

TERMS OF REFERENCE

REDD Sub-technical Working Group on Governance

(Draft version 3)

BACKGROUND

Forest plays an important role on carbon sequestration. Thus, deforestation releases carbon stored in the trees to the atmosphere under CO₂ emissions. According to IPCC (2007), emissions from deforestation in developing countries were about 5.8 Gt CO₂/year, equivalent to 17.3% of total Global greenhouse gas emissions. This amount of emissions is larger than those of global transportation sector (13.1%) and agriculture sector (13.5%). And therefore, deforestation was recognized to increase CO₂ in the air and contribute to the changes of global climate.

The 13th Conference of Parties (COP 13) to UNFCCC in Bali, Indonesia, 2007 identified that reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is a significant climate change mitigation solution and called for international community to support developing countries to implement REDD initiatives. Scope of REDD was expanded to the role of forest conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stock in COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark. As of 2010, in COP16 in Cancun, Mexico, REDD+ was recognized as included five activities: 1) Reducing emissions from deforestation, 2) Reducing emissions from forest degradation, 3) Forest carbon stock conservation, 4) Sustainable forest management, and 5) Forest carbon stock enhancement.

Vietnam is one of the first nine countries received funding from Global UN-REDD Programme to implement a National UN-REDD Programme – Phase I in the period of 2009 – 2012 to prepare REDD+ readiness. Vietnam was also one of the five countries received approval for Readiness Project Identification Note (R-PIN) under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to develop REDD+ Preparedness Proposal (R-PP). To implement REDD+ activities, the government of Vietnam established a series of bodies such as REDD+ Steering Committee, Vietnam REDD+ Office, REDD+ Network and REDD working group (including Sub-technical working groups - STWGs). Amongst the six STWGs, the STWG on Governance was established to provide supports to the National REDD Working Group and REDD Network on thematic matters of REDD+ and to help ensure inputs of stakeholders in decision making, transparency, accountability, low levels of corruption, low regulatory burden, political stability, culture preservation and social and environmental safeguards during the implementation of REDD+ initiatives.

FOREST GOVERNANCE AND REDD+

According to FAO, forest governance can be described “as the *modus operandi* by which officials and institutions acquire and exercise authority in the management of forest resources.” Key features of good forest governance include adherence to:

- Rule of law (predictability): every citizen is subject to the law,
- Accountability – that people and institutions should be accountable for their actions,
- Effectiveness – that the mechanisms of governance should achieve the ends they are intended to achieve,
- Efficiency – that governance should work with a minimum of waste,
- Fairness/equity – that the benefits and burdens of the forest resource should fall in a way generally viewed as just.
- Participation – that all interested people should have an opportunity to be heard or to influence government decisions that affect the forest
- Transparency – that information about the forest and how it is governed should be reasonably available to all.

As REDD+ can involve considerable compensation mechanisms, there is concern that a rush to implement REDD+ will undermine efforts to improve forest governance. In addition, rushing into REDD+ without taking forest governance into account can make risk-averse carbon investors avoid countries with a reputation for poor forest law compliance and weak institutional frameworks. It is therefore important for Vietnam to take into account forest governance as early as possible in its REDD+ process.

OBJECTIVES

The Sub-technical working group on governance in REDD+ aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Capacity building and awareness raising for participating members on governance in REDD+,
- Providing coordination and sharing of lessons learned on good practices of governance in forest management and REDD+ among concerned stakeholders,
- Providing recommendations and technical inputs for the implementation and evaluation of the National REDD+ Action Programme while ensuring transparency, participation and efficiency.

TASKS

Establish a Governance platform in the REDD Network

- ✓ Clarify concepts/definitions of forest governance and its elements with special regards to the context of National REDD+ Action Programme;
- ✓ Identify the framework for measuring governance in REDD+;
- ✓ Develop a roadmap for the operation of the STWG on Governance based on and to support the approved National REDD+ Action Programme;
- ✓ Identify priorities, responsibilities and resources for operation.

Provide coordination and sharing of information on governance of REDD+ and forestry to key stakeholders

- ✓ Carry out stock-taking of international and national good practices of governance to propose these to government policy makers to adjust and adapt it in the context of Vietnam;
- ✓ Share information on REDD+ initiatives, development progress, outputs and regulatory framework, and cooperate with other five STWGs (MVR, Local Implementation, BDS, Safeguards and Private sector engagement), FSSP, FLEGT and other stakeholders;
- ✓ Coordinate and consolidate governance issues introduced by different STWGs, FSSP, and FLEGT for wider consultations and recommendations of the appropriate outputs/policy issues for application;
- ✓ Look for convergence of governance issues amongst REDD, FLEGT and CITES
- ✓ Initiate a collaboration platform for REDD+ and other governance related initiatives such as Forest Governance Monitoring (FGM), Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) and partnership with relevant international and national partners, including private sector;

Provide technical inputs and recommendation with regards to governance for REDD+ policy formulation, implementation and advocacy in Vietnam

- ✓ Prepare/ consolidate technical inputs and recommendations on governance to REDD+ policy formulation, implementation and advocacy processes.

COMPOSITION:

Forest Protection Department (FPD) under the VNFOREST will take lead the STWG on Governance. Mr. Nguyen Huu Dzung, Director of FPD, is chairman of the

STWG.

Two recognized persons, Mr. Nguyen Viet Dzung - Vice Director of PanNature and Mr. Nguyen Quang Tan - RECOFTC were appointed as co-chairmen.

Membership to the STWG on Governance is open to all members of the Vietnam REDD+ Network and interested people of relevant stakeholders.

OPERATION

The meeting of STWG on Governance is scheduled one every quarter on basis. However, the chairman and co-chairmen can call for meetings in between if there is an up-coming important event relating to governance issues or there are many things that need to be discussed to support the strengthening of REDD implementation progress.

In each meeting, discussed topics, ideas and opinions are recorded in a minutes that will be circulated to the Vietnam REDD Network and uploaded on the website of VRO later. Topics for the next meeting are generated in each meeting of STWG on Governance.

COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

Vietnam REDD+ Office (VRO) is in charge of coordinating and mobilizing stakeholders for each meeting. VRO will assign an officer who is capable for liaising with key government agencies and NGOs organizations to arrange the agenda and interact with stakeholders.

In addition, VRO will provide logistics and administrative support to each meeting of STWG on Governance.

RESOURCES

Basic financial support, which is adequate to organize each meeting in Ha Noi, will be sponsored by the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme. NGOs having REDD+ related projects at local level are encouraged to support local authorities to participate in the Governance meetings.

DELIVERABLES

It is expected the STWG on Governance to provide outputs based on the tasks specified above and a roadmap to be developed. Some outputs, but not limited, are

expected below:

- Findings of good practices on REDD+ governance and case studies;
- Policy briefs and recommendations;
- Minutes of each meeting;
- Other technical inputs contribute to the REDD+ policy formulation, implementation and advocacy processes.

DURATION

This TORs is valid for one year, starting from October 2012 and ending up in September 2013, and is the subject for renewal.