



# Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

## **Technical Assessment: Final ER-PD for Vietnam**

December 16<sup>th</sup> 2016

# Presentation of TAP

- The technical assessment was conducted by the following team:
  - Harrison O Kojwang – Kenya (Team Leader, Safeguards, Programme Design)
  - Robert Waterworth - Australia (Carbon accounting)
  - Donna Lee - Australia (Carbon accounting)
  - Richard McNally - UK (Programme Design)
  - Darragh Conway - Ireland (Legal Issues)

# Overall assessment of final ER-PD

		1 <sup>st</sup> Assessment	2 <sup>nd</sup> assessment	Indicators not met
II. Level of Ambition	YES	2	3	
	NO	1	0	
	N.A.	0	0	
III. Carbon Accounting	YES	19	29	5.1, 6.2, 10.3, 23
	NO	17	4	
	N.A.	7	10	
IV. Safeguards	YES	5	6	
	NO	2	0	
	N.A.	1	1	
V. Sustainable Program Design and Implementation	YES	4	11	28.3
	NO	8	1	
	N.A.	2	2	
VI. ER Program Transactions	YES	3	3	36.2, 36.3, 37.2, 37.4, 38.1
	NO	5	5	
	N.A.	3	3	

# General Remarks on the Final ER-PD

Following an initial assessment in which the TAP raised a number of issues, the final ER-PD showed significant improvements:

- Much improved analysis of drivers of deforestation & forest degradation, and their underlying causes.
- Provided historical data on forest cover change (Table 4.2) and more information on drivers
- Included policy measures that could contribute to the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks have been identified and described
- Addressed most of the carbon accounting issues raised by the TAP

In addition, Vietnam inter-acted quite positively with the TAP. The TAP also appreciated the technical skills of Vietnam's Team on MMV and RL related issues

## II. Level of Ambition

<b>Ind. 2.1 The Accounting Area is of significant scale and aligns with one or more jurisdictions; or a national-government-designated area (e.g., ecoregion) or areas.</b>	<b>YES</b>
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- Increase of forest cover; from 13.7 million ha to 14.3 million ha by 2015, and to 15.1 million ha by 2020.
  - Increase in plantation productivity by 25% in 2020 compared to 2011.
- The six NCC provinces constitute a well-defined Jurisdictional Area.
- The total ER-P accounting area is over 5 million hectares, and the ER-PD target area is 359,942 ha which is about 13% of the total forest land in the NCC Regions (2,771,630 ha in 2010).
- Within the NCC, the ER-P aims to reduce emissions/increase removals by approximately 28.2Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e over the eight years

The TAP is satisfied that the level of ambition is appropriate

# III. Carbon Accounting

**Ind 5.1: The ER Program uses the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged by the Conference of the Parties as a basis for estimating forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks.**

**Ind 6.2 For the following spatial information, maps and/or synthesized data are displayed publicly, and reasonable efforts are made to explain how these were derived from the underlying spatial and other data, and to make key data sets or analyses publicly available:**

**Ind 10.3 The ER Program explains what steps are intended in order for the Reference Level to achieve consistency with the country's existing or emerging greenhouse gas inventory**

**Ind 23 To prevent double-counting, ERs generated under the ER Program shall not be counted or compensated for more than once.**

**NO**

- 5.1: consistency with IPCC.
  - Main issue is assuming that all removals due to reforestation or enhancement occurs in the the year the activity occurs: these are spread over time in IPCC using straight lines over set periods
  - This can lead to overestimation of removals both in the RL and the MMR, can lead to over crediting of removals and is not consistent with ER calculations

# III. Carbon Accounting II

- 6.1: Uncertainty in ERs: a Yes but noted by Vietnam in response
  - For some sectors, activities are new and so ERs based on models not in RL
- 6.2: Transparency of data: Vietnam has provided a link in it's response to the TAP
- 10.3: consistency with GHG inventory
  - Concurrent review processes made this more difficult
  - Vietnam is working towards consistency, but more details needed
- 23: Double counting of ERs
  - The TAP notes Vietnam's plans for a registry, but notes that a status of REDD+ related projects in the NCC would assist in assessing risk of double counting
- Other issues
  - 3.1: issue of REDD+ activities: change 'include' to 'define'
  - 7.1 Growth rate references, needs to be further discussed
  - **Final reference level: not able to complete due to change in period**

## IV. Safeguards

<b>Ind 24.1 The ER Program demonstrates through its design and implementation how it meets relevant World Bank social and environmental safeguards, and promotes and supports the safeguards included in UNFCCC guidance related to REDD+, by paying particular attention to Decision 1/CP.16 and its Appendix I as adopted by the UNFCCC</b>	<b>YES</b>
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- There are no major issues in the final version of the ER-PD
- However, the TAP feels that conditions should be put in place to prevent further loss of degraded natural forests to rubber, cassava and any other crops.

# V. Sustainable Program Design and Implementation

Ind 27.1 The ER Program identifies the key drivers of deforestation and degradation, and potentially opportunities for forest enhancement	YES
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- There are no major issues in the final version of the ER-PD
- Vietnam could demonstrate more clearly, how the 8 models of the ER programme will generate more than the level of emission reductions that have been stated – more focus on policy level interventions could help in that regard

# VI. ER Program Transactions – Indicators Not Met

- **Ind 28.3** Land tenure regimes and the ability to transfer titles
- **Ind 36.2** Ability to transfer carbon titles to ERs while respecting the land and resource tenure rights of potential rights holders, especially IPs
- **Ind 36.3** ER program ability to transfer titles to ERs prior to an ERPA signature
- **Ind 37.2, 37.4 and 38.1** – Data management, carbon title registry, administration of a carbon transaction registry

The TAP observes that even if some of these may take Vietnam time to resolve, the ER-PD should demonstrate that it recognizes what needs to be done and prepare clear action plan to address each one of them.

# Concluding remarks

- Vietnam has produced a good quality ER-PD - made improvements in the carbon accounting and program design sections over a relatively short time period
- The 8 models on ER combined with high level policy work has potential for a sustainable ER program
- Presence of a poverty reduction strategy - is encouraging – needs of ethnic minorities are now better addressed
- Need to address the few issues under **carbon accounting**, highlight **policy work** in the ER-P, and address the **legal and ER transaction** sections of the ER-PD.

# Thank You!

