Dear Mr. Lang,

I write in reference to your REDD Monitor article titled "Cherry-picking in Cambodia: Some questions for Jürgen Blaser about Cambodia's REDD Readiness Proposal," in which you raised questions regarding the presentation by the ad hoc Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) on the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) of Cambodia, made on March 25, 2011 during the eighth FCPF Participants Committee (PC) meeting in Dalat, Vietnam.

The TAP review process generally involves about four to six individual international technical experts, plus two or three experts from the country being reviewed. The TAP synthesis review for each country is posted on the FCPF web site in advance of the meeting, and this review is presented by one or more TAP experts at a PC meeting like the one in Vietnam last week.

The TAP review is one input into the PC decision-making process, which also includes a review by some representatives of the PC (also posted on the FCPF web site), a discussion among PC members and observers, and the drafting of a PC resolution on an R-PP under formal assessment at a PC meeting.

The materials regarding Cambodia's R-PP, including the Cambodian government's presentation of its R-PP (which contains information on the historical rate of deforestation), the TAP review and Powerpoint presentation, a statement by Cambodian civil society organizations (CSOs) explaining their concerns about the Cambodian R-PP (which was distributed ahead of the adoption of the PC Resolution on the R-PP), the UN-REDD Programme's comments on the R-PP, and the PC Resolution on the R-PP, are available at http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/node/297.

As you will note, the PC Resolution (PC/8/2011/6), which was drafted by a group that included representatives of indigenous peoples and CSOs from Cambodia, requests Cambodia to submit a revised R-PP to the Facility Management Team, reflecting the key issues summarized in the annex of the Resolution, before entering into a Readiness Preparation grant agreement. One such issue is for Cambodia to "continue the progress to date on information sharing and consultations among the government and stakeholders, and enhancing capacity of all participants in the REDD+ process, based on the principles for consultation set out in R-PP."

Note that each country's R-PP is a proposed set of activities and studies to begin gradual movement towards REDD+ readiness over the next few years. As these activities are implemented, they should help the country conduct analytic and institutional work, information sharing, and consultations with stakeholders to advance the development of a REDD+ strategy tailored to meet the national conditions.

I hope this sheds some light on the FCPF process.

Sincerely,

Benoît Bosquet