

Final evaluation Viet Nam UN-REDD National Programme-phase 1

UN-REDD Programme Tenth Policy Board Meeting

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Background: Forests in Viet Nam

- 40% forest cover and increasing
- Some regions still have high rates of deforestation
- Significant degradation of natural forests
- Underlying drivers of D&FD: fast economic growth driven by export commodities □ multi-sector issue
- Little is known about the opportunity costs of different forest resource use practices



Background: the UN-REDD Viet Nam NP

- Viet Nam is one of the first 9 UN-REDD pilot countries
- **US\$4.4 million**
- **Oct 2009 – Mar 2011 – Jun 2012 – Oct 2012**
- **Overall objective:** to assist the GoVN in developing an effective national REDD+ regime and to contribute to reduction of regional displacement of emissions
- **3 outcomes:** national coordination; REDD mngmnt and other PES at district level; and knowledge about approaches to reduce regional displacement of emissions
- **MARD Forestry Department – Vietnam REDD+ Office**

Evaluation objectives and approach

- 3 UN agencies' policies & procedures require a final evaluation → joint ToRs developed with evaluation depts.
- **Objectives:**
 1. to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements
 2. to promote learning, feedback and knowledge sharing
- **Criteria:** relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact
- **Methods:** review of literature, stakeholder interviews, field visits

Evaluation Process

- Oct '12: **TORs prepared and 2 independent evaluators contracted:** Howard Steward & Stephen Swan
- Nov – Dec '12: **Evaluation conducted**
- Dec '12: **Preliminary findings** presented in Viet Nam
- Feb - Mar '13: **Draft Report** submitted → shared w/ GoVN, UN Agencies & stakeholders for comments
- Apr – May '13: **Final Report + Management Response**



Evaluation Findings: Relevance

- Viet Nam perceived as low-risk opportunity to pioneer REDD+
- Consistent with Viet Nam's international and national policy priorities
- Lam Dong adequate as pilot province



Evaluation findings: Design



- Context of many uncertainties re: what REDD+ readiness meant
- Over-ambitious and optimistic
- Hasty design: limited stakeholder participation, superficial policy analysis and no clear roadmap towards REDD+ readiness
- Supply-driven
- Limited flexibility for re-designing



Evaluation Findings - Effectiveness

- Improved institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD activities in Viet Nam:
 - robust national coordination mechanism
 - VN REDD+ Office exercises greater leadership over time
 - Capacity development was invested in too few people
- Improved capacity to manage REDD at provincial and district levels: increased ‘capacities to understand’ more than ‘capacities to implement’
- Many lessons learned, but could have been communicated better



Evaluation Findings - Sustainability

- Viet Nam continues to show strong commitment to REDD+, forest protection and climate change mitigation
- Viet Nam has secured significant funding for further support of the REDD+ process but persistent uncertainties surrounding negotiation of LT financing for results-based action under REDD+.
- Prime Minister-approved National REDD+ Action Programme and national coordination mechanisms = sound foundation for others to build upon but HR limitations in government institutions
- At local levels, it is benefits, not raised awareness, that will enhance commitment to sustained improvement in forest protection.

Evaluation Findings: Implementation



- Challenges in inter-agency coordination → ≠ *modus operandi*, organizational cultures and visions of UN-REDD → needs further resolution
- PMU assured day-to-day management of the programme but difficult to engage/coordinate with activities of REDD+ dev. partners & service providers
- Initial confusion between UN-REDD NP and National REDD+ Programme



Recommendations

1. Adopt more “demand driven” programme implementation & relationship of service provider and client between the UN-REDD programme and diverse national stakeholders
2. Adopt a single, available and knowledgeable focal point for the 3 UN organizations that can regularly speak with one voice to gov. counterparts and other stakeholders
3. Support development of national capacity for engaging and coordinating a broad, multi-sectoral community of REDD+ participants.



Recommendations (cont'd)

4. Acknowledge the risks inherent to piloting REDD+ activities & establish the mechanisms to mitigate and manage them
5. Address regional 'leakage' issues through a discrete regional initiative that complements NPs and other initiatives
6. Define the rationale and scope for specific national REDD+ activities, based on identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation & policies and measures to address them.
7. Carry out systematic analysis of the national context.



Recommendations (cont'd)

8. Dev. robust and comprehensive theories of change & associated results chains for each desired outcome of the national UN-REDD programme.
9. Ensure programme comm. activities and management arrangements maintain distinction btw the National REDD+ Programme & temporary financial and technical UN-REDD assistance.
10. Apply mandatory requirements of UN Programmes (FPIC) only after extensive consultation with diverse national and sub-national stakeholders adapting mandatory requirements to local circumstances.



Broader questions raised by the UN-REDD Viet Nam NP evaluation

1. REDD+ readiness roadmap
2. Pilot interventions: Selection criteria for pilot areas; replicability
3. Raising expectations at grass-roots level
4. Lessons learned
5. Stakeholder involvement: highest level down to grass-roots – multi-sector including private sector
6. Needs-based capacity building



Broader questions raised by the UN-REDD Viet Nam NP evaluation

7. Realism of design
8. Programme coordination
9. Design process
10. Capacity of government partners
11. Mid-term Review



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Thank You

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