



Lao PDR

Responses to TAP and CFP comments

Carbon Fund 18th Meeting

June 2018

Paris, France

Ind 12.1:

TAP: “The outcome of these issues ... have only small bearing on the ... estimates. However, as issue relates to forest definition, this is a major non-conformity.”

Response:

- Nation’s forest definition goes much beyond REDD+;
- Use of H definition dismisses national circumstances.
- TAP proposed solution NOT viable for Laos as historical datasets are lacking.

1. DBH definition applied consistently at both STAND and TREE level in NFI.

2. Consistent application of definition between RL, MMR, and also GHG-I.

3. DBH is unique, but application is similar to Height

→ DBH used for mapping (ground-truthing etc.)

4. Some factual errors in the TAP report.

CFP: “Methods for measuring degradation are seen [to have] shortcomings & high uncertainty”

Response:

- Acknowledging the proxy nature of datasets, 15% conservativeness factor applied to both methods.
- Stump survey approach for selective logging is important attempt to capture reforms against illegal logging.

Methods for measuring degradation:

1. Based on maps (i.e. shifting cultivation).
2. Based on ‘stump survey’ (i.e. illegal logging)

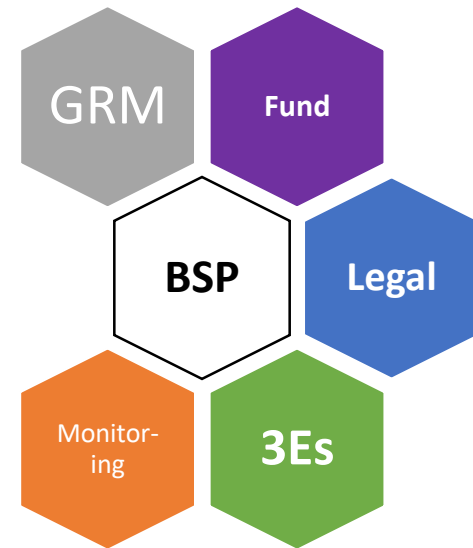
➔ Both already subject to 15% conservativeness factor.

Ind 28.3, 36.2:

TAP: “The Benefit sharing plan is not yet finalized – this forms a minor non-conformity.”

Response: We acknowledges this. Developed a roadmap for concluding the steps towards adoption of a BSP.

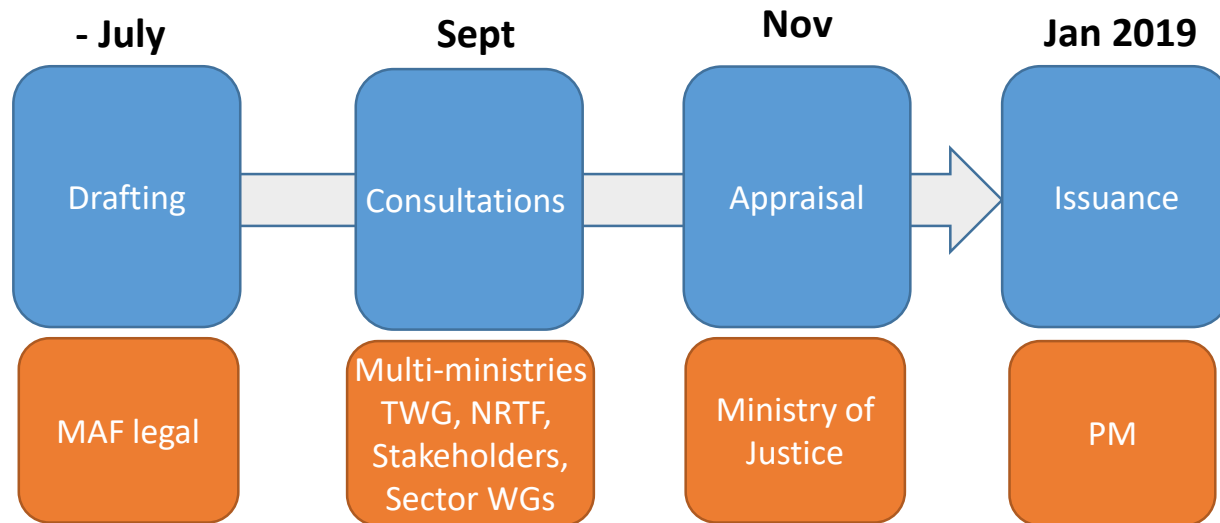
- Proposed BS and FGRM based on preliminary consultations.
- Plans in place for further consultations with potential beneficiary. To start within 2018.
- FGRM channels to be informed to stakeholders through communication methods applying principles for effective communication.



Ind 36.1, 36.3:

TAP: “The absence of formal legislation ... is a minor non-conformity.”

Response: We acknowledge this gap. Roadmap for a PM’s decree and process for its issuance is under action.



CFP comments:

Cross-border planning and enforcement

- Activities on-going & planned:
 - Incentives for **deforestation-free agriculture** for Private Sector actors
 - Cross-border dialogue on **FLEGT, customs** data exchange
 - **Joint declaration** among Cambodia – Lao – Vietnam
 - 5 year **Memorandum with Vietnam** on cross-border forest protection & joint investigation
 - **Cross-border dialogue on displacement** of deforestation/degradation (meeting with Vietnam in May 2018)
 - Potential to collaborate with bordering **Vietnam ER Program**: specifically on cross-border timber flows and FDIs

CFP comments:

GCF project financing associated risks

Preparations well-underway:

- **Concept note** about to be submitted (within June)
- **Very positive preparatory discussions**, with:
 - NDA office, Agriculture and Land sectors, 6 provincial government,
 - GCF Secretariat
 - GIZ (as AE) and German Government; incld. internal competitive process
 - Much preparatory work overlaps with ERPD preparations, & remaining Roadmap.
- The ER Program & RBP can attract **further investment**.

CFP comments:

Impact of FDIs and concessions

- FDIs and concessions are in fact identified as **core driver** in the ERPD.
- Exploratory concessions for mining are massive, but, do not necessarily mean land conversion; **majority of areas will not be converted.**
- Monitoring to be supported through national **concessions inventory** initiative

CFP comments:

Conversion into plantations

- **No conversion of 'good' forests** into Plantations
- Conversion of degraded lands into plantations **not barred, if considered as most beneficial land use** from all social, economic and environmental points of view
- Conversions will **NOT be accounted towards RBP**
 - ie. MMR allows for this
- Program design & safeguards to ensure **land for conversion identified through clear standards**
- Monitor conversions for **safeguard compliance & conformity with plans**
 - National **concessions inventory** initiative

CFP comments:

Risks of delay

- Priority work between now and the ERPA signature:
 - **Legal instrument for ER transactions**
 - **Benefit Sharing Plan**
 - **Safeguard Plans**
 - **GCF formulation**
- The REDD+ Division with strong support from National REDD+ Task Force, Technical Working Groups, 6 Provincial governments, and Projects taking action based on roadmap and specific action plans.
- GCF project formulation is underway

Thank you.
Further questions?