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## Benefit Distribution Technical Team Terms of Reference

### 1. Background

A future mechanism for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) being developed through the UNFCCC provides an opportunity to support Cambodia's efforts to reduce levels of deforestation and help to maintain and protect this natural forest.

In 2010, with support from UNDP Cambodia and FAO Cambodia, the RGC prepared a REDD+ Readiness planning process, which led to the development of the Cambodia Readiness Plan Proposal on REDD+ ("Roadmap"), a document outlining how the country will develop policies and measures to become 'REDD+ ready'.

An essential component of being REDD+ ready is to have in place a system of distribution of positive incentives (or "benefits") received as a result of reports submitted to and verified by the UNFCCC. Such a system needs to distribute benefits in a manner that is equitable (i.e., those who contributed more to emission reductions benefit more); transparent, and cost-efficient. Such a system needs to take account of examples of benefit distribution currently or previously applied in Cambodia, but also of the specific requirements of REDD+ benefit distribution.

### 2. Objectives

The objective of the Technical Team is to ensure that lessons and experiences from current or previous benefit distribution systems in Cambodia are assessed in the context of REDD+ requirements; and that lessons from similar analyses in other countries are integrated to develop recommendations of a REDD+ distribution system in Cambodia.

### 3. Membership

Membership will be limited to 12 members, and consist of representatives from:

- The REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (3 members, to be nominated by the National REDD+ Taskforce); one of the Taskforce Secretariat members to be nominated as Secretary to the Team
- Relevant offices within line agencies (4 members, to be nominated by the line agencies)<sup>[t1]</sup>
- Key non-governmental stakeholders with skills and experience within relevant technical areas (5 members, to be nominated by the Consultation Group)

All members must designate alternates to attend if they are not available. Additional representatives may be invited to meetings as temporary participants as required.

### 4. Operations

The Technical team should meet on a monthly basis. The Secretary will ensure that a notification of each meeting is sent out at least one week ahead of the meeting, accompanied by any relevant documents to be discussed at the meeting. The Secretary will also circulate draft minutes of each meeting within three working days. All members of the Team (or their alternates, if they attended the meeting) will provide comments on the draft minutes within three further working days, after which the Secretary will circulate the final minutes. The minutes will include the date, time, location, and subject matter of the following meeting. The final minutes will be widely circulated to REDD+

stakeholders, including through the Consultation Group and by posting on the REDD+/Cambodia web-site.

### **5. Decision-making**

The Technical team will not be a decision making body but will provide recommendations to the REDD+ Taskforce and Taskforce Secretariat on a monthly basis. Recommendations will be developed based on a consensus approach.

### **6. Responsibilities**

The Technical team is responsible for working with the REDD+ Secretariat to support the development of a proposal for a REDD+ benefit distribution system for Cambodia. The Technical team will develop recommendations to the REDD+ Taskforce through:

- Review of lessons learned from REDD+ pilot projects
- Review of lessons learned from other natural resource management projects involving benefit distribution
- Review of proposals for REDD+ benefit distribution systems in other countries
- Discussions with stakeholders, fiscal management experts and anti-corruption specialists
- Development of preliminary proposals and the organization of broad-based consultations on those proposals.

Specific responsibilities of Team members include:

- Attending monthly meetings
- Reviewing documents and presentations and providing comments and input to them
- Providing assistance to consultants and REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat Personnel in carry out their assignments
- Attending training events and workshops

### **6. Reporting**

Technical working group members are responsible for reporting to and consulting with their respective line agencies and constituent groups. Members can request additional time on specific issues if they feel it is of high importance to their line agency and further discussion is needed.

The Technical team will report directly to the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat directly through the Secretary of the Technical team.

### **7. Duration and timing**

It is expected that members will be required to work between 3 and 5 days per month, depending on activities.

### **8. Funding**

Financial support will be provided from the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF (R-PP) to cover expenses incurred during the implementation of tasks related to the role.

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