# UN-REDD National Joint Programmes: Progress Report May 2009

## Strengthening NJP Management Arrangements

In response to concerns about the way UN-REDD National Joint Programmes (NJPs) are to be implemented, the UN-REDD Agencies have agreed a number of principles for the management and distribution of funds (see separate note on Management Arrangements and Fund Distribution). These principles represent significant strides in UN Agency coordination, extending the principles of the UN Development Group. They are designed to reiterate that:

1. NJPs will be led and owned by the REDD countries
2. NJPs represent contributions to REDD countries’ Readiness planning processes
3. NJPs will be delivered as ‘joint programmes’ with one set of workplans, budgets and reporting requirements.

## Harmonization of NJPs with the FCPF’s R-Plan Format

Immediately after the Panama meetings in March, a UN-REDD team met with the FCPF team on 18 March to clarify the relationship between the NJP and R-Plan. This useful exercise established that while elements of the NJP correspond to the R-Plan, the NJP also plays the role of several other World Bank/FCPF documents – the Participants Agreement, the R-Plan Assessment Memorandum and the Grant Agreement. In this regard, the NJP document represents a consolidation of functions with associated savings in transaction costs.

It was agreed at the meeting the FCPF team would undertake a rapid review of the current R-Plan template and guidance to assess whether changes (to reflect harmonization with the NJP) could be presented to the Participants Committee meeting in June. This was to be completed by 27 March, however the UN-REDD team did not receive FCPF’s deliverable until 3 May. In the interim, the UN-REDD Programme has revised its NJP guidance and annotated template to include cross-references to R-Plan components. UN-REDD also aims to establish common Readiness components that may be applied either through the R-Plan or the NJP.

The UN-REDD Programme is committed to the NJP supporting national Readiness processes. Whether a country has decided to adopt the R-Plan as its national Readiness planning document or not, the NJP represents an input to the national process. An outcome of any national Readiness planning process should be the development of a National REDD Strategy. The NJP shall contribute to the production of a National REDD Strategy.

## Progress on NJPs presented at Panama Meeting

### Viet Nam

* Annual workplans for each UN Agency completed
* Responses to comments incorporated into revised NJP document
* UN-REDD mission to Hanoi in April to finalise workplans and discuss implementation arrangements with lead national implementing partner
* FCPF invited to participate in the mission. Ongoing discussions with World Bank on whether FCPF assistance will be forthcoming for Viet Nam and how best to coordinate with UN-REDD
* Final draft NJP document progressing through the Govt. of Viet Nam approval process
* Second UN-REDD mission to Hanoi taking place 12 May to finalise arrangements for a Common Financial Interface (CFI) modality

### Indonesia

* Annual workplans for each UN Agency drafted
* Discussions with IPs network concerning further consultative process
* UN-REDD mission to Jakarta 20-24 April. The mission was timed to coincide with FCPF mission to support the finalization of R-Plan. Mission was also coordinated with Australia’s initiative. UN-REDD team emphasized: (i) the national ownership of the NJP and the fund distribution modality; (ii) the responsiveness of the NJP to the national Readiness process; (iii) the opportunity to coordinate with the R-Plan; and (iv) the hope for joint steering committee and implementation arrangements with the FCPF. Unfortunately, Indonesia was not ready to share its draft R-Plan at that time.
* Follow-up communication with the Ministry of Forestry confirming the next steps for finalization of the NJP. It is hoped this will be finalized before the next Policy Board meeting

### PNG

* UN-REDD mission to finalise the Initial NJP scheduled 20-23 May. The mission is being coordinated with Australia.

### DRC

* Joint UN-REDD/FCPF mission scheduled for 18-22 May. All stakeholders who participated in the formulation mission have been informed
* UNDP has initiated a process to capture the lessons pertaining to participation from the scoping and formulation missions and prepare several short knowledge products

### Tanzania

* UN-REDD mission to finalise the NJP implementation arrangements was scheduled for the first week of May, but had to be rescheduled due to the unavailability of the national REDD focal point. New dates being discussed with the focal point

## Progress on NJPs not yet presented

### Panama

* Discussions on the technical detail of the draft NJP took place with ANAM immediately after the Panama meeting. Clarification reached on the proposed UN-REDD MRV interventions
* Follow-up discussions with FCPF on coordination with R-Plan took place in May
* Awaiting post-election arrangements to determine whether Panama would like to present NJP at the June Policy Board meeting.

### Paraguay

* UN-REDD formulation mission was undertaken 13-17 April
* First draft NJP has just been completed
* Paraguay intends to submit its NJP for consideration at the 2nd Policy Board meeting in June 2009

### Zambia

* UN-REDD scoping mission was undertaken 4-8 May
* Zambia currently considering how best to proceed, but unlikely to have NJP ready for submission at the June Policy Board meeting
* Zambia will present its progress at the June Policy Board meeting

### Bolivia

* After not being represented at the 1st Policy Board meeting, the Government of Bolivia reconfirmed its commitment to the UN-REDD Programme in a letter from the Vice Minister dated 22 April
* UN-REDD scoping mission proposed for 8-12 June
* Bolivia will present its progress at the June Policy Board meeting