viet Nam phase 2 document. What are the objectives? Mechanism? Organization of implementation?

The meeting ended at 5pm.