

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR REDD+ IN VIETNAM

In Vietnam, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) takes the lead in overall management of climate change programs. It is also the focal agency of the UNFCCC and CBD. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is responsible for government administration in agriculture, forestry, fishery, irrigation, salt production and rural development. The Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) is one of key agencies of the MARD and is in charge of the overall development of the Forestry Sector. The VNFOREST consists of Forest Protection Department (FPD), Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI), 8 functional Departments and six inter-provincial National Parks¹.

The National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (NTP-RCC) is approved by the Prime Minister in December 2008, in which REDD is one of important component. The National Steering Committee for the NTP-RCC implementation consists of representatives from line ministries and is chaired by Prime Minister. Under the NTP-RCC structure, VNFOREST/ MARD is responsible for all climate change activities in forestry sector, including REDD+. In January 2011, the Vietnam REDD+ Steering Committee is established under authorization of the Prime Minister chaired by Minister of MARD to coordinate all efforts and activities among government agencies at central and local levels, private organizations, NGOs, CSOs and international development partners in the REDD+ implementation². The newly formed REDD+ Steering Committee includes representatives from

- The Office of the Government
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)
- Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)
- Ministry of Finance (MOF)
- Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
- National Ethnic Committee (CEMA)

Therefore ensuring the engagement of other Ministries relating to sectors which may be negatively impacted by REDD. The REDD+ Steering Committee does not duplicate the tasks of but it is designed to assist the National Steering Committee on NTP-RCC and the Minister of

¹ More information on the organizational structure and activities of the VNFOREST could be found from the website <http://www.tongcuclamnghep.gov.vn/>

² Vietnam is different from other countries as the Office of the Prime Minister and National Assembly do not chair any sectoral network. Each Ministry is responsible for establishment and management of relevant networks under the government administrative areas of that ministry. A National Steering Committee is already established in December 2008 and chaired by Prime Minister to facilitate the implementation of the NTP-RCC, in which REDD+ one component. Therefore, the Prime Minister has agreed to establish a National REDD+ Steering Committee chaired by Minister of MARD in order to avoid duplication and confusion. The REDD+ Steering Committee is responsible for assisting the National Steering Committee for the NTP-RCC and MARD's Minister on issues relating the REDD+ and forest carbon. any sectoral network. Each Ministry is responsible for establishment and management of relevant networks under the government administrative areas of that ministry. A National Steering Committee is already established in December 2008 and chaired by Prime Minister to facilitate the implementation of the NTP-RCC, in which REDD+ one component. Therefore, the Prime Minister has agreed to establish a National REDD+ Steering Committee chaired by Minister of MARD in order to avoid duplication and confusion. The REDD+ Steering Committee is responsible for assisting the National Steering Committee for the NTP-RCC and MARD's Minister on issues relating the REDD+ and forest carbon.

MARD in facilitating and coordinating the REDD+ implementation among the ministries and within the agricultural and rural development sector in Vietnam. Furthermore, the Prime Minister has requested MONRE to work with MARD and other line Ministries to develop a submit a proposal on establishment of a joint working group on development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA), on establishment of robust and transparent monitoring, reporting and verification system (MRV) to meet international requirements and national circumstances as well as integrating these activities in the socio-economic development plans.

The Vietnam REDD+ Office is also formed in January 2011 to serve as the standing office for the Vietnam REDD+ Steering Committee and is placed at the VNFOREST³. A website of the REDD+ in Vietnam is launched under support of the UN-REDD Program, which is aimed to provide basic knowledge on REDD+, share information in both Vietnamese and English on the policies and REDD+ implementation on Vietnam (<http://www.vietnam-redd.org>). Furthermore, at the proposal of the VNFOREST upon official letter No. 637/LN-TTr-QLR Decision No. 2614/QĐ-BNN- LN, dated 16/09/2009, the National Network and Working Group for REDD was established. At the first REDD Network meeting it was agreed that the REDD Network is chaired by the Vice Minister of the MARD and co-chaired by an international development partner on a rotation basis - with the Norwegian Embassy taking the role for the first cycle of two years.

The National REDD Network

The National REDD Network has the overall coordination function and is to support the development of REDD+ readiness in the context of efforts by the Government of Vietnam to address Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, as reflected in the National Target Programme on Climate Change Response for the period 2009-2015 (NTP-CCR). Decisions made by the National REDD Network will be presented to the National REDD+ Steering Committee. The tasks of the National REDD Network in Vietnam include:

- Prepare an action plan, including a road map, for the design and implementation of all elements of an effective national REDD+ system for Vietnam;
- Establish milestones and deadlines for delivery of each component of the action plan;
- Share experience and lesson learnt among stakeholders in the REDD+ implementation; Undertake regular reviews and assessment of the status of implementation of the action plan, and design and implement measures to address any shortcomings in implementation;
- Ensure that all activities in support of the development and implementation of REDD+ measures in Vietnam full under, and are consistent with the action plan.

Membership of the National REDD Network is open-ended for any group at all levels. The interested stakeholder which wants to participate in the Network, only needs to send a letter with contact address to the Network Secretariat, it will be added in the list.

Current members of REDD network include:

- Representatives of MARD Departments, including
 - Vietnam Administration of Forestry
 - International Cooperation Department (ICD)

³ For more information on the Vietnam REDD+ Office and related-REDD+ projects in Vietnam, please visit website <http://www.vietnam-redd.org/>

- Planning Department, Finance Department
- Department of Science, Legislation Department
- Coordination Office of the Forest Sector Support Partnership (FSSP)
- Forest Science Institute (FSIV)
- Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI)
- The International Support Group for Environment (ISGE)
- Department of Meteorology and Climate Change of MONRE
- Department of Agro-economics of MPI
- Office of Government

International Development Partners are also encouraged to participate on voluntary basis. MARD has organized various consultation and public awareness workshops to promote the participation of private sector and NGOs in the REDD+ activities.

- JICA
- GIZ
- ADB
- WB
- Norwegian Embassy
- Finnish Embassy
- SNV
- FFI
- WWF
- CARE international
- ICRAF
- RCFEE

And numerous NGOs are member of the Network. In addition, research institutions, such as Forestry Universities are also participated.

Technical Working Group and Sub-Technical Working Group

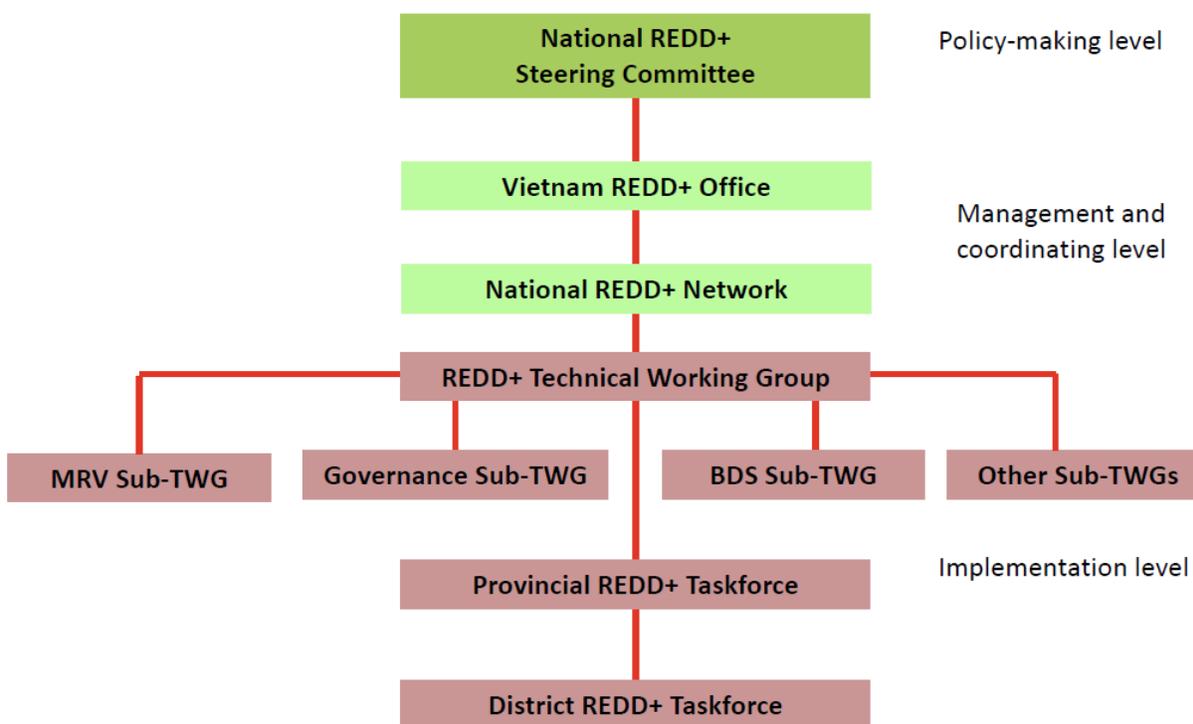
The Technical Working Group (TWG) and Sub-Technical Working Group (STWG) on REDD+ assists operations of the National REDD Network on technical and administrative aspects. This TWG is currently chaired by a VNFOREST Leader with the REDD National Focal Point as the Deputy Head of the TWG. It has the following functions:

- Develop and update the donor mapping for REDD+ development and implementation in Vietnam;
- Identify a pilot scheme of REDD+ application in Vietnam in cooperation with respective stakeholders;
- Review the current and planned programs of international development partners related to the action plan;
- Prepare annual reports on the implementation of the action plan;
- Prepare national report of Vietnam for COP 15 and other related international conventions.
- Perform administrative work, financial management which are allocated to the National REDD Network and TWG to ensure their continuous operation and functioning;
- Organize National REDD Network meetings.

As the same as the National REDD Network, the membership of the TWG & STWGs is open-ended.

There are six STWGs operating as of Apr 2012: (i) REDD+ Governance; (ii) Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV); (iii) REDD+ Financing and Benefit Distribution; (iv) Local Implementation of REDD+; (v) Private Sector Engagement; and (vi) Safeguards. STWGs meet more regularly, about every two months.

Figure: Institutional arrangement for the REDD+ implementation in Vietnam



Local Civil Society Organizations and Communities

The success of the REDD+ Initiatives in Vietnam is dependent upon the degree of participation and capabilities of local organizations and communities. Importance of these stakeholders in forest protection and development is well recognized in the laws and government policies. In addition to great contribution of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme, various NGOs have provided valuable support for promoting local stakeholders in the REDD+ activities. For example, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) – a small but very active local NGO, is implementing the “Capacity building on climate change for civil society organizations project” funded by Finland, which is aimed to raise awareness and build capacity of civil society focusing on NGOs and their partners, to effectively respond to and integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into relevant existing and future programs to contribute to long term sustainable development of the country and Vietnamese people. The Centre of Research and Development in Upland Areas (CERDA) is carrying out a pilot project on capacity building for ethnic community minority’s readiness for REDD program to ensure effective participation of ethnic communities in the REDD processes funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). In addition, SNV – Dutch NGO, is performing the “Cat Tien Landscape

Pro-Poor Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) Project” in districts of Cat Tien and Bao Lam of Lam Dong province to support local institutions to establish a properly functioning and equitable forest carbon monitoring facility that is able to compensate local villagers to an extent that will reduce degradation and deforestation in the landscape. Furthermore, CERDA, ICRAF and JICA are now implementing the community-based REDD projects in two northern provinces (Bac Kan and Dien Bien). RECOFTC has supported government to carry out grassroots awareness raising for local communities in Bac Kan, Lam Dong and Ca Mau provinces collaboration with ICRAF, UN-REDD Program, SNV and several partners.

