



global witness

Global Witness summary report from the 7th Policy Board meeting of the UN-REDD Programme

11 November 2011

The UN-REDD Programme held its 7th Policy Board meeting in Berlin on 13 – 14 October. The meeting was chaired by Yetti Rusli, Senior Advisor on Environment and Climate Change to the Minister of Forestry, Indonesia, and Alexander Muller, Assistant Director-General of the Natural Resources Management and Environment Department at FAO.

All documents and presentations have been posted on UN-REDD's website:

<http://www.un-redd.org/PolicyBoard/7thPolicyBoard/tabid/54129/Default.aspx>

Main outcomes of the meeting

1. **Approval of the Global Programme budget.** The Policy Board (PB) approved the full Global Programme budget for the period of 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and agreed to develop a methodology or “road map” for revising the Global Programme work plan and budget based on the results of a “country needs assessment” which will identify areas where UN-REDD pilot countries need priority support. This was in response to criticism mainly from PNG but echoed by some other REDD countries that it was unclear how Global Programme activities were being developed and prioritized to support the needs of REDD countries and, more generally, whether this was the best use of money that could otherwise go to support National Programmes in new or existing UN-REDD pilot countries. PNG and DRC blocked approval of the full three year Global Programme budget when it was presented for PB review in March / April, focusing on several aspects of the programme including the work on monitoring and governance that they either disagreed with or wanted more clarity about. It was decided that these aspects would not receive funding pending further clarification and discussion at PB7. The agencies presented additional information at PB7 on the aspects of the Global Programme in question, including a pre-meeting consultation with PB members. The Secretariat pointed out that the majority of Global Programme activities would be carried out in collaboration with UN-REDD pilot countries, so much of the money is still being used for activities at the national level. During the discussion, the PB requested more coordination between Global and National Programme activities, increased transparency about how Global Programme money was being spent, and a set of guidelines for how UN-REDD pilot countries could access targeted support from the Global Programme. In light of continued objections mainly from PNG, it was eventually agreed to approve the budget for all aspects of the Global Programme for the remainder of the year on the condition that a road map for revising the Global Programme after a year, and taking into account the results of the country needs assessment, would be developed. **Two working groups will be established** to accomplish this, one to develop the methodology or road map for revising the Global Programme and a second to elaborate a Terms of Reference, budget and timeline for the country needs assessment (see below). After consultation with CSOs on the PB, Global Witness has agreed to represent civil

society on these working groups. PNG offered to lead the working group on revising the Global Programme and the Secretariat agreed to facilitate with the objective of presenting draft methodology for the revision process by the 8th Policy Board meeting. The other members of the working groups have not yet been announced by the Secretariat. The working group developing the road map for revising the Global Programme is tasked with presenting a proposed methodology at the 8th Policy Board (PB8) meeting in March.

2. REDD country needs assessment. It was decided at PB6 after concerns raised by the PB about the alignment of Global Programme activities with the needs of REDD countries that an assessment should be carried out to better understand REDD country needs and inform future revisions to the Global Programme. At PB7, the Secretariat presented a concept note on the needs assessment. The note proposed the formation of a working group to develop guidelines and a Terms of Reference for the assessment and to monitor its implementation. It was proposed that a consultant will be hired to carry out the assessment in three countries with a budget of about \$54,000. The PB thought the budget was too low, suggested that more than three countries should be included, and stressed the importance of ensuring that indigenous peoples and civil society were consulted as part of the needs assessment in each country. The Secretariat agreed to receive comments on the concept note and then convene a working group which should: “(i) review the budget for the countries needs assessment to allow a more comprehensive assessment of countries needs of funding and priorities for completion of their REDD+ readiness; (ii) elaborate and submit to the Policy Board for comments and approval the terms of reference for commissioning a consultancy for undertaking the countries needs assessment; and (iii) review the timeline for the countries needs assessment to reflect the recommendations of the Policy Board.” (from an email sent by the Secretariat on 27 October 2011). The working group was to be formed by 31 October with comments on the concept note forwarded by 7 November but the schedule appears to have slipped. A proposed ToR is expected to be sent to the PB by November 15 for comment, with comments provided to the working group by November 28 to inform its work. A time line for carrying out the needs assessment was proposed but may need further review based on feedback from the PB. According to the time line, a consultant would be hired on 14 January 2012 with a work plan ready by 24 January and a draft report ready by 13 February. Given the need to consult a full array of stakeholders including civil society and indigenous peoples in the countries surveyed, and the PB recommendation that more than three countries be included, a three week time frame for completing the study and drafting the report seems unrealistic. However, the Global Programme budget will apparently have to be renewed by June 2012, leaving only one PB meeting to discuss the recommendations from the two working groups. It is questionable whether the country needs assessment can be completed to an adequate standard in this amount of time.

3. Allocation of funding for the Nigeria National Programme. The allocation of \$4 million was approved for the Nigeria National Programme pending revisions in the proposal (the National Programme Document or NPD) to address issues raised by the independent reviewers, the Secretariat, and the PB. Global Witness carried out an assessment of the National Programme, which is available on its website:

<http://www.globalwitness.org/library/global-witness%E2%80%99s-role-un-redd-policy-board>

Key issues raised by the PB include the need to discuss the risk of leakage and illegal cross-border trade with neighboring states and Cameroon, clarify how REDD readiness activities will be coordinated between Cross River State and the national level, provide additional information on the multi-stakeholder process for identifying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, describe the outcomes of the Anti-deforestation Task Force and the role of community level monitoring, and clarify how communities are involved in the design and implementation of the National Programme.

4. Terms of Reference for Tier 2 funding. The Secretariat agreed to share with the PB the Terms of Reference under development for Tier 2 funding arrangements between donors and UN-REDD pilot countries. Tier 2 funding does not require approval by the PB, but it was agreed that the PB should be kept informed of Tier 2 funding and that measures should be in place to ensure that this funding is aligned with the objectives and policies of the UN-REDD Programme. It was suggested by the PB that an additional discussion forum should be created to include Tier 2 donors in order to enhance coordination, since Tier 2 donors are not allowed to sit on the PB.

5. Policy paper on land tenure issues. The PB requested the development of an independent policy paper on land tenure issues in response to a presentation by the Independent Advisory Group on Forests, Rights and Climate Change that focused in part on the importance of tenure rights.

6. Monitoring of National Programme implementation. The Secretariat provided an update on several improvements in the process for approving National Programmes and in monitoring progress during implementation. There are now standard templates for “results-based” reporting on National Programme activities in semi-annual and annual reports. These were used for progress reports from countries that have begun implementing their National Programmes. The Secretariat agreed to also report on how the Global Programme is providing support for the development and implementation of National Programmes, for example through technical assistance for developing National Programmes and support for consultation processes. The guidelines and standards being developed (eg. stakeholder engagement, FPIC, and the Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria / Risk Identification and Mitigation Tool) will also be incorporated into the monitoring framework. The PB requested that the Secretariat develop indicators that could be used to better assess progress towards National Programmes objectives and provide a breakdown of expenditures according to the outputs of the Programmes.

7. The 8th Policy Board meeting will be held back to back with the 10th Participants Committee meeting of the FCPF in Paraguay in March 2012.

Other updates and opportunities for civil society to provide input

Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria and Risk Identification and Mitigation Tool

An update on the UN-REDD Programme’s Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC) was presented by UNEP. The 30 June 2011 version of the SEPC and accompanying explanatory note have been substantially revised in response to feedback from PB members, the Independent

Advisory Group, technical experts and national level consultations. A revised version of the SEPC (dated September 2011) is open for public comments from 15 October to the end of December 2011. The objective is to present the SEPC for approval at the PB8 meeting in March. The latest version along with a matrix of the agencies' responses to comments on 30 June draft is available here: http://www.un-redd.org/Multiple_Benefits_SEPC/tabid/54130/Default.aspx

An accompanying Risk Identification and Mitigation Tool (RIMT) will be made available for public comment starting sometime in November. At the meeting, UNEP stated that the Tool will be used to operationalize the SEPC, although it is still unclear how and when the tool will be applied. We will send around an update when the Tool is available for comment. The RIMT have not yet been made available to the PB or the public for comment, and are being presented as the modality for operationalizing the SEPC, so it is important for civil society to review it carefully and provide input.

Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

An update on the FPIC Guidelines was presented by UNDP. The Guidelines were developed through three regional consultations in Vietnam, Panama and Tanzania between June 2010 and January 2011. The results of the consultation processes were synthesized and subjected to independent review by UN-REDD, UN legal advisors, and independent experts. The Guidelines will be open for a six week comment period starting in November 2011 with a final version expected to be presented for endorsement at PB8. The guidelines will then be applied to National Programmes, although when and how is not yet clear. We will send around updates as they become available.

Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness

Two sets of guidelines developed separately by UN-REDD and the FCPF were merged to form a single set of joint guidelines. Because the different policies on FPIC at the UN and the World Bank could not be reconciled, it was decided that Free, Prior and Informed Consent would be applied in UN-REDD countries, while the Bank will continue to adhere to its policy of Free, Prior and Informed Consultation in countries where it is the implementing agent. The joint guidelines (18 May 2011 version) were open for public comment in June 2011 and have been the subject of various consultations with indigenous peoples and civil society over the past year. Revisions incorporating these inputs are under way and a final version will be presented for endorsement at PB8 and then applied to the implementation of National Programmes. We do not know when a new version will be made available to the public. The last version from 18 May 2011 is available here:

http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=1120&Itemid=53

Development of a UN-REDD compliance / grievance mechanism

As presented by UNDP at the meeting, the three UN agencies are looking at existing procedures on accountability and grievance and considering how these could be harmonized. An inter-agency working group, facilitated by the Secretariat, has been established to look into setting up an accountability mechanism for the UN-REDD Programme. No time line or expected outputs were given for this process, although a UN-REDD Programme accountability mechanism has been under discussions for the past two years with little progress.