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| UNDP_Logo-Blue%20w%20Tagline-ENG | | **Back to Office Report**  **Submitted by:** Clea Paz-Rivera  **Title: BTOR mission to Colombia**  **Date submitted: August 3, 2015** | | |
| 1. Practice area : BPPS | | | | |
| 2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)  From: July 22 to: July 24 | | | | |
| 3. Type of mission: Official | | | 4. Clients  MADS, IDEAM  UNDP Colombia  UNEP | |
| 5. Purpose of mission  Colombia has a UN-REDD National Programme (USD $4M) approved since 2013. The ProDoc was finalized and signed in August 2014. The NP coordinator, administrative assistant and knowledge management specialist were hired by December 2014, inception took place in April 2015, and the UNDP SE specialist was hired in May. The mission had the purpose of:   * Meet with the national team, support preparation of the first NP technical committee meeting, and discuss progress of UNDP’s supported activities * Participate on the first NP technical committee meeting representing UNEP | | | 6. Documents, materials, resources   * Technical Committee agenda and documents | |
| 7. Mission members  Lucio Santos (FAO); Clea Paz-Rivera | | | 8. Costs  US $905,5 | |
| 9. Brief summary of the mission  *9.a Findings*.  **Preparation meeting on the 22**   * With the hiring of the participation specialist (Constanza Ramirez), the national team is now complete and working intensively on implementing the NP activities. * The latest update of the results framework and refinement of indicators permitted a better understanding of the expected results and clarification of the roles of the agencies and national team members in agreement with both national counterparts (MADS and IDEAM) * One area with limited progress is safeguards (under outcome 4), explained in part by different views (among MADS, the national team and UNEP) on the role the UN-REDD Programme should play vis-à-vis other initiatives supporting safeguards in Colombia. While both UNEP and UNDP are participating from the safeguards technical committee, there is still no agreement on when the UN-REDD consultant for the SIS will be hired. I mentioned the latest safeguards KM products recently concluded, and the team requested we could have a mini-training (PMU only) taking advantage of my presence in the country. * The presentations and agenda for the Technical Committee Meeting were revised and agreed upon. * On the NP report, Colombia reported some challenges on filling out the revised template, and also requested that in the future the final template in Spanish is share with them at least 2 months in advance of the deadline.   **Technical Committee Meeting**   * Participants: IDEAM: Saralux Valbuena (Sub-Director Ecosystems and Environmental Information), Ederson Cabrera, MADS: Diana Vargas, FAO: Iván León and Lucio Santos, PNUD: Jimena Puyana, representing UNEP: Clea Paz, UN-REDD Colombia: Paola García, Mario Gonzáles, Constanza Ramirez, Oscar Bonilla, and Adriana Yépez * Presentation of National Programme status: Implementation of activities was fully launched in June through the recently consolidated national team, coordination procedures are agreed with the government and other key stakeholders, a communication strategy and graphic image was designed, NP operational manual designed, results framework updated (revising all indicators), advanced participatory plan agreed with FCPF and GIZ, started developing the gender strategy. Progress component by component presented (see attached ppt). Delivery of the annual budget is only 13%, which although is explained by the delay on starting activities, is raising an alert as we are already in July. * The Committee gave the following feedback:   Participation   * + It would be important to clarify the purpose of the participatory process from the beginning, counting with the Government as the political interlocutor with the social organization, with the Programme facilitating and providing technical support   Multiple benefits and safeguards   * + IDEAM and MADS said they would like to analyze all the information and existing methodologies re. multiple benefits existing in Colombia, before confirming the adoption of a selected methodology. Important to consider in Colombia the critical role of social benefits.   + Re. safeguards I recommended to accelerate the process to hire the SIS consultant. MADS replied that they are still working on the conceptual approach, that still needs to be presented to key stakeholders, and that once this is concluded they can hire the SIS.   Spatial and economic analyses   * + FAO indicated they are working with “Unidad de Planificación de Desarrollo Rural”, a GEF Project on ecosystem connectivity, and agro-environmental policies, developing models that could be considered and requested to establish a technical platform inviting the 4 FAO experts that work on these topics.   + IDEAM remarked that coordination is not only with FAO, but must consider the Information System IDEAM has developed which is articulating existing information. UNEP responded that the consultants will be based on IDEAM, which will facilitate such coordination. The NP coordinator referred to the upcoming workshop as the space to clarify the aforementioned issues. * Approvals: the committee approved the revisions to the results framework, the agreements with indigenous organizations, and the modifications in the budget for the national forest inventory. * Risks and challenges: Regarding delays on agreeing TORs, the Committee requested that TORs are developed and agreed in one session with all the relevant persons involved, to avoid delays on revisions. Regarding delivery, the committee requested that delivery rates are revised again at the end of October (after a number of agreements and contracts are signed), and corrective measures to be define afterwards. * Next steps: Next TC meeting on October 23, the National Steering committee is planned of December however the TC suggested to move it to January. * Other issues: IDEAM requested that the clause on intellectual property is problematic for the REL component. FAO indicated that they will seek clarification via diplomatic note, and to consider that Colombia is part of FAO’s council.   **Mini-training on safeguards with the PMU**   * At their request and as preparation of their upcoming meeting with the national safeguards committee, I presented UN-REDD’s modules 1 and 2 on safeguards to the PMU (Paola G. Constanza R., Oscar B., and Mario G.) * The training was welcomed, however it was evidenced that there are different interpretations on the scope of the SIS (“technical platform” vs. a more comprehensive SIS including institutional aspects) that need to be further clarified with the team. This is critical to ensure a good implementation of the consultancy on safeguards.   *9.b Results achieved (key outputs)*   * Approval of the revised results-framework, MOUs with social organizations for the participatory process, and revisions for NFI’s budget. * Strategic guidance to the national team for successful NP implementation provided. * Improved capacities on safeguards for the national team.   *9.c Expected outcomes and impacts*   * As a result of this mission, the national team is better placed to continue successful implementation of the UN-REDD National Programme. | | | | |
| 10. Key counterparts   * MADS, IDEAM, UNDP CO, FAO | | | | |
| 11. Follow up action matrix | | | | |
| Action to be taken | By whom | | | Expected completion date |
| Send notes to UNEP team | Clea | | | done |
| Send minutes of TC meeting | Paola | | | 4 August |
| Send feedback on NP report template | Clea to Mirey | | | done |
| Send Mexico’s conceptual SF framework to PMU | Clea | | | done |
| Agree with UNEP and SCG on follow up on safeguards work | Clea, Dani and Judith | | | 15 August |
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| 12. Distribution list   * UNDP CO: Jimena Puyana, Arnaud Peral * UNDP-UN-REDD team * FAO, UNEP REDD+ focal point | | | | |