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| UNDP_Logo-Blue%20w%20Tagline-ENG | | **Back to Office Report**  **Submitted by:** Clea Paz-Rivera  **Title: BTOR mission to Honduras**  **Date submitted: December 5, 2016** | | |
| 1. Practice area : BPPS | | | | |
| 2. Mission period (incl. of travel days)  From: November 28 to: December 2nd | | | | |
| 3. Type of mission: Official | | | 4. Clients  Miambiente, PNUD CO | |
| 5. Purpose of mission  1. Assess implementation challenges of UNDP’s support to Honduras under the FCPF and REDD+ and propose corrective measures  2. Participate on the GCF LAC meeting supporting UNDP’s delegation on the 29th  3. Participate on the FCPF mid-term evaluation on the 30th  4. Assess the feasibility of support Honduras on a GCF proposal on forests, following upon H. Clark mission to Honduras earlier in the month | | | 6. Documents, materials, resources | |
| 7. Mission members   * Clea Paz and José Arturo Santos | | | 8. Costs | |
| 9. Brief summary of the mission  *9.a Findings*.  **Implementation challenges FCPF and UN-REDD projects and FCPF mid-term evaluation**   * Despite the progress achieved during the last mission to clarify linkages between REDD+ and the national development agenda, recent political changes in particular the issue of a Presidential Decree to create a new Climate Change Office mandated to oversee all climate change projects and be in charge of fundraising for climate change efforts, have seriously affected the institutional setting in the country, and present a risk for implementation of both REDD+ projects. * In addition, there has been turn out of several positions in the office of climate projects in the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE) as well as UNDP CO have weakened project implementation. * There is a 6 month delay on the administrative process to contract a consultancy company to carry out the National REDD+ Strategy, the largest and most important outcome of the FCPF project. This is a major source of concern at the Ministry, and has exposed UNDP’s reputation with national counterparts. * The other project’s components (REL, participatory process, and safeguards) have progressed substantively and are on track, highlighting that Honduras plans to submit its reference level to the convention this month. * The mid-term evaluation of the FCPF was carried out with the support of a consultant. This included an internal workshop (28th) to assess progress versus the R-package assessment indicators, followed by a workshop with stake-holders (30th) to provide feedback and review the self-evaluation. Overall the self-evaluation was positive, stakeholders expressed their appreciation for the capacity building and outreach efforts, and have ownership of the process. There was general concern, especially by indigenous peoples (CONPAH) on the impacts of the Presidential Decree. * In meetings with the project coordinator, several steps were agreed upon to address implementation and political challenges, these include: 1) increasing the capacity of the PMU and UNDP office by hiring supporting staff (P2 level, technical liaison and NRS advisor) 2) continuous support from the regional center (next mission in January), to follow up on the NRS, and monitoring of the UNDP supported outputs. 3) Implementation of the mid-term evaluation report recommendations 4) immediate solution to the contract for the national REDD+ strategy 5) improve communication flow between the PMU, UNDP CO and the regional advisors.   **GCF regional LAC meeting**   * I participated in the meeting only on the 29th of November, at the request of the regional focal point for GCF UNDP LAC who could not attend the meeting as he was on a management meeting in NY. * All GCF implementing entities except UNDP were included in the agenda, with presentations on their portfolios and services, as well as lessons learned from approved projects. When I asked, the GCF regional focal point (Carmen Arguello) informed me she met with UNDP delegation in Marrakech, and they did not expressed interest to present. At the regional level we were informed by the colleagues that were in Marrakech that we were not expected to present anything in Honduras. * Ecuador participated on the meeting and delivered an excellent presentation highlighting UNDP’s support as implementing entity. The other presentations made no references to UNDP, while UNEP was mentioned in several occasions by countries and by agencies as leading the work on adaptation and NAPs. * I could hold bilateral meetings with Paraguay, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Honduras, as well as provide a brief to our Deputy Resident Coordinator and engage the PO to key meetings with Honduras. I started the meetings explaining the overall UNDP’s role in GCF (both mitigation and adaptation), and our current related portfolio and comparative advantages. The adaptation team had planned bilateral meetings with countries that had expressed support for adaptation proposals. * Overall the workshop was a missed opportunity to position UNDP as an experienced implementing agency, and our capacity to deliver on REDD+ in particular.   **Feasibility to the develop a GCF proposal for Honduras**   * Following upon H. Clark visit to the country and her discussions with Honduras President regarding the GCF, UNDP CO considers a top priority to develop a GCF proposal similar to the one in Ecuador. * Honduras is considering multiple GCF proposals and there are several of agencies that have approached the Ministry of Environment and Energy (NDA). The Ministry expressed they will consider all potential concept notes and implementing entities, but is not in a position to provide endorsement letters. * There seems to be little understanding of the complexities associated to the preparation of a GCF proposal, the different windows and accreditation modalities, and how to structure a GCF portfolio making best use of the entities’ comparative advantages, and country needs for support. * We (DRR, PO, and myself) held a meeting with the Minister of Coordination for the Presidency (who is the second in command in the country), Vice Minister of Finance, and Minister of Environment, to follow-up on Helen Clark’s visit to the country in which a potential REDD+ proposal (making references to Ecuador) was discussed. We explained UNDP’s role as GCF implementing agency, and presented briefly Ecuador´s project. The Meeting of the President and VM of finance made references to a proposal in progress developed with IDB, to top up a 25M USD loan, but expressed interest on complementing it with other proposals. The Minister of Environment was apparently not been involved in the discussions with IDB, but expressed that there are a number of efforts and baseline information developed in the Ministry that needed to be taken in account. They agreed to confirm their interest in the coming days and suggested a meeting with IDB to explore collaboration. * For a potential proposal to move ahead, it would be critical to clarify the complementarity among all partners supporting Honduras, and have full support of the three national counterparts involved MAE, Vice-minister of Finance, and Ministry of Coordination. In addition, the capacities of the CO would need to be strengthen.   *9.b Results achieved (key outputs)*   * Agreements to correct implementation challenges reached with the CO, PMU and Minister * Successful completion of the mid-term review for the FCPF, which if approved by the FCPF will permit accessing additional 5M for completing the readiness process * Clarity on a the path for a potential GCF proposal   *9.c Expected outcomes and impacts*   * As a result of this mission, UNDP’s CO and the Ministry of Environment and Energy are better equipped to complete implementation of the RERDD+ project and access additional finance. | | | | |
| 10. Key counterparts   * Minister of Environment and Energy, REDD+ and GEF LAC teams, UNDP CO | | | | |
| 11. Follow up action matrix | | | | |
| Action to be taken | By whom | | | Expected completion date |
| 1. **Strengthening of UNDP CO**     1. Revise ToRs for the P2 post in UNDP CO    2. Provide names for potential candidates    3. Put out the vacancy announcement | Clea  Nelson  Dennis | | | 1. Done 2. Tuesday Dec 6 3. Before year closure |
| 1. **National REDD Strategy**    1. Meet with regional center to discuss next steps to expedite the finalization of the contract before the end of December    2. Hire advisor for the Ministry either by extending the MTR contract or new contract | Clea & Dennis  Clea, Dennis, Alfonso | | | 1. Done 2. Dec 9 |
| 1. **Oficina de proyectos**     1. Revise the organigram to optimize roles and functions | Clea, Nelson | | | Done |
| 1. **Participation**    1. Find a solution for the contract with IUCN (including taking it to the Project Board)    2. Complete the document for participation plan | Nelson and Dennis  Arturo, Marcello | | | a. Before the Project Board  b. January 30 |
| 1. **Potential GCF proposal** 2. Confirm UNDP CO’s position regarding: Collaboration with IDB and proposed next steps for a GCF proposal 3. Start developing a concept note for the mitigation/REDD+ window provided that the government sends an official letter requesting support 4. Coordinate with IDB regional person on possible collaboration | Consuelo and Alissar  Clea and a consultant  Clea | | | 1. Dec 9 2. January 30 3. January 30 |
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| 12. Distribution list   * UNDP CO, UNDP-REDD team, Matilde Mordt, Lyes Ferroukhi, Alfonso Fernández, Carla Zacapa | | | | |