



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Progress Report to the FCPF on Matters pertaining to the Common Approach

for the period 1 January –
31 December 2014

United Nations Development
Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

The Participants Committee (PC) at its ninth meeting in June 2011 approved UNDP to serve as Delivery Partner under the Readiness Fund. The Transfer Agreement was signed between the World Bank, acting as the Trustee of the FCPF, and the UNDP on August 9, 2012.

To ensure a uniform set of safeguard standards, the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners was also approved at the ninth FCPF PC meeting. The Common Approach is designed to provide the World Bank and the Multiple Delivery Partners with a common platform for risk management and quality assurance in the REDD+ Readiness Preparation process which is substantially equivalent to the World Bank's applicable policies and procedures on environmental and social safeguards, disclosure of information, and grievance and accountability mechanisms.

The report has been prepared by UNDP and solely reflects the perspectives of UNDP as a Delivery Partner.

Progress Towards UNDP's Social and Environmental Compliance Review and Stakeholder Response Mechanism

In April 2011, UNDP undertook a process to establish an Accountability Mechanism with two functions: 1) a **Compliance Review** process to respond to claims that UNDP is not in compliance with applicable social and environmental policies; and 2) a **Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM)** that ensures individuals, peoples, and communities affected by UNDP's programmes and projects have access to appropriate dispute resolution procedures for hearing and addressing project-related disputes. The proposal based its recommendations on internal consultations with key UNDP staff and on 20 years of lessons and best practices of other institutions with such mechanisms. The proposal was designed to ensure that the proposed processes were tailored to UNDP's organizational structure, type of operations, legal restrictions, relevant policies, existing accountability framework, and institutional culture.

Consultation

Between June 2011 and June 2014, UNDP consulted extensively on the proposed procedures and institutional set-up for the Social and Environmental Compliance Review and Stakeholder Response Mechanism, reaching out to over 10,000 people and receiving more than 300 contributions from civil society, external experts, and UNDP Country Offices, Regional Service Centers, and all Bureaux. Activities included, *inter alia*, several online public comment periods, in-person consultations with UNDP staff and UNDP's Civil Society Advisory Group, as well as with indigenous and local communities e.g. at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Compliance Review

In October 2012 the UNDP Administrator revised the Charter of the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) to include the mandate to investigate UNDP's compliance with applicable social and environmental policies and procedures. In February 2013 OAI established the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU). SECU's [Standard Operating Procedures](#) were approved by the Director of OAI in December 2014 and SECU became effective starting January 1, 2015. SECU accepts complaints from affected people for all UNDP-supported projects approved after that date. SECU accepts complaints for projects approved prior to January 1, 2015 if UNDP has committed to providing a compliance review process for social and environmental commitments made by UNDP in the context of the specific funding programme or project, as is the case for UNDP's FCPF-supported projects.

Standards and Stakeholder Response Mechanism

In June 2014 UNDP approved [Social and Environmental Standards](#) and the [Stakeholder Response Mechanism](#) to be integrated into UNDP's policies and procedures and effective for all new projects starting January 1, 2015.

Materials and updates are available at: undp.org/ses and undp.org/secu-srm.