



Vietnam R-PP

PC review by Australia, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Nepal and Norway

Eighth Meeting of the Participants Committee (PC8)

Da Lat, Vietnam

March 24-25, 2011

General comments

- Vietnam continues to make rapid progress towards REDD+ readiness. Vietnam should be commended for a comprehensive and high-quality R-PP. The PC reviewers recommend approving grant allocation to Vietnam.
- Many of the PC comments were not addressed by the time of our written PC review (online version of Feb 14) – but several have been addressed in the latest version.
- The ownership behind the proposal seems high, and a lot of thinking has gone into the challenges facing Vietnam and how these can be dealt with.

General comments

- The present version of the R-PP demonstrates detailed consideration of most issues listed within the standards, and provides a good overview of the current situation in Vietnam in relation to REDD+.
- The R-PP clearly identifies where further information and study will be required, and has carefully considered the likely costs of implementing the next steps set out within the R-PP.

Overall Strengths

- The R-PP builds on long experiences with PES schemes, good platform for donor coordination, potential application of FPIC, proposal of a dedicated dispute mechanism for REDD+, and the creation of a multi-stakeholder governing board controlling a national REDD+ fund.
- Knowledge gaps identified, with detailed ToRs.
- Good initial work to establish ownership across many ministries and departments, and a good dialogue with developing partners.
- The R-PP acknowledges the challenge of regional “leakage” through Vietnam’s imports of timber from neighbouring countries for its large domestic wood-processing industry.
- Good “division of labour” between FCPF and the support from the UN REDD program and other support.

Changes since PC7

- Three new studies: (1) Defining and costing low emission development strategies in the context of REDD and (2) Exploring social safeguards and standards for REDD + in Vietnam and (3) Assessing the socio-economic, political and institutional feasibility of the proposed strategic approaches.
 - Study 3 includes analysis of risk of domestic and international leakage
- More info on some elements of the scaled up proposal under UN REDD
- Details on consultation plan for provincial and district levels
- The state of play in the FLEGT process
- Short clarification on the drivers of forest degradation
- Some additional lessons from problems with previous reforestation program

Changes since PC7

- Standard 2d now met. New references to ethnic groups' rights and livelihoods, gender issues, effect on poverty, and governance in the social impact assessment.
- COP 16 guidance on MRV
- Some new information on stronger FAO involvement and input through UN-REDD and JICA, digitization of forest data, validation of forest inventory data, and relationship to the national MRV system.
- Clarification of FPIC

Areas for further improvement

- A number of PC recommendations still not addressed. An updated final version with requested adjustments or a note with explanations why issues were not addressed would be appreciated, although not needed for PC approval of fund allocation today.
- Clarify timeline: It is stated that REDD+ strategy will be submitted for Prime Minister's approval in 2011 – will all relevant analytical work and consultations be financed and conducted in time to impact that (“final”?) REDD+ Strategy?
- A clearer link could still be provided to the emerging and more ambitious UN REDD phase 2, as well as more information on what is proposed under that program, in particular on selection of pilot provinces for full-scale implementation.
- Decision making and respective roles of National REDD+ Network /TWG and Steering Committee/Vietnam REDD office could be further clarified.

Areas for further improvement

- Further discussion of trade-offs between the current ambitious plans for agricultural development and export, beyond the planned study on rubber. A strategic zoning exercise needed at REDD+ strategy stage.
- More active engagement with the private sector, in particular the wood processing industry.
- More information on the two proposed actions to mitigate leakage – regional cooperation and FLEGT - could be provided. (More info on this in UN REDD proposal). On link to FLEGT:
 - R-PP demonstrates awareness about the importance of coordinating REDD and FLEGT. A sub-Technical Working Group on FLEGT will be set up and supported by the UN-REDD Program. We welcome this.
 - Following up on identification of concrete linkages would still be appreciated, however. Ensuring coherence and synergies in terms of strategy, consultations and policy implementation would benefit both processes significantly.