



Information Note

2017 Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation and Direct Cost for Secretariat Services Deliverables/Activities to be completed in 2018

1. Background

In 2017, Technical Assistance (TA) was planned and provided to 15 countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guyana, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia. An overall progress update was provided in the semi-annual update of June 2017; the annual progress report will be provided in the 2017 Consolidated Annual Report, which will be made available in May 2018.

Overall, the TA progressed as planned, with the majority of the deliverables completed on schedule. In a few cases, as detailed in the sections below, delays were encountered and some deliverables and activities cannot be completed by the end of the year. As a result of these delays, and given the importance of the completion of these planned activities/deliverables for the beneficiary countries and stakeholders, a request for a no objection approval is being sought to allow for their completion in 2018.

In the case of direct cost for Secretariat services, all the functions were fully performed during the year except for a few activities also detailed below.

Overall, the pending deliverables and activities represent approximately 11 and 5 per cent of the approved allocation for the 2017 TA for REDD+ Implementation and direct cost for Secretariat services, respectively.

In requesting this approval, the Participating UN Organizations confirm that pending deliverables, activities and the related funds are distinct from the already approved 2018 work plan and budget.

2. Justification to undertake pending 2017 deliverables/activities in 2018

Some of the delays encountered were a result of the late receipt of the second tranche of 2017 approved budget. This was the case for the UN Environment in Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Liberia, Myanmar, Peru and Viet Nam; and for the communications and knowledge management component. Given that the second tranche was only received in August 2017, it was necessary to secure enough funds for essential operations in the calendar year of 2017, so some elements of the TA 2017 were prioritized. This strategy was in place until confirmation of receipt of remaining funds. With the resources secured, the UN Environment teams proceeded to complete activities as agreed in the 2017 work plan. Some of these activities had been designed to last longer than the period September-December and will therefore be completed during the 2018 calendar year.

There were other specific issues in countries that led to the delays encountered as follows:

In **Ecuador**, the TA/2017 from UNDP aims at supporting the implementation of the various components of the GCF Programme, which represents the first GCF investment programme for REDD+. The TA has been intensely delivered over 2017, but a few streams are pending completion, mostly due to delays in the recruitment of the GCF Ecuador programme's team. As Ecuador is not a UN-REDD priority country for 2018-2020, Government would like to extend the period for TA delivery to ensure the agreed technical assistance is fully provided: a review and adjustment of the TA services has been informally discussed between UN-REDD and Government, including the expectation that such support will extend over part of 2018; the details will be confirmed during a UNDP mission to Ecuador scheduled from 18-22 December 2017. FAO technical assistance in 2017 was successfully implemented allowing the country to progress on different aspects of NFMS for REDD+ but also to support the country in the preparation of its Nationally Determined Contribution. The Government requested for continuity of the activities, especially to consolidate the NFMS efforts undertaken to validate and socialize the NDC.

In **Costa Rica** the progresses in 2017 led to establishment of the Monitoring System for Land Coverage, Land Use, and Ecosystems (SIMOCUTE), however the of the results remained to be completed in 2018 given some changes in the Government structures.

Similarly, in **Colombia**, the strengthening of the national and subnational capacities on NFMS and MRV remained to be consolidated in 2018.

In **Cote d'Ivoire**, the foreseen support to develop REDD+ related texts of the forest code could not be initiated due to the launch of a national process to elaborate a new forest law and policy in the country in September 2017.

In **Ethiopia**, the UN-REDD TA for 2017 was delayed for various months while awaiting final Government endorsement of the precise TA activities and tasks to be conducted, which was provided by the state minister for forests via correspondence on 21 August 2017. The technical assistance thus commenced late and, for this reason, will spill over to 2018. It will focus on supporting the National Forest Sector Development programme, one of the key policy instruments for REDD+ results in the country.

In **Liberia**, the TA output concerning "strengthening institutions and capacity building for REDD+ implementation", under UNDP, requires to be carried out over a longer period than anticipated for tangible results to be seen. The advisory and support work has not been completed to the extent that Government and stakeholders had requested and expected. In fact, the range of capacity-building support evolved and became broader than anticipated, due to a dynamic and multifaceted REDD+ portfolio in the country. Indeed, as the Liberia Forest Support Project is now being implemented, there are new opportunities to foster institutional coordination and harmonization, where UN-REDD has the comparative capacity to deliver and ensure that capacity building can be part of a contribution to the specific needs of REDD+ implementation in the country. In addition, Liberia is not a priority country in the UN-REDD work plan and budget for 2018-2020 and, hence, Government would like this institutional and capacity strengthening under the TA/2017 plan to be fully provided, which will mean a carry over some technical-assistance activities into 2018. The delivery of the pending TA was discussed and agreed between UN-REDD and the management of the Liberia's REDD+ implementation Unit during the UN-REDD Africa knowledge exchange workshop that took place in Nairobi 18 - 22 September 2017. In case of FAO, in Liberia a few technical assistance activities planned by FAO and the government to support the development of a National Forest Monitoring System in the country could not be completed and are slightly delayed due to national circumstances.

In **Zambia**, part of the planned TA by FAO was delayed as the Government completed their forest investment plan only recently. The National Investment Plan to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation (2018-2022) will be presented to the World Bank FIP in December 2017.

In **Peru**, the planned TA from UNDP in 2017 advanced well, especially in terms of connecting and helping with the coherence of the REDD+ agenda in the country, notably in providing specific advice and technical inputs to support aligning national and international forests and climate change instruments. However, due to diverse institutional changes and programmatic factors that occurred during the year, compounded with a complex and evolving REDD+ arena in the country, the TA streams on fostering coherence and extracting lessons around governance, stakeholder participation and policy design were delayed and merit due completion. They are also relevant to underpin the REDD+ plans of the country in 2018, including the anticipated TA from UN-REDD. The overall TA support from UN-REDD to Peru (including the TA achievements in 2017, the TA pending from 2017, the NP implementation and the TA planned for 2018) was reviewed and redefined during a mission to Peru that took place between 29 November and 6 December 2017.

3. Pending TA Deliverables/Activities and associated budget (US\$)

Country	Pending Deliverables/Activities	UN Agency	Timeframe	Budget
Colombia	<p>During 2017, UN Environment provided technical support on incentives for land use change in the design of investment plans for PAMS in the pacific ecoregion. To a partial extent, it supported the engagement with the national banking system to examine credit products for business models for forest and landscape restoration. During 2018, UN Environment will complete consultations with the local financial sector to enhance their risk management systems as they relate to deforestation risks in commodity supply chains</p> <p>During 2018, FAO will complete the planned the collaborative process to enhance capacities of local communities on forest monitoring and the integration of CBM into NFMS as well as the consultations on MRV in the context of the enhanced transparency framework.</p>	FAO, UNEP		79'294
Costa Rica	The completion of the planned activities in 2018 will focus on sustaining the SIMOCUTE in the transition period/electoral year, keeping the engagement of the public institutions, academia and international cooperation involved and navigating through the electoral months and bridge towards the potentially new elected government.	FAO		43'289
Cote d'Ivoire	FAO will support the development of implementing decrees of the forest code related to REDD+ actions (and in particular carbon rights) as per the 2017 workplan. This should be achieved jointly with FLEGT initiative. The activity includes a technical assessment through workshops and interviews and a juridical assessment through legal expertise, to avoid gaps and contradictions with other sector specific legislations.	FAO		35'421
DRC	During 2017, UN Environment advanced on the analytical framework to embed REDD+ and green economy scenarios in the Vision 2035 for development. In 2018, the analysis will be completed, stakeholders' consultations will follow and entry-points with the Ministry of Planning pursued in order to ensure uptake.	UNEP		78'000
Ecuador	<p>Completion of TA to two policy streams and one institutional mechanism to support the implementation of the GCF REDD+ programme, aiming at the following 3 national outputs:</p> <p>(i) land-use planning: establishment of an online registry system, including 20 initial plans with REDD+ features;</p> <p>(ii) zero-deforestation commodities: definition of a set of standards and certification means for the major commodities that threaten deforestation are defined; and</p> <p>(iii) REDD+ information system: operationalization and harmonization of a mix of planning, monitoring and reporting systems intended to frame regional and national REDD+ actions in Ecuador.</p> <p>In 2018 FAO will complete the management model for the institutionalizing the NFMS, the technical annex, the second BUR and Reference Levels and – as a central importance for the country's work on CC - to finalize, validate and socialize the NDC.</p>	FAO, UNDP		243'367

Country	Pending Deliverables/Activities	UN Agency	Timeframe	Budget
Ethiopia	<p>Technical, institutional and operational provisions for the implementation of the National Forest Sector Development (NFSD) programme, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) finalize the proposal for resource mobilization for the NFSD programme; (ii) design a coordination framework to support the implementation of the NFSD programme; and (iii) finalize a capacity building framework for the implementation of the NFSD programme, which will build on the already developed roadmap and South-to-South project document for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Ethiopia and South Korea. <p>In addition, technical inputs will be provided to the private sector scoping study on forest and REDD+, which is advancing through the UNEP supported consultancy. The outcomes of the scoping study will also be integrated into the proposal for resource mobilization mentioned under section (i) above.</p> <p>Following formal approval of the TA programme document by the State Minister of Forests at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change of Ethiopia in August 2017, UN Environment initiated its technical assistance in the country, The work in 2017 consisted in refining the scope of work, mobilizing relevant stakeholders and initiating analytical efforts related to mainstreaming the forest ecosystem valuation results as well as scoping private investment options supportive of forests and climate change objectives. In 2018, results of the forest ecosystem valuation will be disseminated at technical level and senior government level at Ministries of Finance and Planning and Statistics Authority and the private investment scoping exercise will be concluded.</p>	UNDP, UNEP		133'717
Indonesia	<p>During 2017, UN Environment provided substantive support to peatland restoration, alternative use of peatlands and the operationalization of safeguard measures. During 2018, UN Environment will do follow up work on the application of safeguards to investments in land use and will continue providing support to the planning, mainstreaming and implementation of the Indonesian NDC including its alignment with peatland restoration.</p>	UNEP		32'000

Country	Pending Deliverables/Activities	UN Agency	Timeframe	Budget
Liberia	<p>As part of the TA output concerning “strengthening institutions and capacity built for REDD+ implementation”, the country stakeholders have requested and expect a number of training and capacity-building activities provided with expertise from UN-REDD. In particular, a REDD+ academy event in Liberia has been conceived as a major and comprehensive training programme, covering a wide range of themes. It is scheduled for February 2018. The event will be financed with World Bank funds while it will rely notably on UN-REDD technical advice (e.g.: training materials, presentations, facilitation roles, associated knowledge products). Subsequently, a long-term capacity building framework will be produced.</p> <p>Regarding the TA output on “specific policies and measures/investments initiated to support REDD+ implementation”, technical advice to underpin the new project “Reducing Deforestation from Commodity Production” will be provided, following its recent launching.</p> <p>In 2017, UN Environment provided technical support on spatial planning and strategic partnerships with private sector to achieve zero net deforestation in commodity supply chains. During 2018, UN Environment will conclude the aforementioned streams of work with a special focus on spatial planning training at FDA and socialization of the private sector engagement work with relevant stakeholders as well as provide backstopping of conservation monitoring in palm oil concessions.</p> <p>While good progresses were achieved to develop the National Forest Inventory methodology, it still requires be validating nationally and testing in the field as planned, waiting for the procurement of forest inventory equipment by the Government. Also forest change mapping activities on the way can be completed only in early 2018.</p>	FAO, UNDP, UNEP		140'785
Myanmar	<p>During 2017, UN Environment provided technical support to the government of Myanmar on private sector commitments for sustainable land use. During 2018, and as requested by Myanmar, UN Environment will complete the review of opportunities and barriers to broad domestic and international private sector engagement in REDD+.</p>	UNEP		60'000
Peru	<p>Provision and completion of TA on fostering coherence and lessons around governance arrangements, stakeholder participation and policy design across the different REDD+ initiatives and programmes in the country; in particular, as follows:</p> <p>(i) Promoting the alignment of stakeholders’ agendas, as well as participatory spaces for policy dialogue, on the wide range of REDD+ endeavor in the country, with a focus on defining the participatory approach and mechanisms for the implementation of the phase II of the JDI/REDD.</p> <p>(ii) Support Government (MINAM) and other relevant stakeholders to integrate and harmonize the wide range of proposals and lessons existing to build a coherent set of policies & measures for REDD+ (including land titling, forest land planning and zoning, expansion of conditional cash transfers, and strengthening control).</p> <p>NB: This TA will underpin the implementation of the JDI/REDD+ programme, the UN-REDD National Programme and the subsequent TA/2018 from UN-REDD.</p> <p>During 2017, UN Environment provided technical support during the development of a private sector engagement strategy for REDD+. Additionally, UN Environment provided technical support for the government’s discussions with REDD+ early initiatives and how these can link with the national programme. During 2018, UN Environment will continue consultations with private sector for identifying options for financing sustainable productive business models and for enhancing the risk management systems within the financial sector.</p>	UNDP, UNEP		200'489

Country	Pending Deliverables/Activities	UN Agency	Timeframe				Budget
Viet Nam	During 2017 UN Environment assisted Vietnam with technical support and production of reports on green credit mechanisms, including concessional loans, and carbon markets. During 2018, UN Environment will work on the up-taking of these products by government and stakeholders.	UNEP					45'000
Zambia	In 2018 FAO will to support the mobilization of funds to kick start the Forest Investment Plan, in order to complete the following output: "Several funding proposals with the Government to support the national REDD+ investment plan" FAO's component seeks to leverage financing with a focus on community forestry and private forests which is aligned to the sectoral study supported by FAO which contributed to the above mentioned investment plan (Scaling up community participation in forest management through REDD+, including for woodland restoration and private forest management).	FAO					48'284
Communications & KM	During the year of 2017 UN Environment implemented an active program on communications and knowledge management with information exchanges events in Africa, Asia and Latin America, production of the UNREDD newsletter and dissemination of information through a variety of platforms. During 2018, UN Environment will complete the reports and infographics of the information exchanges, translation of knowledge management products, an information site-visit to Indonesia and video material.	UNEP					90'000
Total							1'229'646*

• *Represents 11 per cent of the total approved allocation for the 2017 TA for REDD+ Implementation*

4. Pending direct cost for Secretariat services and associated budget (US\$)

Project	Pending Deliverables/Activities	UN Agency	Timeframe				Budget
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Direct cost – Secretariat services	All of the functions of the Secretariat have been performed during 2017, though it was not possible to complete the reporting guidelines of the updated 2018-20 result framework or to complete the analysis of partnerships and resource mobilization opportunities. This was due to the fact that it was not possible to fill one position in the Secretariat in 2017, so to complete these pending activities, it will be necessary to recruit short-term consultants in 2018 which were not budgeted for in 2018.	UN Environment					70,000*

• *Represents 5 per cent of the approved allocation for the 2017 direct cost for Secretariat services*
