



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Technical Assessment: Final ER-PD for Vietnam

January 30th 2018

Presentation of TAP

- The technical assessment was conducted from November 19th , 2017 to January 10th 2018 by the following team:
 - Dr. Harrison O Kojwang – Kenya (Team Lead, Program Design and Safeguards)
 - Dr. Robert Waterworth - Australia (Carbon accounting)
 - Mr. Ludovino Lopes - Portugal (Legal)

Overall assessment of final ER-PD

		1 st Assessment	2 nd assessment	3 rd assessment	Indicators not met
II. Level of Ambition	YES	2	3	3	
	NO	1	0	0	
	N.A.	0	0	0	
III. Carbon Accounting	YES	17	32	36	
	NO	19	4	0	
	N.A.	7	7	7	
IV. Safeguards	YES	4	5	6	
	NO	2	1	0	
	N.A.	1	1	1	
V. Sustainable Program Design	YES	4	11	12	
	NO	8	1	0	
	N.A.	2	2	2	
VI. ER Program Transactions	YES	3	4	7	36.2
	NO	5	5	1	
	N.A.	3	2	3	

II. Level of Ambition

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.	YES
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- The ER-PD proposes to implement its program in eight specific activities in the six jurisdictional areas; the North Central Coast Provinces (NCC Region) - with an aim to reduce emissions/increase removals by approximately 24.68 Mt CO₂-e over the eight years.
- The above fits within its overall national ambition to manage and increase its forest cover from an existing 13.4 to 15.1 million ha by 2020.
- The total ER-P accounting area is over 5 million hectares, and the ER-PD target area for implementation of activities is 359,942 ha which represents around 13% of the total forest land in the NCC Regions (2,771,630 ha in 2010).

III. Carbon Accounting

Ind. 3.3 Emissions from forest degradation are accounted for where such emissions are more than 10% of total forest-related emissions in the Accounting Area, during the Reference Period and during the Term of the ER-PA. These emissions are estimated using the best available data (including proxy activities or data).

YES

- Issues from 2016 submission have been addressed
 - No front loading removals in year of planting
 - Improved time series consistency
 - Use of updated data and improved transparency
- There is a potential underestimation of emissions from degradation
 - This is due to the lack of updated NFI data, but the result is conservative
- Vietnam is well placed to make necessary improvements
 - Future reviews will need to look at how improvements are made as new data and methods are applied to prevent disconnect between the FRL and MMR

IV. Safeguards

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	YES
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- In the previous assessment, the TAP had expressed concerns on social safeguards that are relevant to Vietnam's Ethnic Minorities in the accounting area and the risks of further conversion of degraded forests into other land uses.
- Special programs on Ethnic Minorities has now been sufficiently addressed in Section 14.1.4 of the ER-PD, together with a more comprehensive poverty reduction program than in previous versions. In addition, the risk of further conversion of forest lands has been addressed through Directive 13.

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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In the current ER-PD a number of improvements have been made and noted:

- There is a clear Strategic Vision and Ambition in support of the ER-Program (Section 2.1, 2.2 of the ER-PD) and a revised National REDD+ Action Plan (NRAP)
- The ER Program now clearly address the identified drivers, both direct and underlying as shown in Figures 4.6 and 4.7 and tables 4.5 to 4.8.
- Policies and measures for conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks have also been proposed.

VI. ER Program Transactions

Ind 36.2 The ER Program Entity demonstrates its ability to transfer to the Carbon Fund Title to ERs, while respecting the land and resource tenure rights of the potential rights-holders, including Indigenous Peoples (i.e., those holding legal and customary rights, as identified by the assessment conducted under Criterion 28), in the Accounting Area. The ability to transfer Title to ERs may be demonstrated through various means, including reference to existing legal and regulatory frameworks, sub-arrangements with potential land and resource tenure rights-holders (including those holding legal and customary rights, as identified by the assessments conducted under Criterion 28), and benefit-sharing arrangements under the Benefit-Sharing Plan

NO

- There is not yet a legal disposition clarifying the applicable rules to the ERs Title Transfer, and Vietnam intends to use a Prime Minister's Decision to enact the future regulatory regime.
- However the risk is that a Prime Minister's Decision may possibly be changed/amended or revoked – e.g. by a National Assembly
- In view of the above, the TAP cannot say with certainty, at the time of the assessment, that Vietnam has demonstrated its ability to transfer the Title of ERs to the Carbon Fund.

Concluding remarks

- The TAP Team commends the Country Team for the effort to put together a significantly revised document - rich in information and has benefitted from an improved analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation – and to which appropriate mitigation actions have been proposed
- With minimal external assistance, Vietnam was able to address all the concerns that the TAP had expressed earlier on Carbon Accounting, even though there are still a few issues that need be looked at, going forward.
- While the legal aspects of carbon rights and transfer of title to emission reductions are still ‘work in progress’ and will need to be addressed by Vietnam, the ER-PD has demonstrated a clear understanding of the key processes and produced an appropriate roadmap to address them.



THANK YOU !