

VIET NAM

Context

The Government of Viet Nam (GoV) completed a first National REDD+ Action Programme (NRAP) (national REDD+ strategy) in 2012. In 2015, consistent with advice from the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme, GoV identified the need to revise the NRAP in particular to provide more detail on the Policies and Measures (PAMs) to address the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the country, and the barriers to enhancement of forest carbon stocks. This revision was completed by December 2016, and the revised NRAP was officially endorsed by the Prime Minister on 5th April 2017. As part of the UN-REDD Technical Assistance (TA) proposal for 2017, a National REDD+ Investment Plan (NRIP) is being developed, building on the NRAP to provide specific details of the domestic investment priorities and resource mobilisation required to implement the identified PAMs. Furthermore, Viet Nam submitted its initial Forest Reference Level (FRL) to the UNFCCC in January 2016 and participated in the FRL Technical Assessment process, completed in April 2017.

Phase II of the Viet Nam National Programme was signed with Norway in December 2012 and began implementation in 2013 with a budget of NOK 180,000,000 (about US\$ 30 million in July 2013 when the Phase II Programme Document was signed by all partners). It builds on the key achievements and results of the Phase I programme. It is designed to reduce emissions in six provinces, working with provincial, district and commune authorities, local communities and the private sector. After a no-cost extension was agreed with Norway, the Programme is due to terminate in December 2018. A proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is being developed, based on inputs from the UN-REDD Technical Team, to cover some aspects of NRAP implementation. This proposal has been prioritised by the Viet Nam National Designated Authority (NDA) and it is anticipated for submission, and approval by the GCF board, before the end of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme.

Rationale and approach

The Programme Management Unit (PMU), which has been established within VNFOREST (administrative home of the National REDD+ Focal Point) for the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme, will support the implementation of this TA proposal, until the end of the Phase II Programme in December 2018. Thereafter, support will be provided predominantly through the agency regional centres in Bangkok and other agency offices in the region. Currently, the regional team supporting Phase II consists of Technical Advisors from FAO, UNDP and UNEP, covering all key topics related to the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. Additional technical advisors in agency headquarters are engaged as required.

Viet Nam's INDC notes that it has made significant efforts in forest protection, afforestation and reforestation, and makes explicit reference to the role of REDD+ in reducing emissions. The INDC sets a target, with domestic resources, to reduce GHG emissions by 8% compared to BAU by 2030, in which forest cover will increase to 45% of the land area. Among the measures to achieve the GHG emissions mitigation targets of the INDC are:

- a) Review and identify the areas and objects to apply sustainable forest management, afforestation and reforestation, biodiversity conservation, including special priority for regions with large forests that are important for forest production and livelihoods of local communities' people;
- b) Develop and improve policies to promote sustainable forest management; mechanisms and policies to attract private sector investment for sustainable forest management, afforestation, reforestation, biodiversity conservation and livelihood development;
- c) Integrate and effectively use domestic and international resources for implementation of programmes and projects related to forest management and development, livelihoods and biodiversity conservation such as REDD+, the policy of payment for forest environmental services (PFES); and

- d) Strengthen and expand international cooperation for investment, technical assistance and capacity building, information and experience sharing on the sustainable forest management and development, biodiversity conservation and livelihood development.

The UN-REDD Programme, through its Phase II initiative, is already contributing to all of these actions. The NRAP, which takes the INDC as one of its main guiding policy documents, also incorporates PAMs that contribute to these priorities, and the GCF concept note in turn reflects those PAMs. Other initiatives which are also contributing to the forestry-related targets of the INDC include:

- FCPF, which has been implementing Readiness Fund activities since 2013, and for which an Emission Reduction Programme Document (ERPD) is in the pipeline for access to the Carbon Fund.
- FORMIS II Project, which is supporting VNFOREST in designing and developing a forestry sector information system (FORMIS Platform) by integrating information systems on forest resources and land use making information available for local and central level planning and decision-making, and building capacity within VNFOREST to manage such information system in the future.
- FLEGT, with technical support from FAO and European Forest Institute (EFI), for which a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) will be signed with the EU in May 2017, including arrangements for a Timber Legality Assurance Scheme (VNTLAS).

As one of the original REDD+ 'pilot' countries in the first phase of the UN-REDD Programme starting in 2009, and as the only recipient of bilateral 'Phase II' support from Norway, Viet Nam has a unique status in the region (in particular, the Greater Mekong Sub-region comprising Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand) as a country which can provide substantial lessons to others as a result of the activities and progress made through this investment, and through the other initiatives mentioned above. The UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme made a specific reference to this potential by incorporating an Outcome dedicated to regional collaboration and experience-sharing (Outcome 6). In 2016, VNFOREST developed a regional work plan of activities to build and expand on the UN-REDD Outcome 6. In order to fulfil this regional objective, Viet Nam needs to implement activities both at the national level, to continue building on the four elements of the Warsaw Framework on REDD+ in order that its experience can serve as a positive example to other countries; and at the international level, to actively share these examples and build communities of practice.

As Viet Nam moves towards implementation of the NRAP, including through Provincial REDD+ Action Plans (PRAPs), one of the challenges remains the full integration of PAMs and interventions under PRAPs within the multi-sectoral planning processes already in place at national and provincial levels. Continued advisory support is required, beyond the current context of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme, to ensure effective inter-sectoral coordination and consultation processes are in place throughout the planning cycle.

Technical Assistance requested

Within this context, and building on TA provided through the Phase II Programme, the UN-REDD Programme is in a position to provide further, value-added TA for the period 2018-20. This TA will be designed to complement Outcome 6 of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme in particular by providing additional resources for the implementation of advisory services under VNFOREST's regional work plan for Outcome 6, but also by building on the technical inputs provided through other Outcomes in the Programme, and thus enhance the utility and quality of materials, based on Viet Nam's experience, to share with other GMS countries. The TA will be organised according to the following objective and outputs:

The objective of these TA deliverables is for **Viet Nam to become an effective role model for REDD+ participating countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.**

Outputs:

1. Viet Nam's experience in REDD+ is used to enhance progress in REDD+ readiness processes in the Greater Mekong Sub-region
 - a. Enhanced progress in planning and monitoring of REDD+ PAMs: A system for monitoring the implementation and impact of REDD+ PAMs, enabling adaptive management of the NRAP and PRAPs, designed and piloted through the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme, will be refined, implemented, institutionalised with clear roles and responsibilities of national stakeholders. Alongside the renewed National Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Programme (NFIMAP), FORMIS and REDD+ web-portal, this monitoring system will become a part of the broader National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for REDD+, used to revise and update Forest Reference Level (FRL) and PRAPs for the next planning cycle in Viet Nam. This work will provide the basis for updated guidance and materials, which will be produced and shared with partner countries in the GMS through regional dialogues. TA for this sub-output will be achieved through the inputs of FAO technical advisory staff and operational assistance to facilitate this advisory support.
 - b. Enhanced progress in REDD+ strategy development: This includes support to initial implementation of the emerging National REDD+ Investment Plan (NRIP). The initial implementation of the NRIP will largely focus on institutional capacity building, including further development of a REDD+ financial mechanism, and processes to ensure full and effective participation of all stakeholders at national and sub-national levels. Similar to output 1a, experience generated through this sub-output will lead to analysis of lessons learned and communication through regional dialogues. TA for this sub-output will be achieved through the inputs of UNDP technical advisory staff and operational assistance to facilitate this advisory support.
2. Implementation of Viet Nam's NRAP is conducted with full inter-sectoral coordination:

A major challenge identified by MARD is the effective engagement of other ministries, especially MPI, MONRE and MPS. Although initial steps have been taken under the UN-REDD Phase II programme, further strengthening of engagement is required. This will involve both awareness raising and capacity building of individual ministries, as well as establishing effective mechanisms to share data, information and lessons across ministries.

A further challenge identified by the Civil Society Organization member of the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board (PEB) is to engage effectively with non-governmental actors at a sub-national level. Mechanisms have been developed through UN-REDD support at the national level, but have not yet translated into effective mechanisms at provincial or district levels. The UN-REDD TA, through UNDP technical advisory support, will consolidate lessons learned from the national mechanisms and design appropriate mechanisms at sub-national levels.

Results Framework

UN-REDD TA outputs (*)	UN-REDD TA agency	Timeline (year/s)	Indicators (**)	Baseline (***)
Output 1. Viet Nam's experience in designing, implementing and monitoring of REDD+ PAMs, while fully accounting for UNFCCC safeguards, is used to enhance progress in REDD+ readiness processes through a dialogue among countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 3.1)	FAO (Output 1a)	2018-2020	2018: • PRAP/NRAP design and implementation supported, including a monitoring system developed, implemented and shared with GMS countries (MoV: Data in FORMIS)	Pilot PRAP monitoring system design under development
			2019: • PRAP/NRAP design supported by a NFMS document, including MRV and monitoring procedures, drafted for government decision (MoV: Draft document, shared on REDD+ Web Platform).	No Official REDD+ NFMS document or decision
			2020: • PRAPs and PRAP guidance revised, updated and approach replicated in GMS countries. (MoV: Documentation)	MARD Decision and 6 initial PRAPs. PRAPs proposed in Lao PDR.
	UNDP (Output 1b)	2018-2020	2018: • Piloting of measures identified in the NRIP related to institutional capacity building. (MoV: NRIP document)	Revised NRAP approved; NRIP under development.
			2019: • Effective communication of lessons regionally. (MoV: Documentation)	
			2020: • REDD+ financial mechanism established in VN • Progress in other countries in the GMS reflect the experience of Viet Nam. (MoV: Documentation)	
Output 2. Implementation of Viet Nam's NRAP has technical assistance provided for the robust institutional anchoring, with a wide range of economic sectors engaged in REDD+ objectives. (Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 3.2)	UNDP	2018-2020	2018: • Institutional capacity building for ministries other than MARD. • Development of proposals for sub-national multi-stakeholder engagement mechanisms. • Complete implementation plans for NRAP intervention packages. (MoV: Reports, documentation)	NRIP under development.
			2019: • Testing/piloting of implementation modalities for NRAP intervention packages, with a focus on measures requiring action by ministries other than MARD. • Establishment of sub-national engagement measures in at least 6 provinces. (MoV: Field reports, documentation)	
			2020: • Scale-up of inter-ministry engagement processes and sub-national engagement mechanisms in at least 20 provinces. (MoV: documentation)	

Risk Management Framework

Risk description	Rating	Mitigation measure
External risks		
Lack of effective engagement between GoV and counterparts in GMS countries	P= Medium I = Medium	The TA, with objectives framed at the regional level, was nevertheless only developed in consultation with Viet Nam counterparts, not with those from other GMS countries. The receptiveness of other countries to the lessons of Viet Nam's REDD+ experience has not therefore been properly analysed. Experience of previous regional knowledge management events carried out under by the regional UN-REDD advisory team indicates that strong communication and networks maintained over the TA period, as well as an objectively verified and updated REDD+ Readiness monitoring effort, can support the effective implementation of activities to scale up good practices.
The advice/recommendations of the UN-REDD team are not appropriated or adopted by the governments or stakeholders in country	P= Low I = High	As above, in principle the TA has been jointly identified with counterparts. However it is uncertain how and which outcomes of this TA would be taken on. In cases where such advice or expertise is not taken on board, the impact will be quite high as the Programme would have failed to deliver anticipated results. The Programme's direct counterparts in VNFOREST, with whom this TA was discussed, are not accountable for ensuring uptake of advice and recommendations within MARD and other ministries. UN-REDD agencies, including through country offices, will therefore support TA implementation through maintenance of contacts and engagement through broader GoV channels.
Internal		

* P: Probability; I: Impact; TBD: To Be Determined

National ownership and sustainability

The UN-REDD Programme partner agencies are in constant contact with VNFOREST, MARD and other GoV agencies, and with non-governmental partners in Viet Nam, through the management structure of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme and the implementation of Programme activities. The proposals described above are informed by this interaction and collaboration and consistent with the priorities and needs expressed thereby.

As part of a specific exercise to develop the proposal for UN-REDD TA 2018-20 activities for Viet Nam, a joint mission of UN-REDD Regional Technical Advisors was organized from 19 to 21 April 2017. The mission began with a briefing and discussion with the deputy National Programme Director (dNPD) of the UN-REDD Phase II Programme and Viet Nam REDD+ Office (VRO) Director Ms Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy, and concluded with a presentation to Mme Thuy of the draft framework for the TA proposal. This draft was based on intervening discussions with Programme Management Unit (PMU) staff, the Embassy of Norway, and with the Civil Society and Ethnic Minority Peoples' representatives on the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board (PEB).
