



Semi-Annual Report - Viet Nam Programme

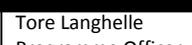
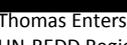
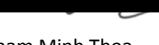
31 July 2011

1. National Programme Status

1.1 National Programme Identification

<p>Date of submission:</p> <p>Submitted by: Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen Programme Manager UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam</p>	<p>Country: Viet Nam</p> <p>Title of programme: The UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme</p>
<p>Implementing partners¹: The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST)</p>	<p>Reporting period: 1 January– 30 June 2011</p> <p>Programme duration: Aug 2009-Dec 2011²</p> <p>Official starting date³: 15 October 2009</p>

Financial summary	
Budget	
<p>Total approved National Programme budget⁴ <i>(This information is available on the MDTF Office GATEWAY www.mdtf.undp.org)</i></p>	<p>FAO: US\$ 1,690,814 UNDP: US\$ 2,501,128 UNEP: US\$ 192,814 Total: US\$ 4,384,756</p>
<p>Total amount transferred to date <i>(This information is available on the MDTF Office GATEWAY www.mdtf.undp.org)</i></p>	<p>FAO: US\$ 1,690,814 UNDP: US\$ 2,501,128 UNEP: US\$ 192,814 Total: US\$ 4,384,756</p>
Expenditure	
<p>Commitment to date <i>(Amount for which legally binding contracts have been signed, including multi-year commitments which may be disbursed in future years)</i></p>	<p>FAO: US\$ 71,159 UNDP: US\$ 115,275 UNEP: US\$ 19,920 Total: US\$ 206,354</p>
<p>Disbursement to date <i>(Amount paid to a vendor or entity for goods received, work completed, and/or services rendered (does not include un-liquidated obligations))</i></p>	<p>FAO: US\$ 383,137 UNDP: US\$ 1,918,256 UNEP: US\$ 155,736 Total: US\$ 2,457,129</p>

Electronic signatures by the designated UN organization focal points ⁵			Electronic signature by the Government Counterpart
FAO	UNDP	UNEP	
 Yuriko Shoji FAO Representative, Vietnam	 Tore Langhelle Programme Officer, UNDP Vietnam	 Thomas Enters UN-REDD Regional Coordinator UNEP, ROAP	 Pham Minh Thoa National Project Director

¹ Please list all the partners working on implementing the National Programme

² The programme has been extended with 9 months until December 2011.

³ Date of transfer of funds from MDTF Office to the three agencies

⁴ Total budget for entire duration of the Programme, as specified in the signed National Programme Document

⁵ Each UN organisation is to nominate one or more focal points to sign the report. Please refer to the *UN-REDD Programme Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Framework* document for further guidance

1.2 Monitoring Framework

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
Goal: By the end of 2012 Viet Nam is REDD-ready and able to contribute to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation nationally and regionally								
Objective: To assist the Government of Viet Nam in developing an effective REDD+ regime in Viet Nam and to contribute to reduction of regional displacement of emissions								
Outcome 1: Improved institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD activities in Viet Nam								
1.1. National coordination mechanism established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of system Government staff in MARD, MONRE and MPI coordinate REDD+ activities and negotiations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal for "interim working group" exists Limited knowledge in GoV on REDD+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of April 2009 the interim working group is operational By the end of 2010 all partners have endorsed a roadmap generated by the working group National REDD Network and Working Groups develop position papers for GoV on key issues of National REDD+ Program and UNFCCC and IPCC negotiations Staff in MPI, MARD and MONRE hold regular joint meetings to coordinate activities and develop joint negotiation positions 	<p>The National REDD Network has initially struggled to operate as expected, although recent developments have resulted in a better level of activity. Most of the supportive Technical and Sub-technical working groups (STWG) have functioned well in providing a vehicle for stakeholders to meet and discuss on REDD+ topics; and were among others consulted on items in the National REDD Programme. The establishment of a STWG on Benefit Distribution System gathered stakeholders from both local as well as national levels, and boosted the discussion on this matter which is of great importance to the future of REDD+ in Viet Nam.</p> <p>In response to some deficiencies the National REDD Website is undertaking improvements to make it more user friendly for the National Network members. The Programme Management Unit is now also acting as the Secretariat to the Network after being the Forest Sector Support Partnership.</p> <p>In January the Prime Minister decided to set down a cross-ministerial Steering Committee on REDD+, with participation from key ministries and Government agencies. In addition, a National REDD+ Office was established and REDD Focal Point Pham Manh Cuong appointed as Director. For coordinating purposes these establishments are very important. However, there are still challenges with cross ministerial coordination and agreement, let alone to have the different agencies participate in the same meetings. Still, there are few indications as to how the GoV sees this shortcoming being sufficiently addressed. Nevertheless, the 5th UN-REDD Programme Executive Board meeting was positive with a good turn out and contributions</p>	Reports; interviews with key government and development partner officials	UNDP	<p>Commitment from all partners</p> <p>Institutional relationships with other initiatives, especially the FSSP are resolved</p>	<p>Addressing risks and assumptions:</p> <p>The PMU has temporarily taken over the Secretariat role of the National REDD Network from FSSP. This has ensured more dedication to Network exchange and coordination</p> <p>A joint GoV/UNDP monitoring mission underlined the importance of cross-ministerial coordination, and suggested follow-up actions to be addressed in Q3.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
				<p>from several agencies.</p> <p>Under the framework of a UNDP funded project on sustainable development and climate change, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) has held joint activities with the UN-REDD Programme to gradually mainstream REDD+ into provincial Social Economic Development Plans for 2011-2020. This collaboration will continue.</p>				
1.2. Data and information for national REL/RL for REDD+available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest ecological classification and stratification system for Viet Nam National circumstances Understanding of REDD+REL/RL development by staff at relevant national institutions Stakeholder consultation of REL/RL methodology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 “agro”-ecological zones are applied for forestry No national circumstances have been identified There is little knowledge on REL/RL development with staff of relevant national institutions Consultation on data sources and methodologies conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By March 2011 an ecological stratification mechanism has been developed; expected to be adopted by MARD by September 2011 By August 2011, “National circumstances” will have been identified and endorsed by a multi-stakeholder process By the end of 2011, there will be a core group of national technical staff trained on REL/RL and have acted as resource persons in the 	<p>Review of methodologies for establishing RELs/RLs and RS and selection of a suitable method for national circumstances has been conducted to identify options for the establishment of reference levels⁶ for reduced deforestation and forest degradation and enhanced carbon stocks under the REDD+ mechanism of the UNFCCC.</p> <p>Some applicable proposals in establishing reference levels in accordance with UNFCCC current status and available IPCC guidance, with emphasis on capacities, data and options, have been made available such that Viet Nam has collaborated with other partners (Finland and JICA) in REL development. With the support from the embassy of Finland, all forest maps and field-measured data for 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010 were digitized in 2010 for Lam Dong Province. An interim national REL was proposed. The JICA Study is now validating forest maps for 1995 and 2005, and then they will be used for improving the interim REL.. The data validation is expected to be completed by the end of August 2011.</p> <p>A study on ecological stratification has been conducted and is under final review before submission to the Government for endorsement in the third quarter. The study would include three main results on forest eco-region research: classified eco-region system, from which Viet Nam's territory is divided into two areas, 8 regions and 40 sub-regions; set of criteria and</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>Maps</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Staff records</p> <p>Financial reports</p> <p>Joint agreements and reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO 	<p>Viet Nam prioritizes and resources for the process adequately</p> <p>Participating agencies in Viet Nam committed to developing the RS</p> <p>Methodological support from Partners is available</p> <p>Sufficient data is</p>	

6. The term *reference level* is here used in its generic form. It includes all variants of it, in particular also reference *emission levels*, whether they are retrospective or prospective. Section **Error! Reference source not found.** gives an overview of the different contexts in which a reference level can be used.

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
			<p>STWG-MRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2011, REL/RL methodology will have been consulted through a national multi-stakeholder process 	<p>indicators of forest ecological stratification; map of forest ecology. The stratification system, based on ecological regions, is particularly useful to develop REL and further implement MRV whereby forest strata need to be accounted for as initial input data.</p> <p>A technical workshop was organized to get recommendations from technical experts on the draft report. The sub-contractor, the Research Center for Forest Ecology and Environment (RCFEE), is revising the report. Two workshops (one for technical experts and one for policy makers) will be held in July and August 2011. The final report is expected to be presented to VNFOREST for endorsement in September.</p> <p>Regarding National Circumstances, that there is no progress to date, as qualified international consultants could not be recruited, and that this may need to be revisited at later date (including in Phase 2).</p>			available to develop an ecological stratification	
1.3. Framework National REDD+ Program (Strategy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline analysis on governance and policy for REDD+ Structure of National REDD+ Program Information gap analysis Draft Framework document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No integrated analysis No structure exists <p>Gaps only known in general terms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of September 2010, an analysis of governance and policy for REDD+ is completed By March 2011 a structure for the National REDD+ Program is endorsed by MARD By the end of 2010 information gaps have been identified and a work plan to fill them prepared By the end of June 	<p>With a first draft of the National REDD+ Programme ready in February, the consultations on the document were delayed and it was briefly shared with national stakeholders outside MARD in May. Since then the National REDD Network and its sub-technical working groups have commented on their respective parts of the document. The GoV is now incorporating the new comments that have been made, and plan for wider stakeholder consultations in local and provincial areas.</p> <p>The Programme has also started developing an analysis of institutional competencies, which among others will help to identify on which areas and in which agencies specific REDD+ capacity building is needed.</p>	Reports	UNDP	Coordination mechanism works effectively	<p>It is critical that the document goes through consultations with stakeholders at all levels before being submitted for Government approval in December 2011.</p> <p>Addressing risks and assumptions: Coordination between GoV agencies is critical. To solve coordination challenges both awareness raising on REDD+, targeting key staff for REDD+ related topics in other ministries as well as joint activities with UNDP projects in other ministries</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
			2011 a draft document ready for presentation to the Government					are helpful.
1.4. Performance-based, transparent benefit sharing payment system from national to local levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder satisfaction with payment system, monetary or in-kind benefits, in target communities of a magnitude that could influence decision-making Payment system based on performance indicators Decision on the suitability of the FCPF to manage the National REDD+ Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No REDD+ system, but Program 661 system provides model No system exists that objectively applies performance indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2011, a payment system has been developed that meets the expectations of all stakeholders and beneficiaries By the end of 2011, the payment system is designed to be based upon assessment of performance and the local R-factor By June 2011 an assessment has been made on making the National REDD+ 	<p>A number of actions following up on the initial BDS analysis have been undertaken. Among these, design of a framework for the assessment of R-factors is progressing and for local consultations on BDS and a piloting exercise for local decision making in the development of a BDS the procurement process has been initiated.</p> <p>The 17 BDS Policy Recommendations from the 2010 study report have been updated. An initial discussion on BDS was convened in the two pilot districts as well as discussion within the functional BDS STWG in April.</p>	Survey Operation of the MRV system for assessing performance	UNDP	<p>Stakeholder views are not too divergent</p> <p>A mechanism can be designed that is relatively immune to corruption</p>	<p>Output 1.4 and output 2.3 are very much interlinked. Funds under this output have also been merged with 2.3 to undertake BDS Consultations and BDS piloting.</p> <p>Much effort has been put into the development of a BDS before the piloting activities were identified</p> <p>Addressing risks and assumptions: Some of the slow progress on the development on BDS is due to diverging views from many stakeholders. It's important get a broad consensus on a BDS, and through extensive</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
			Fund a sub-fund of the FPDF nationally and provincially					consultations and involvement of stakeholders at all levels loopholes for corruption are more easily attached. A workshop on corruption in climate change was held in collaboration with TI, and brought attention to REDD+ as well. UNDP's policy adviser on CC is working closely with the GoV in designing a clean BDS.
1.5. Communications materials produced for sharing lessons nationally and internationally	Communications materials	No materials	By the end of 2011, lessons learnt in programme implementation identified, documented and shared	Lessons learned on FPIC, PCM, BDS and NRP as well as FPIC communication material were documented and shared nationally and internationally (e.g. the 6th Policy Board; Mexico; Ecuador; Oslo REDD+ exchange) The Programme is known for its FPIC implementation. Organizations like JICA, FFI, LBA [The Laos Biodiversity Association] came to learn about the FPIC implementation.	Reports	UNEP	Programme is able to generate relevant lessons over a short time-frame	
1.6 National MRV system designed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive MRV design documents endorsed by stakeholders Training and resulting national capacity on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key components of the MRV system have been discussed Historical forest inventory data are being reviewed and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2011, comprehensive framework document of the national MRV system prepared, demonstrated and presented to stakeholders Vietnamese technical staff 	The measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework document has been prepared by a group of international and national consultants. The document focuses on description of the MRV System and its components, Safeguards, and monitoring of Policies and Measures (PaM). The draft version has been revised after numerous meetings of STWG-MRV and consulting with relevant stakeholders. The revised framework document has been sent out for next round consultation; and two technical workshops will be organized in July and August to provide inputs for finalizing the document. The final document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design documents Workshop reports Digital products on forest land 	FAO	Sufficient national staff available with required skills in IT and RS	The related agencies are now preparing technical proposals and Vietnam REDD-plus Office will synthesize the proposals and make a common work plan by late July for implementation in Q3.

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
	MRV • Allometric equations	will become available early 2011 • Training on general concepts of MRV has been undertaken • Allometric equations have been developed for some forest types	have been trained on the MRV system and have acted as resources persons in the STWG-MRV (by end of 2011) • By the end of 2011 allometric equations are available for the ten most forested ecological strata	will be submitted to as part of the National REDD Programme Document for endorsement by the end of the year. Allometric equations: PMU and Vietnam REDD-plus Office have discussed with relevant technical agencies (VFU, FIPI, FSIV and Tay Nguyen University) on: - Reviewing previous and current work on development of equations for forest timber volume and forest growth, biomass estimation and wood density; - Identifying the gaps and proposing activities need to be done in 2011 as well as for long term plan.	stratification			
Outcome 2: Improved Capacity to manage REDD+ and provide other Payment for Ecological Services at district-level into sustainable development planning and implementation								
2.1. District-level forest land-use plan mainstreaming REDD potential	• District socio-economic development plan with REDD+ priorities • Framework for the assessment of opportunity costs of REDD+ • Data on REDD+ activities and performance is	• Local plans do not include REDD+ • No methodology for opportunity cost analysis for REDD+ exists • No data management system is in place	• By the end of 2011, methodology developed for incorporation into SEDP of status and trends of forest cover and identification of REDD+-eligible areas • By February 2011 a methodology for assessment of opportunity costs for REDD+ has	Historical forest maps of Lam Ha and Di Linh were developed as scheduled and provincial consultations on how to integrate the maps and other tools to support REDD+ in the Social Economic Development Plans are now ongoing. A methodology for assessment of opportunity cost for REDD+ was finalized. It was subsequently recommended to use opportunity cost analysis as a tool when integrating REDD+ into the Forest Protection and Development Plans (FPDP). REDD+ has been gradually mainstreamed into the provincial SEDP 2011-2015 and forest protection master plan 2011-2020.	Reports/maps Methodology for opportunity cost assessment available Data management system	UNDP	Local authorities have the basic capacity for socio-economic planning Local authorities have technical skills to work with a	Addressing risks and assumptions: Monitoring missions from the PMU were conducted, and found delays in some of the activities. A more close follow-up on activities in the field is needed for the coming quarters to ensure scheduled implementation.

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
	available for inclusion in FPDP development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> been developed By the end of 2011, methodology for REDD+ integration into FPDP is based on the provincial MRV system 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at provincial and district levels NFI design documents 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> data management system for REDD+ 	
2.2. Participatory C-stock monitoring (PCM) system operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of stakeholders at the district and local levels (including ethnic minorities and forest - dependent communities) Preliminary C-stock estimates NFI design documents reference REDD+ approach to carbon assessment at forest owner level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local institutions have little capacity for forest monitoring Current inventory on volume based on remote sensing NFI is being newly designed with forest owner level assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2010, PCM has been tested with local institutions By end of 2011, local institutions are able to conduct PCM By November 2011 a full PCM survey of two pilot districts in Lam Dong province has been completed By June 2011, NFI approach to forest owner level assessment made compatible with REDD+ assessment 	PCM was planned to be tested on a larger scale in Di Linh and Lam Ha districts. This has been postponed, however, to allow for a review of the PCM approach and a discussion of PCM with stakeholders. An abbreviated manual has been produced in English and Vietnamese to support this stakeholder consultation. Assistance to piloting the National Forest Inventory (NFI) in two pilot districts was requested to the UN-REDD programme in 2010. Since then, FIPI has been working on revision of the proposal with VNFOREST for submission to Programme. Piloting NFI is aimed not only to test methodologies and approaches for forest inventory and assessment but also to explore how and to what extent local stakeholders could be involved in the forest monitoring activities before the GoV conducts the nation-wide forest inventory. Ground work is expected to start in August.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports, maps, data files NFI design documents 	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital investments and training are delivered in a timely fashion Institutional coordination is effective Provincial and district staff are capable of engaging in district-level participatory C-stock assessment FIPI and 	

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
							FREC are flexible enough in adapting the NFI approach	
2.3. Equitable and transparent benefit sharing payment systems defined	Stakeholder satisfaction with payment system, monetary or in-kind benefits in target communities of a magnitude that could influence on decision-making	No REDD+ payment system, but forest protection system provides a model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2011, a payment system has been developed that meets the expectations of all stakeholders and beneficiaries By June 2011, FPDF option for Provincial REDD+ Fund investigated 	As noted under output 1.4, the activities under these two outputs have been delayed. As of July 2011 there are now activities starting up that includes both BDS Consultation on all levels as well as BDS Piloting in the pilot areas.	Survey; interviews with beneficiaries	UNDP	<p>Stakeholder views are not too divergent</p> <p>A mechanism can be designed that is relatively immune to corruption</p>	Addressing risks and assumptions: See comments under 1.4.
2.4. Awareness on REDD+ created at district and local levels	Level of awareness among local stakeholders (including ethnic minorities and forest-dependent communities)	Stakeholders unaware of REDD+	<p>By end of 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Messages on REDD+ and UN-REDD widely disseminated to government leaders A network of journalists set up to communicate REDD+ continuously and at large scale Local stakeholders' awareness on forest and climate change increased 	<p>Many awareness-raising events (ceremony to commemorate the International Year of Forests and the decade of UN Convention to Combat Desertification, World Environment Day), and workshops (5) were held at the national and local levels (e.g. in the central highland and in the north) to increase level of awareness of the local stakeholders on REDD+. Many articles on REDD+, UN-REDD Viet Nam; FPIC and PCM films were published to help local people to gain more knowledge on CC, REDD+ and UN-REDD implemented activities.</p> <p>Finding out key gaps in knowledge concerning REDD+ among grassroots forest stakeholders is very important. Together with RECOFTC/NORAD funded project, the Programme conducted capacity building need assessment in the pilot province. A proposal has been made to build up capacity for the forest sector grassroots stakeholders in REDD+ in Viet Nam.</p>	<p>Survey of awareness of government leaders</p> <p>List of network members and 2 reports on network activities</p> <p>Stakehol</p>	UNEP	Existing proposal for awareness raising on PES provide an effective vehicle for awareness raising on REDD+	Integrating REDD+ into social economic development plans is very important. The Programme support the Central Highlands Steering committee to have more knowledge on REDD+ and the need to integrate REDD+ into SEDP in the central highland region where keeps 50% of national forest.

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
					der consultation minutes and survey about level			
Outcome 3: Improved knowledge of approaches to reduce regional displacement of emissions								
3.1. Drivers of regional emissions displacement and inter-sectoral leakage assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework for assessment of drivers of potential regional emissions displacement Intra-national displacement of emissions Framework document or agreement on FLEGT and REDD+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No methodology for assessment drivers of potential regional emissions displacement in place No policies or intervention strategies for reductions in place Initial discussions on commonalities held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By April 2011 a framework for the assessment of drivers of potential regional emissions displacement developed By the end of 2011, a study on intra-national displacement of emissions will be completed National REDD+ Program and FLEGT process align efforts on areas of common interest 	<p>Discussions with EFI on a) joint workshops and b) on provision of assistance to the FLEGT process for stakeholder consultations were initiated, but have not materialized to date. The activities are in discussion to take place in Q3 and 4.</p> <p>The activities related to the establishment of a framework for assessment of intra-national displacement of emissions are not progressing due to difficulty in identification of relevant international authorities to lead the study. It is being proposed that the activities be taken up by the Global Programme.</p>	Reports Workshop reports Agreements	FAO	<p>Other countries in the region are committed to a common approach on drivers and emissions displacement</p> <p>FLEGT process still in its early stages</p>	The Program has cooperated with WB and SNV to complete a study on major driving forces of deforestation and forest degradation in Viet Nam. The key results were presented to Vice Minister Nhi. The study provided a valuable input for development of R-PP that was approved by the FCPF Participants' Committee in March 2011. However, no assessment on drivers of potential regional displacement is conducted.
3.2. Regional synergies and collaboration on REDD+ enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging agreements on approaches to reduce regional displacement of emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essentially no debate has taken place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2011 elements of a work plan to address drivers of regional displacement of emissions cooperatively are 	This output has been underachieving although some support to GoV officials to attend regional conferences on REDD+, among others in Myanmar, has been provided. Plans for joint workshops with EFI as noted under 3.1 are in the pipeline, as are also joint events with Cambodia to discuss cross boarder timber trade.	Minutes of meetings , workshops, etc.	UNDP	<p>Influence of powerful entities engaged in movement of timber and wood products</p>	<p>Addressing risks and assumptions:</p> <p>The assumption noted has not posed a risk for delay. Instead, risks of implementation delays could be more referred to institutional inertia, and</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes)	Indicators	Baseline	Overall National Programme Expected Target	Achievement of Target to Date	Means of Verification	Responsibilities	Risks and Assumptions	Comments
			documented				does not negate progress	the parallel process of addressing timber trade within FLEGT/EFI The project is working with EFI to push both initiatives.

1.3 Financial Information

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES	UN ORGANISATION	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS				
		BUDGET	CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES			DELIVERY (%)
			Commitments	Disbursements	Total Expenditures	Expenditure as percentage of the budget
Outcome 1: Improved institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD activities in Viet Nam	FAO	658,200	33,252	255,562	288,814	44
	UNEP	61,000		53,066	53,066	87
	UNDP	634,700	26,929	563,724	590,653	94
Outcome 2: Improved Capacity to manage REDD+ and provide other Payment for Ecological Services at district-level into sustainable development planning and implementation	FAO	598,000	33,252	59,767	93,019	16
	UNEP	119,200	18,617	92,155	110,772	93
	UNDP	1,290,800	72,222	454,247	526,469	41
Outcome 3: Improved knowledge of approaches to reduce regional displacement of emissions	FAO	324,000		42,742	42,742	13
	UNEP					
	UNDP	84,900		20,391	20,391	24
Programme management	FAO					
	UNEP					
	UNDP	327,103	16,124	704,815	720,939	220
Programme Indirect Support Cost (7%) ⁷	FAO	110,614	4,655.28	25,066	25,066	23
	UNEP	12,614	1,303.19	10,515	11,818	94
	UNDP	163,625 ⁸		175,079 ⁹	175,079	107 ¹⁰
TOTAL		4,384,756	206,355	2,457,129	2,663,484	61

⁷ Any Direct Support Cost the UN agencies take are included under the specific Outcome disbursements.

⁸ The budget from the Programme Document is lower, as it does not include 7% indirect support cost of Programme management.

⁹ Due to calculating errors, a higher figure was taken off the UNDP budget. The difference will be reallocated to the Programme at end of year 2011.

¹⁰ The Programme extension can partly explain the over-spending of Programme Management. See also last paragraph of 2.1.1 for additional information.

2. National Programme Progress

2.1 Narrative on Progress, Difficulties and Contingency Measures

2.1.1 Please provide a brief overall assessment of the extent to which the National Programme is progressing in relation to expected outcomes and outputs. Please provide examples if relevant (600 words). [not more than 2 pages]

The overall progress of the Programme was slow the first quarter, but has since increased through quarter two. Progress sorted by outcomes:

Outcome 1: Improved institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD+ activities in Viet Nam

Structural coordination among Government agencies were boosted by the setup of a cross-ministerial National REDD+ Steering Committee with its supporting National REDD+ Office in January, however the deliverables of the Committee is still not known and there are still key challenges facing cross-ministerial coordination and involvement. Awareness raising and capacity building on REDD+ is still clearly needed and continues to be a main focus for the Programme. Coordination among stakeholders has been supported through the set-up of new sub-technical working groups, and receives good participation and contributions. A draft National REDD+ Programme (NRP), and MRV framework are under development, and now needs to be brought into a wider stakeholder consultation process. Although the drafting of the NRP started in mid 2010 and is one of key outputs of the Programme, the draft will not be delivered to the GoV as scheduled in June 2011 but probably more towards December 2011. The MRV framework, as key input to MRV system, is now ready for stakeholder consultation.

The completed study on ecological stratification directly contributed to the development of MRV. The stratification system based on ecological regions is particularly useful to develop REL and further implement MRV whereby forest strata need to be accounted for as initial input data.

MRV framework is one of the Vietnam's key REDD+ documents to be developed in Phase I. The Framework Document focuses on the mechanism through which GHG emissions and removals from the forestry sector will be monitored, reported and internally verified (ie the national MRV System). Safeguards and monitoring of PaMs are also discussed in this document in the context of monitoring/collection and provision of information, their mutual linkages, and linkages to the MRV System.

Lessons learned have been documented and shared widely with other countries and programmes, especially participants in PB6 meeting in March (their field visit to pilot district), with national and local partners through FPIC, PCM, NRP, BDS through leaflet, clip, brochures and website. Although more work is envisioned during the second half of the year. There also needs to be an assessment of the effectiveness of awareness raising at various levels.

Outcome 2: Improved capacity to manage REDD+ through the sustainable development planning and implementation at the local level:

This outcome focuses specifically on integrating REDD+ into provincial and local development plans, involving local people in monitoring of carbon stocks, preparing for and piloting benefit distribution systems as well as awareness raising on REDD+. Activities such as opportunity cost analysis and development of historical land use maps that support provincial planning have been finalized and other activities are progressing well, whereas consultations with provincial partners are ongoing. Progress on BDS was delayed and the targets set for the output seem unrealistic to achieve. Activities are now initiated, such as BDS consultations with local people as well as local BDS piloting, but the issue involves many stakeholders from both GoV as well as local people thus a finalized system cannot be expected by December 2011.

Outcome 3: Improved knowledge of approaches to reduce regional displacement of emissions

While much discussion have taken place particularly with FLEGT related partners, concrete actions have yet to be undertaken, due to unavailability of international consultants with the relevant expertise (for activities related to framework development), and due to postponement of events to be co-organized with other partners. Plans for joint events with Cambodia to discuss cross boarder timber trade as well as with FLEGT are in the pipeline.

Please provide a brief overall assessment of any measures taken to ensure the sustainability of the National Programme results during the reporting period. Please provide examples if relevant. (250 words)

The establishment of the National REDD Steering Committee as well as the Viet Nam REDD+ Office at the national level encompasses some of the institutional arrangements made to incorporate REDD+ management for the longer term. Additionally, the support of the drafting of the National REDD+ Programme, which will describe how Viet Nam will implement REDD+ after the UN-REDD Programme is phased out, is a key contribution in this regard.

Continuously supporting and facilitating the National REDD Network and its sub-technical working groups at the national level, has assisted Viet Nam in the creation of forums for information sharing and discussions that is positive for REDD+ continuity outside the UN-REDD National Programme. To ensure knowledge on REDD+ at the local level is sustained, the Programme has build capacity of a provincial level REDD+ working group consisting of representatives from key departments and district authorities. The Programme has been putting efforts into improving the REDD+ website, which besides the Network email list serve serves as one of the main information sharing interfaces between the Network members.

A few REDD+ capacity building initiatives such as trainings for some MARD, VNFOREST as well as local DARD officials were conducted, but also training of village facilitators for awareness raising among local people through activities based on the principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent. FPIC gives support to Viet Nam's own legal requirements for stakeholder consultations, most importantly the Grassroots Democracy Decree.

Actions to address the lack of capacity on REDD+ in line ministries such as MPI, MoF and MONRE are needed if mainstreaming of REDD+ into Viet Nam's development strategies is to be successful. Such actions have yet to be initiated, but must follow in comprehensive awareness raising efforts of all related national agencies, also including MARD. For the latter work is ongoing in collaboration with RECOFTC.

The Programme was originally scheduled to terminate in March 2011, but the Government decided in agreement with the three UN agencies and with the endorsement of the PEB for a no-cost extension Programme until 31 December 2011. Reasons for the extension include, among others, an over-ambitious implementation schedule and slower progress at the international level in terms of providing guidance on regional leakage issues and national circumstances. The extension can also explain some of the over-spending on Programme Management, as seen under section 1.3. A further extension into 2012 is currently under discussion, which consequence will be an additional increase of Programme Management spending.

2.1.2 If there are difficulties in the implementation of the National Programme, what are the main causes of these difficulties? Please check the most suitable option.

- UN agency Coordination
- Coordination with Government
- Coordination within the Government
- Administrative (Procurement, etc) /Financial (management of funds, availability, budget revision, etc)
- Management: 1. Activity and output management
- Management: 2. Governance/Decision making (PMC/NSC)
- Accountability
- Transparency
- National Programme design
- External to the National Programme (risks and assumptions, elections, natural disaster, social unrest)

2.1.3 If boxes are checked under 2.1.3, please briefly describe any current *internal* difficulties¹¹ the National Programme is facing in relation to the implementation of the activities outlined in the National Programme Document. (200 words)

Although the UN agencies have come far in harmonizing management and implementation procedures, there are still internal differences among the three agencies. These differences are inherent by nature, but the

¹¹ Difficulties confronted by the team directly involved in the implementation of the National Programme

introduction of HACT¹² is taking time to internalize. UNDP, as part of the One UN approach in Viet Nam, also started applying Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines¹³ (HPPMG) in 2010, however, UNEP and FAO are not party to this guideline, to date. The fact that Viet Nam was one of the first pilot countries meant it had few lessons learned from other countries to lean on, and some testing and failing was needed.

Technical capacity for implementation has been and still is a challenge, as there are too few resources available within both the Programme as well as the Government. The Programme have attempted to recruit more resources since quarter 4 2010, but have still to succeed although there are good hopes of solving the situation in quarter 3.

If boxes are checked under 2.1.3, please briefly describe any current *external* difficulties¹⁴ (not caused by the National Programme) that delay or impede the quality of implementation. (200 words)

Internal coordination within MARD but also among the Government ministries and agencies remains a challenge, although it is hoped that for the future the National REDD Steering Committee will ease coordination and communication. However, increased participation of and contribution by other Government agencies and ministries in the UN-REDD National Programme and in REDD+ related meetings and discussions since quarter 2 makes the situation look somewhat more promising, although there is still a long way to go.

As reflected above, the capacity within VNFOREST is also lacking and the Programme is dependent on a few key people that are high in demand also from other partners.

The Programme has been affected by some other factors including the absence of international guidance on REDD (e.g. addressing regional leakage issues and national circumstances) and the national institutional arrangement for REDD+.

2.1.4 Please, briefly explain the actions that are or will be taken to eliminate or manage the difficulties (internal and external referred to in question 2.1.3 and 2.1.4) described in the previous sections. (250 words)

In addition to the quarterly Programme Executive Board meetings, higher officials from VNFOREST are now meeting on a monthly basis with the Programme Management Unit and UN agencies to take stock of progress and eliminate bottlenecks.

The Programme Management Unit and the UN agencies are continuously trying to harmonize operational procedure as well as technical inputs. FAO-VN has been authorized from FAO HQs to pilot HACT as of January 2011 (and employed since the second quarter of the same year) and staff in the PMU has been trained on HPPMG by UNDP.

The Programme has adopted a more targeted approach to find appropriate service providers. This approach includes circulating advertisements among interested and suitable parties, including international/Vietnamese NGOs, universities, technical institutes and agencies to encourage participation in tendering.

The Programme has modified its search for additional technical staff by adjusting the working time modality. In this sense higher competent officers in universities and research institutes should find it more attractive for short-time assignment.

2.2 Inter-Agency Coordination

The aim of the questions below is to collect relevant information on how the National Programme is contributing to inter-agency work and “Delivering as One”.

2.2.1 Is the National Programme in coherence with the UN Country Programme or other donor assistance framework approved by the Government?

Yes No

If not, does the National Programme fit into the national strategies?

Yes No

¹² FAO started piloting Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) in 2011. UNDP has applied HACT for the entire Programme period.

¹³ HPPMG was initially designed and adopted by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF and the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Viet Nam for harmonizing operating procedures with the Government Aid Coordinating Agencies (GACA's); Implementing Partners (IP's), both national and international; Co-Implementing Partners (CIP's) and Project Management Units (PMU's).

¹⁴ Difficulties confronted by the team caused by factors outside of the National Programme

If not, please explain:

2.2.2 What types of coordination mechanisms and decisions have been taken to ensure joint delivery? Please reflect on the questions above and add any other relevant comments and examples if you consider it necessary:

The three UN agencies and the PMU have since the start of the Programme met before and during the preparations of the Quarterly and Annual Work Plan, and also frequently at operational level. Since May 2011 the partners have convened a monthly meeting with higher representation from VNFOREST to secure Government coordination.

Both the Paris Declaration and the Hanoi Core Statement laid out key guidelines for aid effectiveness the Programme tries to adhere to through the One UN initiative in Viet Nam. The production of communication materials and other advocacy have been supported by the One UN Communication Team and interagency coordination at higher levels is ensured through bi-weekly discussions between Heads of Agencies. With UNDP applying both HPPMG and HACT, and now also FAO applying the latter, streamlining reporting procedures is steadily improving.

2.2.3 Is HACT being applied in the implementation of the National Programme by the three participating UN organisation?

Yes No

If not, please explain:

HACT is being applied by UNDP and FAO.

2.3 Ownership¹⁵ and Development Effectiveness

The questions below seeks to gather relevant information on how the National Programme is putting into practice the principles of aid effectiveness through strong national ownership, alignment and harmonization of procedures and mutual accountability.

2.3.1 Do government and other national implementation partners have ownership of the implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs?

No Some Yes

Please explain:

The UN-REDD Programme works closely together with partners on both national and provincial levels. At the provincial level the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Lam Dong Province (pilot province) has actively co-implemented activities together with sub-contracted organizations. The coordination and inclusion with the wider group of partners happen more specifically through the National REDD Network and the regional REDD working group.

At the national level, other Government ministries have expressed a desire to be more involved by MARD, but it should be noted that these ministries could themselves also have shown more commitment of getting involved. Involvement is improving though, and there has also been gradually involvement of private sector stakeholders as the wood-processing industry.

2.3.2 Are the UN-REDD Programme's Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement and Operational Guidance Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities been applied in the National Programme process?

No Partially Fully

Please explain, including if level of consultation varies between non-government stakeholders:

So far FPIC was piloted in many villages in Lam Dong in 2010. There are specific plans for incorporating lessons learned from those activities and do a second round of FPIC in quarter 3 and 4 2011. Consultations on BDS with all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities, are planned. For consultations with the above-mentioned groups on the National REDD+ Programme, actions are still

¹⁵ Ownership refers to countries exercising effective leadership over their REDD+ policies and strategies, and co-ordination of actions.

pending but expected to happen soon.

2.3.3 What kind of decisions and activities are non-government stakeholders involved in?

- Policy/decision making
 Management: Budget Procurement Service provision
 Other, please specify

Please explain, including if level of involvement varies between non-government stakeholders:

Non-government stakeholders have been engaged through the National REDD Network in preliminary consultations on the development of the National REDD+ Programme, on a financing mechanism for REDD+, on a strategy for stakeholder consultations and on the MRV system. The now many sub-technical working groups have also been consulted on topics within their expertise. They have also had chances to submit proposals to competitive bidding to implement certain activities. For example, the Programme has entered into a formal agreement with an NGO (RECOFTC) in a joint capacity building needs assessment on REDD+ at local level. Specifically, this NORAD-funded RECOFTC project aims to undertake activities in Indonesia, Lao PDR and Nepal in addition to Vietnam.

2.3.4 Based on your previous answers, briefly describe the current situation of the government and non-government stakeholders in relation to ownership and accountability¹⁶ of the National Programme. Please provide some examples.

The National REDD Network constitutes a key forum for the Government and other non-government stakeholders to show accountability on REDD+ activities. The Network is consulted more frequently on new initiatives, and inputs from non-government stakeholders are generally welcomed. As mentioned earlier, more involvement and participation from other key government agencies, such as Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Planning and Investment, is important for the establishment, ownership and coordination of REDD+.

Government Counterpart Information

Comments by the Government Counterpart:

The program has been on the right track during the first half of 2011. Highlight results includes MRV framework, ecological stratification, mainstreaming REDD+ into forest protection development, opportunity cost analysis. BDS works including consultation and piloting have been well started. National coordination has been more strengthened through activities of REDD+ network and sub technical working groups and more participation of Government related agencies. There is little progress in regional outcome that the program may need to revisit the targeted results.

There is also significant progress in harmonization within the program. The coordination among UN agencies and Government agencies maintains the key issue for ensuring the effective and efficient use and management of resources. FAO has recently been undertaking some active efforts on harmonizing procedure. One UN plan could be the basis for all UN agencies to work together and share resources as much as possible. The country ownership should also be further considered by UN agencies, especially in procurement and reporting matter to make sure that no delay and negative impacts would be caused by improper communication and procedures.

¹⁶ Accountability: Acknowledgment and assumption of responsibility for actions, products, decisions, and policies and encompassing the obligation to report, explain and be answerable for resulting consequences.

