

**Report of**  
**First REDD+ Technical Working Group Workshop**

**June 7 and 8, 2013**

**Adama**

## **Introduction**

The first meeting of the REDD+ Technical Working Group took place on June 7 and 8, 2013 at Adama with the objectives of:

- Approving the TOR of the REDD+ Technical Working Group (FRTWG);
- Validation of TORs for the study of (1) drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strategic options for addressing these and (2) strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA);
- Establishment of technical focus groups and validation of respective TORs;
- Presenting the anticipated annual work plan of the FRTWG (2013/14); and

Twenty-four members drawn from regional REDD+ Focal persons, REDD+ relevant key directorates and Case-teams of MoA, GIZ, FAO, UNDP, World Vision, ICRAF, CIFOR were in attendance.

The meeting helped in identifying capacity building needs and resulted in proposition of future training needs.

## **DAY 1**

### **TOR for FRTWG/Bylaws**

Following a detailed presentation of the TOR of the FRTWG, discussion followed and comments were raised as indicated below:

#### **Background section:**

- CRGE has three documents: Vision, Facility and Strategy. It was suggested to modify the background section as per the CRGE documents as well as explain information pertaining to REDD+ strategy that is found in CRGE; accountability of FRTWG to the Steering Committee (S.C) should be clearly indicated. As GTP is one of the pillar documents, this should be included in the background with respect to REDD+. Specific responsibility should also be listed separately.
- The link between FRTWG under MoA and high level government was justified through the chair of the S.C. who is a member of the inter-ministerial steering group for CRGE.

#### **Name:**

- It was explained that FRTWG can play a broad role in advisory services as well as imparting technical support and even approval of work done by consultants. It was underlined that it was this group that provided the technical knowledge and expertise.
- The name of the working group shall be maintained as it is in line with the R-PP documents.

### **Purpose and Mandate:**

- The purpose of the FRTWG should be elaborated to include its role in ensuring quality assurance and control not just advisory services.
- Some text under this section is better suited under tasks.
- Under composition section, include a separate subtitle for “members” which will ideally include names of member institutions.
- The term “capacity building” for the FRTWG should be explained as to what exactly it includes. E.g. Development of guidelines, etc
- “To advise REDD+ Implementing Agency” should be corrected since there is no such thing as implementing agency. Additionally, it should also be modified to include that it provides technical support not just to implementers but at all levels.
- “Technical experts are responsible for .... REDD+ strategy development. This seems as if the FRTWG is focusing on strategy development only. It may also give a false connotation that the technical group is the only one engaged in this, while in reality there are other actors involved in this as well.

### **Officials**

- The term “officials” was replaced with FRTWG Leadership.
- The use of the term “coordinator” may create confusion hence it was suggested to delete this word and proceed with the term “chair”.
- Regarding the election of the Chairperson and Secretary, it was suggested that these positions be occupied by individuals with authority so as to ease financial/budget procedures and be aligned with existing institutional arrangement.
- It was agreed to appoint the Deputy Director of Natural Resources Management Directorate, MoA as the Chairperson and the Communications Specialist of the Secretariat to serve as the Secretary. It was, however, decided to elect a Deputy Chair. Following nomination of three candidates (Dr. Habtemariam Kassa, CIFOR; Dr. Tefera Mengistu, WGCENR and Ato Yonas representing EPA), Dr. Habtemariam received the highest vote and was elected as the Deputy Chair.
- The duration of the meeting of the FRTWG was suggested to be changed to four (every quarter) and will be subject to modification whenever the need arises.

### **Tasks**

- ....to approve.... Should be indicated as one of its main tasks not only “To assess and validate....”
- “To provide regular feedback to ....”. A question was raised on whether this may imply monitoring at field level.
- Additional texts to be inserted are suggested as follows:

- To devise a fair and proper benefit sharing mechanism which ensures that local development needs are met
- To provide appropriate support to the Secretariat and help steer its work and strengthen it
- To oversee the technical focus groups which are interlinked with the FRTWG; the technical focus group informs the work of the FRTWG and *vice versa*.
- Providing feedback and accountability of the FRTWG should be to the Steering Committee.
- It was decided to retain the text “To assess and validate TORs and final deliverables...” as one differed from the other in meaning.
- It was stated that a similar technical group overseen by a steering committee would be in place at the regional level.
- Text removed from the Purpose section should be included under tasks.

### **Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP): FCPF and Additional Financing**

A brief presentation on the Readiness Preparation Proposal; planned activities to be carried out during 2013-2015 to achieve readiness of Ethiopia for the implementation of REDD+ program; performance indicators set; and modality of implementation of R-PP through the FRTWG was made. Funding for this proposal amounting to USD 3.6 million was secured through the Forest Carbon Partnership facility. Additional funding of USD 10 million has been secured, USD 5 million each from the Government of Norway and DFID (UK).

### **Status of REDD+ Readiness Process**

An update on the implementation of the REDD+ readiness process (R-PP implementation) was highlighted focusing on activities so far accomplished and future tasks. REDD+ has three phases- Readiness, Pilot demonstration and learning phase and Implementation phase. Activities undertaken include: Preparation of a concept note and road map on emission reduction program in Oromia region as a pilot and development of technical note that will be shared with regions; and ongoing preparation of a document on the modality of scaling up pilots at regional level which will be circulated to all members.

### **Overview of Oromia Emission Reduction Program**

A highlight of the program focusing on activities to be undertaken, criteria for choosing Oromia region and funding was given.

#### **Key points**

- Even though Oromia Forestry and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) is the entity that manages the Oromia Emission Reduction Program due to its technical capacity, there are several stakeholders that are involved from various sectors.

- REDD+ has also a framework/safeguarding mechanism referred to as SESA to manage any potential risks.
- It is important to clearly identify in detail drivers of deforestation in Ethiopia during Readiness process. That is why “select strategy option” is indicated.
- It was stated that a simple procedure was used to arrive at the REL estimate for Oromia Emission Reduction Program (E-RP).
- It was raised that the structure of the governance should be clearly outlined and as the program involves multi stakeholders, concerns were raised that the issue of benefits may arise from stakeholders in the future (federal, regional and local stakeholders).
- A question of feasibility was raised on whether it was manageable for OFWE to oversee the proposed area given its large size.
- Consideration should be given to the size and specific site of the proposed program when using the term pilot.
- As land use decisions are made by different institutions at various levels and scales (e.g., patchy forests, woreda forests), the issue of sustainability in terms of decision making at regional level was noted.
- It was stressed that the program will also contribute its share to biodiversity conservation as well as generate other co-benefits.
- Land use and land tenure security should also be given due attention in light of its importance in the implementation phase.
- The pilot program focuses on highland forests only. The issue of trust worthy market for generated carbon credits was also raised. It was disclosed that marketing was not an issue as the Government of Norway has pledged it would purchase provided that verifiable emission reductions are in place.
- There are several eligible activities (such as Afforestation/Reforestation programs) that can be included under the investment plan.
- About 40% of Oromia land has been covered by a land use plan so far; there may also be a need to revise existing land use against this plan. The need for law enforcement, awareness creation on master land use in Oromia, and reconciling community and government interests

### **Establishment of technical focus working groups**

- Technical Focus groups essentially form the technical working group and are drawn from the technical working group. Frequency of meeting of focus groups should be indicated.

- Focus groups appear to have huge responsibilities. As the responsibility is demanding, it was stated that the Secretariat will duly communicate with the member institutions so that the delegated representatives would fulfill duties expected of them.
- It was decided to proceed with formation of the three focus groups based on discussions from the point of view of management and portfolio of activities to be carried out.
- The description of the duties of the working groups seems to imply they are part of project implementers even though it is earlier indicated that the technical working group has the role of quality control. The secretariat will take the task of rephrasing or modifying the ToRs of the TFGs accordingly.
- Even though it was commented that naming of technical focus group 3 (REL and MRV) should indicate its registry-related work, it was suggested to keep in mind that naming should be aligned with the R-PP document.
- It was suggested that registry should be included by the end of REDD+ readiness process which should be reflected.
- The issue of current legal framework and existing institutional arrangement as key areas of work for readiness was underlined.
- Knowledge generation, management/packaging and inventory of REDD+ projects should be included. It was indicated that this would be undertaken by SESA group or the Communications Specialist.
- It is important to identify research and academic institutions that can create link and support outlined activities.
- It is advisable to identify and include institutions that are not represented; in general it is better to use the term “forest enterprises” rather than being specific to Oromia.
- Focus group 2 (Consultation, grievance, safeguards): “Devise benefit sharing mechanism in the country...” This should be clearly elaborated as to what it entails at the grass roots level.
- Focus group 3 (REL and MRV): The terms “leakage” and “additionality” should be included. Preparation and dissemination of standards and manuals for the public as well as technical groups should be undertaken by this group.
- Selection of the institutions that would be chairing the focus groups should ideally take into consideration the long term sustainability *vis a vis* which institutions are better suited or placed (in terms of capacity and stability of institutional arrangement) to carry on the designated tasks. It was decided to proceed with the suggested existing institutional chairs for a period of one year. It was stated that the ground work that is being laid to complete the Readiness process should ideally go beyond this process and extend to implementation of REDD+.

- The WB expressed their concern that Ethiopia was still lagging behind in budget utilization in the Readiness project. It was explained that due to several reasons the FCPF money has not been used so far; this is the first time that the FCPF money was used for the workshop. This does not mean, however, that nothing has been done. Infact, most of the work planned to be undertaken so far has been accomplished thanks to the UNDP support to the CRGE Case team, which in turn has provided money for REDD+ activities so far. The MoA assured the representative from World Bank that the Ministry would provide the necessary support for smooth implementation of the project.

## **DAY II**

### **Validation of TOR for drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strategic options for addressing them**

An overview of the TOR of the study (which was prepared by assistance from the World Bank and enriched through the inputs from MoA as well as donors) was presented to the FRTWG. It was stated that the study extends to identifying options for the establishment of new forests through A/R beyond reducing deforestation and forest degradation. The study is expected to result in the development of a roadmap for REDD+ implementation and draft strategy framework.

#### **Key points**

- The National Forest Inventory Project that is to be carried out by FAO was raised as crucial in identifying and addressing gaps that the proposed study may not capture. Furthermore, the significance of the input of the forestry inventory to the proposed study and *vice versa* was noted. The representative from FAO indicated that they are working closely with the REDD+ Secretariat in linking the NFI and REL/MRV of REDD+ so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of work and expressed their willingness to collaborate with the FRTWG or other stakeholders on the issue. He further indicated their plans to include the REDD+ Coordinator in the NFI technical committees that would contribute to identifying gaps and responsibilities to be undertaken. The NFI coordinator reiterated that there is ongoing discussion (in terms of methodology such as increasing number of sample plots to be taken) on how to align the forest assessment data (FAO's) so as to benefit the proposed study. It was noted that similar consideration is also being given to the new land use project with respect to its input to the current study.
- As the study focused on identifying drivers of deforestation with social determinants and exploring strategic options to halt these, it was clarified that the outcome of the study was designing a roadmap which would ultimately serve as one input (in addition to other studies such as benefit sharing mechanisms, land tenure and rights, redress mechanisms, etc) to the national strategy on REDD+.
- The importance of studying the causes and drivers of deforestation at the temporal scale in addition to the spatial scale was emphasized.

- Understanding the impact on Carbon on quantifiable terms was considered important during transformation of a specific land use into another. It was indicated that this is one of the core outcomes of the REL and MERV focus group.
- Lessons learned from similar studies undertaken elsewhere (E.g. Indonesia) should be given due attention in the proposed study or have to be addressed in other studies. For instance, a shift/change in policy across a timescale is likely to cause an immediate effect on the sector.
- It was suggested that the TOR should include the “scope of assignment”.
- The importance of not only building on existing data generated but also complementing previous data was emphasized. For instance, data used by FAO in developing agricultural land use map and master land use plan being developed could be of input to the study.
- It was suggested to replace “illegal logging” with “deforestation”.
- It was commented not to limit causes to historical data but to include “projected scenarios under different options”.
- Concern was raised on whether the timeline for carrying out the study corresponded with the volume of work to be done.
- The deliverables of the study should be clearly pointed out, ideally leading to advising policy makers and formulation of policy. Dr. Tesfaye Mebrahtu and Ato Ababu took the task of accordingly coining the deliverables section and forwarding this to the secretariat.
- It was commented that sectoral plans produced by respective government bodies and various existing studies conducted on water basins should be considered as input to the study.
- It was decided that the consultant who will be undertaking the study should present an inception report to the FRTWG who would then discuss on the issue before the actual study is started. Ideally, the inception report should include a detailed work plan, methodology to be employed and proposal of a definition of forests, forestland and types that takes into consideration the existing land use and biophysical resources.

### **Validation of TOR of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)**

The TOR of SESA highlighting its background, objectives, scope and tasks was presented. The FRTWG agreed on the contents without approving. Detailed comments on the TOR will be emailed to the secretariat by Ato Yonas (EPA) within a week’s time and copied to all members.

### **Key points**

- There should be consistency in the use of terms throughout the TOR. For instance, in the background, it says “policy making process” and “policy”.



- ESMF should be separately placed in the background.
- On page 2, the phrase “the safety net” should be replaced with a more suitable word.
- In the objectives part, the “SESA process” should be replaced with “... the system”
- As SESA has several principles, it should not be limited to identifying social risks. It has to be rephrased with “Identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating...”
- It should be sequentially written as “early stage, sustainability and participatory”.
- SESA collects baseline information and conducts analysis. Pages 3-17 should be revisited in terms of this.
- Scope: “... review process of ..” should be replaced with “... review output of..”
- Consistency in usage of “program” or “policy”.
- PFM is just one alternative management option and this should be reflected.
- It was suggested to consider a baseline study of indigenous knowledge of the community towards forests and its value system.
- As the cost-benefit **of forests** differs for the society and community, it was commented to address this accordingly in two levels (society and community).
- All TORs should reflect the advisory role of the FRTWG.

### **Establishment of technical focus groups dealing with the major elements of the REDD+ Readiness**

The establishment of the three technical focus groups under the FRTWG was based on a previously proposed list of members. The FRTWG discussed on identifying additional members which could better contribute to the work of the corresponding expert groups.

#### **Key points:**

- It was suggested to include Ministry of Justice or Legal and Justice Institute, Forestry Research Process of EIAR and community groups under expert group 1: REDD+ strategy. Inclusion of development partners, especially those involved in REDD+ activities, was recommended.
- The following additional institutions were commented to be included: WFP, World Vision (either in focus group 2 or 3), GIZ (in focus group 3). It was decided that focus groups would exhaustively go through this.
- Consideration was given to the practicality of maintaining active participation of some members (like MOJ and the community) by involving these members only in issues/meetings that require their views/expertise.
- The Secretariat took the task of obtaining the remaining names of official delegated members from their institutions and to be circulated to all FRTWG members and the

WB. Following this, the Secretariat will convene a meeting to elect the chair and secretary of the respective technical focus groups.

- As some members/ institutions were participating in more than one study group, concerns were raised on whether a single person would be able to contribute efficiently in more than one study group. It was suggested that the secretariat should explicitly communicate with the member institution that it is a member of such and such focus groups so that the institution would ideally delegate more than one person in such cases.
- The FRTWG agreed that it is not an exhaustive list and will need to be updated to include all relevant institutions.

### **Annual Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2013/14**

Based on the project document (the R-PP Assessment Note), a highlight of the annual activities of the FRTWG was presented focusing on capacity building, meetings etc. It was suggested that additional, identified activities could be forwarded from the FRTWG.

#### **Key points**

- The role of research institutions in providing capacity building was identified.
- The timeline of the studies should be harmonized with activities in the work plan.
- The number of steering committee meetings should correspond with the number of FRTWG meetings.
- It is important to address which activities are to be done at the regional level and how.
- Capacity building should not be limited to awareness and exchange visits but rather should focus on a longer term to train specialized experts.
- The representative from Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources (WGCFNR) explained its future plans to launch a graduate program in forest resource assessment and climate-smart agriculture including forestry, energy; establish MRV resource centers; form community seed stands to supply REDD+ plantations.
- It was pointed out that WGCFNR would be able to provide short-term tailored courses (for 15 days or so) in the area of GIS-based resource assessment or courses on working procedures, methodologies for individuals at the regional level or any other area identified as gaps by the Secretariat.
- The possibility of transferring funds from the Secretariat to WGCFNR was noted important when moving forward with organization of the trainings.
- It was suggested to include a line item on training in the annual plan.

## **Way forward**

Dwelling on the length of time it took to design the REDD+ readiness project, the time it took to establish the technical group and the concern from the donors' side about the inefficient utilization of the allocated budget, the technical group discussed on constraints faced and ways of strengthening the Secretariat.

- The lack of adequate and skilled manpower at the secretariat was raised as a key issue. So far, there is only one coordinator who is responsible to oversee and undertake all aspects of the project, be it technical or administrative.
- The implementation of the project at the regional level is either limited or non-existent, except in the case of Oromia region, which may be attributed to lack of designated focal persons or a lack of established strategy.

## **Suggested solutions**

- In addition to recruiting additional staff, the significance of hiring technical advisors (TA) who would support the secretariat even beyond readiness project, was recommended. The UNDP indicated that this could be supported under UNREDD. It was suggested to have in place a minimum of 2 TAs- one ideally from local pool of experts.
- Extra-sectoral relations should be given due consideration.
- The presence of adequate and skilled manpower matched with the proper logistics at the regional level was emphasized so as to implement the project at the woreda level.
- The secretariat should create appropriate linkage with regions that would essentially assist in implementing the project at all levels.
- The importance of providing due support by all institutions for implementation of the project at all levels was underlined.
- Awareness raising at all levels and mainstreaming into existing development issues was suggested.

The FRTWG planned to have their next meeting with updates from the secretariat on the planned training/short course in collaboration with Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, link and modality of operation with regions and recruitment of staff at the secretariat.

## **Recommendations**

- All basic documents relating to the FRTWG will be circulated to members of the working group by the secretariat.

- Capacity building on gaps identified by members of technical working group regarding REDD+ can be addressed in the future.
- The secretariat will take the responsibility of discussing and identifying areas of short-term training in collaboration with WGCENR.