

SESA/ESMF Session

Group Work Procedure

Purpose of the exercise

- To enhance skills on SESA/ESMF by critically reviewing Terms of Reference for SESA/ESMF development in a hypothetical country, 'Shangriland' and then presenting the analysis.
- This is a role playing exercise.

Procedure and background for the exercise

- An NGO in Shangriland has heavily criticised REDD+ and pointed out many threats related to social and environmental issues. This criticism received widespread media coverage and has put the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the REDD+ Readiness process under scrutiny.
- As a result of this criticism, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment , has called for a discussion meeting with the team of consultants that developed the SESA/ESMF Terms of Reference (TOR) and the NGO that is objecting to REDD+.
- The Minister asked the consultants to explain how the draft ToR addresses the social and environmental concerns raised by the NGO. He sees this as an opportunity to receive feedback on the ToR.
- He has also asked the NGO to do a review of the draft TOR to see if it addresses their concerns. If some concerns still remain, he asked the NGO to present these concerns in the meeting with concrete adjustments to adjust the TOR.
- Hearing both views will help the Minister to understand the components of the TOR, appreciate their strengths and weaknesses, and decide on how to act on recommendations for improvement.

Critical issues raised by the NGO on REDD+ Readiness

1. Communities would be excluded from the forests and only strict conservation would be allowed.
2. Only powerful people, close to the government, would decide on the REDD+ strategies. Poor farmers and indigenous peoples who will be most affected will have no chance to influence the REDD+ process
3. Benefits of REDD+ would accrue to the government and would not reach forests communities. Yet, costs would be borne by forest-dependent people and farmers.
4. Potential social and environmental impacts of implementing REDD+ strategy can be significant and Shangriland does not have robust E&S regulations and enforcement capacity.

Tasks for Consultants and the NGO

Consultants: To review the TOR and make a short presentation on

- How the ToR addresses the issues raised by the NGO (use one flip chart for each issue)
- Suggested adjustments to the ToRs where criticisms of the NGO are found acceptable

NGO: To review the TOR and make a short presentation on

- Whether the proposed SESA/ESMF process addresses their concerns about REDD+ (use one flip chart for each issue), and
- Identify any additional gaps or weaknesses that may require adjustments in the TOR.

Break-Out Groups Procedure

- In your group first read the TOR (4 pages).
- Address the issues raised by the NGO on the separate flip charts.
- Assign different people to present each flip chart and ensure you are well organized to argue the views of your group as all will be required to take part in the plenary.
- Groups will have 1.15 hours to work.

Plenary Procedure - SESA/ESMF TOR review meeting by the Minister

- Presentation by the Consultants from the flip charts. A different presenter for each flip chart. 10 minutes maximum total.
- Presentation by the NGOs from the flip charts. 10 minutes maximum total.
- Debate between the NGOs and Consultants: Each team will have a pen, only the person holding the pen can speak, the others must remain quiet. After a member of the team speaks, s/he must pass the pen onto someone new who must then be ready to make the next comment or question. 15 minutes maximum.
- Once the time allocated for the debate is up, the Minister will ask the audience to vote which team, NGO or Consultants, was more convincing in their arguments.
- The Minister makes concluding remarks on the debate and how he feels about the arguments put forward by both sides.