

First Policy Board Meeting Report

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

9 - 10 March 2009, Panama



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Please note that all of the documents referred to in this report will be hyper-linked to the public website, as soon as this report is approved.

Introduction

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries (UN-REDD Programme) held its first Policy Board meeting from 9th to 10th March 2009 at the Gamboa Hotel in Panama. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP. On the second day of the meeting, the Policy Board elected a Co-chair (Mr. Eduardo Reyes, Panama).

The Policy Board meeting was attended by 50 participants (see [List of Participants](#)), including representatives from the pilot countries, the Government of Norway, Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and the three participating UN agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP).

The key objectives of this first Policy Board meeting were to provide a comprehensive overview of the UN-REDD Programme and to make decisions on key administrative arrangements, on national joint programme submissions and priority areas (see [Agenda](#)). In that regard participants specifically discussed and formulated recommendations around the following aspects:

1. UN-REDD Programme Overview and Strategic Direction
2. Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Policy Board
3. National Joint Programmes (NJPs)
4. Global Joint Programme (International Support Functions)
5. Terms of Reference for Civil Society Advisory Group and Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities
6. Measurement, Assessment, Reporting and Verification (MARV)

1. Session I: Opening of Policy Board Meeting

The Policy Board meeting was opened by the Chair (Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP) and H.E. Ligia Castro (Minister of Environment, Government of Panama) who noted both the long way the discussion on the role of forests for Climate Change has come and the need for pilot actions. Remarks by the Government of Norway, underlined the importance of coordination and quick action on REDD to solve the climate crisis. The three UN agencies each emphasized their highest support to the UN-REDD Programme and to REDD as a climate change priority.

2. Session II: UN-REDD Programme Overview and Strategic Direction

2.1. Objective

The objective of the session was to provide an overview of the UN-REDD Programme and recent activities, as well as to discuss possible future directions.

2.2. Highlights

The UN-REDD Programme was presented by Mario Boccucci (Senior Programme Officer, Forest and Climate Change, UNEP) (see [Strategic Overview Presentation](#) and [Strategic Overview](#)). The Multi-Donor Trust Fund was presented by Bisrat Aklilu (Executive Coordinator, Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office, Bureau of Management, UNDP) (see [MDTF Funding framework presentation](#) and [MDTF Funding Framework document](#)). The discussion following the presentations highlighted the benefits of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund and of the collaboration of the three UN agencies in supporting countries in building capacity for REDD. Concerns were raised by Policy Board members regarding access to funds and how to ensure the involvement of civil society and that funds reach down to the local level.

2.3. Conclusion and decisions

The Policy Board initiated a discussion on priorities, future directions and requested the Secretariat to develop a discussion paper for consideration at the next Policy Board meeting.

3. Session III: Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Policy Board

3.1. Objective

The objective of this session was to review and endorse the Terms of Reference (TORs) and the Rules of Procedures (ROP) of the Policy Board. In addition, Operational Guidance and ToRs for the Technical Secretariat were included for information.

3.2. Highlights

The TORs and the ROP of the Policy Board were presented by Tim Kasten (Deputy Director, Division for Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP) (See [Presentation TOR and ROP](#)). The presentation outlined the roles and proposed composition of the Policy Board and the Secretariat. The core principles for governance and decision making within the UN-REDD Programme were also outlined. Following discussion, the TORs (see [Policy Board TOR](#)) and the ROP (see [Policy Board ROP](#)) were amended to include broader country and civil society representation.

3.3. Conclusion and decisions

1. The Policy Board Terms of Reference, Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance were approved as attached (see annex 3 and 4).
2. Each region shall have one full member and two alternate members, up to a maximum total of 9 country representatives. The full members and alternate members shall be invited to participate in Policy Board meetings and inter-sessional decisions.
3. The Policy Board agreed on co-chairs for each Policy Board meetings - one participating country and one participating UN agency. The country co-chairs will be selected from the 3 full members and will rotate among the 3 regional groupings, starting with Latin America. Subsequently, the Policy Board elected Panama, represented by Mr. Eduardo Reyes, as Co-chair.

4. The countries selected as full members for their regional groupings: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, and Panama. Full members of each regional grouping shall rotate on the basis of alphabetical order.
5. Costs of participation in Policy Board meetings for the one full member per region and the two alternate countries per region will be covered by the UN-REDD Programme. The Board decided on a maximum of 9 country representatives, with 3 per region, even if the number of participating countries increases.
6. Civil society will be represented by one full member and three observers (ensuring a full member or observer from each of the three regions the UN-REDD Programme operates in: Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Latin American & the Caribbean – and also one civil society representative from a northern country). The Civil Society observer from the north will participate at their own expense and is not covered by the UN-REDD Programme.
7. Indigenous peoples will be represented by the chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNFPII) and supported by three observers (one from each region).
8. Civil society representatives will follow a self-selection process to be facilitated by the Secretariat to identify the full member and the three observers.
9. Decisions shall be made by the consensus of full and alternate Policy Board members. In their participation, the Policy Board members will be guided solely by the interest of the overall UN-REDD Programme.
10. The Policy Board requested the Secretariat to revise the budget for the Global Joint Programme to reflect the additional budget for the Secretariat and the expanded participation in the Policy Board meetings.
11. The Policy Board requested the Secretariat to establish a Technical Advisory Group and to prepare the Terms of Reference and present them to the next Policy Board meeting.
12. The Policy Board stressed the importance of ensuring the UN-REDD Programme is complementary to Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and other initiatives. This shall be reflected in future work of the UN-REDD Programme.
13. The Policy Board recommended that dates and venues for up-coming Policy Board meetings are to be determined in consultation with Policy Board members and coordinated with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

4. Session IV: Approval of National Joint Programmes (NJPs)

4.1. Objective

The objective of this session was to review and approve budget allocations for the NJPs submitted to the Policy Board.

4.2. Highlights

An overview of the submitted proposals and the approval process for NJPs was presented by Tim Clairs (Senior Technical Advisor (REDD), UNDP) followed by country programme presentations by the country representative. The NJPs for Tanzania, Viet Nam, Indonesia, DRC and Papua New Guinea (PNG) were approved by the Policy Board. The status of the remaining pilot country NJPs was also presented (see [Paraguay](#) and [Zambia](#)) and the Policy Board encouraged the countries and the UN-REDD Programme to expeditiously finalize these for submission to the next Policy Board meeting.

4.3. Conclusion and decisions

4.3.1. Tanzania (see [Tanzania](#))

The following budget allocation was approved:

	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
Sub-Total	1,400,000	2,400,000	200,000	4,000,000
Indirect Costs	98,000	168,000	14,000	280,000
Total	1,498,000	2,568,000	214,000	4,280,000

- The Co-chairs signed the [Submission Form](#).
- The Secretariat will provide written comments to the proponent to be taken into consideration in finalizing the NJP document, as reflected in the Submission Form.

4.3.2. Viet Nam (see [Vietnam](#))

The following budget allocation was approved:

	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
Sub-Total	1,580,200	2,337,503	180,200	4,097,903
Indirect Costs	110,614	163,625	12,614	286,853
Total	1,690,814	2,501,128	192,814	4,384,756

- The Co-chairs signed the [Submission Form](#).
- The Secretariat will provide written comments to the proponent to be taken into consideration in finalizing the NJP document.

4.3.3. Indonesia (see [Indonesia](#))

The following budget allocation was approved:

	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
Sub-Total	1,400,000	2,800,000	1,075,000	5,275,000
Indirect Costs	98,000	196,000	75,250	369,250
Total	1,498,000	2,996,000	1,150,250	5,644,250

- The Co-chairs signed the [Submission Form](#).
- The Policy Board endorsed the Secretariat's recommendation, as set out in the Submission Form, that stakeholder consultations be undertaken prior to the signature of the NJP document.
- Funds from the Global Programme may be made available for this process.
- The Secretariat is requested to ensure the conclusions of the process are validated and reflected in the signed NJP document.

- Should there be a change in the overall budget allocation, or aggregate allocations to the Participating UN Organizations, the revised NJP must be re-approved by the Policy Board.

4.3.4. Democratic Republic of Congo (see [Democratic Republic of Congo](#))

The following budget allocation was approved for the initial NJP:

	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
Sub-Total	545,000	865,000	350,000	1,760,000
Indirect Costs	38,150	60,550	24,500	123,200
Total	583,150	925,550	374,500	1,883,200

- The Co-chairs signed the [Submission Form](#).
- Reference to the GEF Tropical Forest Account regional REDD project will be included in the final NJP document.
- The Secretariat will provide written comments to the proponent to be taken into consideration in finalizing the NJP document.

4.3.5. Papua New Guinea (see [Papua New Guinea](#))

The following budget allocation was approved for the initial NJP:

	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	Total
Sub-Total	950,000	1,465,920	-	2,415,920
Indirect Costs	66,500	102,614	-	169,114
Total	1,016,500	1,568,534	-	2,585,034

- The Co-chairs signed the [Submission Form](#).
- The Policy Board endorsed the note on p.2 of the draft NJP document that further consultation be undertaken before the NJP document is signed.
- PNG informed the Policy Board that the NJP will be subject to formal consultation with its development partners (through the arrangements set out in Annex 1 of the draft NJP) before it will be signed.
- Should there be a change in the overall budget allocation, or aggregate allocations to the Participating UN Organizations, the revised initial NJP must be re-approved by the Policy Board.

4.4. Overall Issues

1. Future NJP Submission Forms shall provide specific information on the proportion of the NJP interventions supporting in-country capacity development.
2. Detailed work plan budgets will be made available for any interested Policy Board members.
3. The Secretariat will provide an analysis of Readiness costs among approved NJPs.

5. Session V: International Support Functions

5.1. Objective

The Policy Board was requested to confirm the Global Joint Programme (GJP) for the International Support Functions and to confirm the interim budget approval arrangements.

5.2. Highlights

Tiina Vahanen (Senior Officer, UN-REDD Secretariat, FAO), presented an overview of the GJP and explained the budget approval arrangement made to facilitate the start of the UN-REDD Programme (see [Presentation GJP](#)). The discussion that followed clarified implementation roles and relationships with country programmes, UNFCCC and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

5.3. Conclusion and decisions

1. The Policy Board confirmed that the GJP is consistent with the framework document and thereby confirmed the budget agreement.
2. The following budget allocations were affirmed: FAO US\$2,192,926, UNDP US\$1,890,851, UNEP US\$2,854,814, amounting to a total of US\$6,938,591 (as per the Global Joint Programme Document).
3. The Board directed that future budget revisions shall be brought to the Policy Board.
4. It also recommended that the next budget revision incorporates the change of title of outcome four to read “Knowledge management, out-reach and communication”
5. The Policy Board requested the Secretariat to prepare a work plan for the GJP and present it to the next Board meeting.

6. Session VI: Terms of Reference for Civil Society Advisory Group and Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities

6.1. Objective

The objective of this session was to review and endorse the [Terms of Reference for the Independent Civil Society Advisory Group](#) and to review and invite comments on the [Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities](#).

6.2. Highlights

The Terms of Reference for the Civil Society Advisory Group and the Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities were presented by Charles McNeill (Senior Policy Advisor, UNDP) and Andy White (Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative) provided additional information on the Civil Society Advisory Group (see [Presentation TOR CSOG](#) and [Presentation IP](#)). The members of the Policy Board recognized the importance of the issues and welcomed the initiative for a Civil Society Advisory Group and the Operational Guidance.

6.3. Conclusion and decisions

1. The Policy Board endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Independent Civil Society Advisory Group, and asked for a plan to ensure the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples from developing countries.

2. The Policy Board acknowledged the Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities and requested the continued consultation with Indigenous Peoples and other members of civil society, as well as the presentation of progress at Policy Board meetings. The Policy Board recognized the importance of sharing experiences in stakeholder engagement issues among UN-REDD pilot countries and requested that country experiences are shared in future Policy Board meetings.

7. Session VII: Measurement, Assessment, Reporting and Verification (MARV)

7.1. Objective

To review the issues and options for MARV for REDD and provide guidance to the UN-REDD Programme.

7.2. Highlights

A MARV discussion paper was presented by Peter Holmgren (Director, Environment Climate Change and Bioenergy Division, FAO) (see [Presentation MARV](#) and [Document](#)) and the Policy Board welcomed the important topic and requested further elaboration of a MARV document which will be presented to the next Policy Board meeting.

7.3. Conclusion and decisions

1. The Policy Board emphasized the importance of the MARV work and agreed that the issue will be on the agenda of the next Policy Board meeting.
2. The Policy Board members stressed the need for capacity building, institution strengthening, and cost effectiveness.
3. The Policy Board requested further development of the presented discussion paper.

8. Conclusions & Closing remarks

The Co-chair Angela Cropper highlighted the key conclusions of the meeting and recognized the importance for the UN-REDD Programme to collaborate with the FCPF. Furthermore, the date and location for the next Policy Board meeting was raised and proposed to be held the week following the SBSTA in Montreux, Switzerland.

Angela Cropper concluded that the meeting had succeeded in achieving the objectives set out for the first Policy Board meeting and congratulated all participants for their contributions. The meeting was then officially closed.