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ROADMAP TO REVIEW THE SUPPORT TO NATIONAL REDD+ ACTION: GLOBAL PROGRAMME BUDGET– Report from the Working Group

UN-REDD PROGRAMME NINTH
POLICY BOARD MEETING

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Background:

At its seventh meeting, the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board approved the Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme Framework Document and its associated budget for the first year (1 July 2011-30 June 2012) and agreed to establish a self-selected working group, facilitated by the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, for deciding a roadmap to review the Global Programme budget, taking into consideration the findings of the Country Needs Assessment (CNA). The working group was composed by representatives of Papua New Guinea (PNG) (partner countries), Norway (donors), FAO (Participating UN Organisations), Global Witness (CSO) and UNPFII (Indigenous Peoples). The draft roadmap was to be delivered by the eighth meeting of the Policy Board.

The working group undertook its activities in parallel with the CNA working group. Joint meetings were held and the CNA drafts and preliminary findings were made available to both working groups in order to ensure consistency of the roadmap with the CNA. Although the deadline for delivering the final results of the CNA was extended to October 2012, preliminary findings of the Country Needs Assessment were circulated to all UN-REDD Policy Board and FCPF Participants' Committee members and comments were provided by e-mail and during a joint FCPF-UN-REDD workshop on the CNA held in Santa Marta, Colombia, on 26 June 2012.

Taking into consideration the discussions held by the roadmap working group and the results of the CNA that have thus far been made available, the working group presents a consolidation of its work for consideration of the Policy Board.

Draft Roadmap:

1. Objectives of the Global Programme

The UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015, endorsed by the Policy board in 2010, identifies six interlinked work areas as priorities to support the national readiness process and the development and implementation of national REDD+ strategies. These work areas represent identified country priorities, while also reflecting core technical, implementation and capacity-building competencies within the three UN-REDD Programme agencies¹, and are: MRV and monitoring; National REDD+ governance; stakeholder engagement; multiple benefits; transparent, equitable and accountable management; and sector transformation. Through the work developed under these six work areas, the UN-REDD Programme assists developing countries to have significantly reduced forest and land-based emissions as a result of incentives from a performance-based mechanism, while achieving national developmental goals in a sustainable and equitable manner.

As identified within the UN-REDD Strategy, the Global Programme should tie closely with National Programmes, by delivering complementary global and regional-level activities.

The UN-REDD Strategy also defines the main functions of the Global Programme:

- To deliver and test methodologies and approaches;

¹ The term "UN-REDD agencies", "UN agencies" and "participating UN organizations" are used interchangeably.

- To capture and disseminate lessons learned within thematic work areas of National Programmes; and
- To deliver targeted support in all six areas of the UN-REDD Strategy.

The Global Programme delivery is organized according to outcomes defined in alignment with REDD+ readiness components and international agenda. The Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme Framework 2011-2015 (SNA), approved by the Policy Board in 2011, is structured in outcomes that address each one of the working areas defined in the UN-REDD strategy. In addition, the SNA contains two outcomes that respond to administrative support for the UN-REDD Programme, i.e. the Secretariat and knowledge management.

The eight outcomes of the “Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme 2011-2015” are:

1. REDD+ countries have systems and capacities to develop and implement MRV and monitoring systems;
2. Credible, inclusive national governance systems are developed for REDD+ implementation;
3. National systems for transparent, equitable, credible and accountable management of REDD+ funding are strengthened;
4. Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders participate effectively in national and international REDD+ decision making, strategy development and implementation;
5. Multiple benefits of forests are promoted and realized in REDD+ strategies and action;
6. REDD+ Strategies and related investments effectively catalyze shifts to green economy;
7. UN-REDD Programme knowledge is developed, managed, analyzed and shared to support REDD+ efforts at all levels;
8. Timely and effective UN-REDD Programme Secretariat services provided to the UN-REDD partner countries, Policy Board and the participating UN organisations.

2. Elements to be taken into consideration in the Global Programme Review

Considering the objectives of the SNA, this roadmap seeks to provide guidance on how its budget can better serve its objectives. In this regard, it is very important to take into consideration:

- i) The priorities and gaps identified, particularly through the Country Needs Assessment, as support needed for UN-REDD countries to complete their national REDD+ strategies or action plans, national forest emissions reference levels, robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems and systems for providing information on safeguards;
- ii) Some flexibility, based on thematic areas for delivering and testing methodologies and approaches, as identified in the Programme Strategy and the Global Programme Framework Document, for allowing the Global Programme to contribute and adapt to the broader context of REDD+ and to innovation

3. The Global Programme budget review should be based on the following provided information:

3.1- Overarching Elements:

- i. Implementation of UNFCCC decisions, including both policy and methodology;
- ii. Identified priorities and work areas in the UN-REDD Programme Strategy.

3.2- Specific Elements:

- i. Identified priorities and gaps, particularly resulting from the Country Needs Assessment findings and related comments from the Policy Board. It is important that limitations to the results outlined in the report are acknowledged. When considering the Country Needs Assessment process, the Global Programme budget review process should include analysis and identification of those needs embedded in national circumstances that may be 'global' in nature or scope – such as international drivers of deforestation, regional monitoring systems, etc. The planning process should respond to the countries needs revealed by the CNA but should also provide for the normative function of the UN agencies to be fulfilled.
- ii. Results and lessons learned from the reporting, monitoring, evaluation and auditing of the Global Programme. Further, the budget planning process should also clearly reflect the correlation between expenditures and the outcomes of the activities under the Global Programme, including within periodic progress reports and financial statements, and incorporate a process of increased transparency and continuous improvement.
- iii. The above (ii) applies also to 'targeted' support delivery and demand under the Global Programme, including backstopping to National Programmes.
- iv. The budget planning process should establish priorities with a view to inform the Policy Board on what should be prioritized under Global Programme budget constraints.

4. Outcomes of the review should be:

- Establishment of priority areas for allocation of funds;
- A budget review at the outcome level informed by 3.2 above;
- A budget allocation that considers international support functions and targeted support, including backstopping support to National Programmes; and
- Clarity on existing systems for the Policy Board to review and approve funding allocations, implementation and the results of specific budget allocations.

5. Timeline and steps for the Global Programme review

In parallel with the activities of the working group on the roadmap to review the Global Programme budget, the participating UN organisations carried out a review of the Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme Framework 2011-2015 (SNA) between June and September 2012, with a view to have

the budget for years 2 and 3 (2013 and 2014) presented at PB 9 in October 2012 for consideration and decision by the Policy Board. This budget review was informed by the initial recommendations made by the roadmap working group, including available results of the Country Needs Assessment.

The working group on the roadmap to review the Global Programme budget concluded the work mandated by the Policy Board, but has recognized the need for continued efforts to improve the SNA monitoring and reporting with a view to increase transparency and efficiency of the management of the funds. In this regard, working group members outlined two proposals for consideration of the Policy Board:

- i. Policy Board to provide guidance for the activities outlined in 3.2 (ii) above as per its functions to set the strategic direction of the UN-REDD Programme and to review and approve periodic reports (programmatic and financial) and budgets.²
- ii. Policy Board to determine how to best build on the experience and recommendations of working group on the roadmap to review the Global Programme budget established at PB7.

² Policy Board ToR ; March 2009.