

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Capacity Building
on REDD+ for Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples in East
Asia and the Pacific and South Asia Regions Project**

Regional Steering Committee Meeting



29-30 January 2019
Hanoi Delight Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam

ACRONYMS

ACMA	Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
AMAN	Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara
CBP	Capacity Building Project
CERDA	The Centre of Research and Development in Upland Areas
CIYA	Cambodia Indigenous Youth association
CSDM	Centre for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTS	Customary Tenure System
EAP	East Asia and the Pacific
ERP	Emission Reduction Program
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FMC	Forest Management Council
FMT	Fund Management Team
FORCERT	Forest Management and Product Certification Service
NEFIN	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPO	Indigenous Peoples Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Natures
LCIP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
NAP	National Adaptation Program
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PMTL	Project Management Team Leader
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
SAR	South Asia Region
SERNA	Socio Economic Report and REDD Needs Assessment
SOI	Summary of Information
SIS	Safeguard Information System
Tebtebba	Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education
TTL	Task Team Leader
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

RSC Meeting Overview

The Asia Regional Steering Committee (RSC) as an external advisory body of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) capacity building on REDD+ for forest dependent Indigenous peoples in East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia Regions project conducted two-day meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam on 29-30 January 2019. This meeting, hosted by CSDM, is a follow up to the RSC meeting that was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 01 October 2018.

The RSC members include: Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri of AIPP from Thailand; Samin Ngach of Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA) from Cambodia; Mina Setra of Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN) from Indonesia; Tunga Rai of Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) from Nepal; Luong Thi Truong of Centre for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM) from Vietnam; Nunia Thomas-Moko of Nature Fiji Mareqeti Viti from Fiji and Lai Sakita of Vanuatu Association of NGOs from Vanuatu.

The objectives of the RSC meeting are as follows:

- To share updates on latest development on REDD+ processes in selected countries (Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal, Vietnam, Vanuatu)
- To update RSC members on outcomes of the previous financing
- To share and discuss the Work and Financial Plan of the Additional financing, including specific proposals (ICTHER and Hoa Binh)
- Identify ways forward, including support of RSC members in project implementation.

The meeting commenced through a welcome address by Ms. Luong Thi Truong from CSDM who hosted the said activity followed by the introduction of participants from the different organizations among the participating countries. Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, AIPP *Chairperson*, served as the moderator during the first day of meeting.

The points of discussion together with the key issues in the previous meeting in Bangkok were also pointed out during the review of the minutes of meeting to update everyone on how these issues are resolved or how these issues are currently going.

Mr. Kittisak enumerated the tasks of the RSC which focuses on three main areas, 1) to serve as an advisory body; 2) to take part in the monitoring processes; and 3) to assist whenever possible (e.g. technical assistance). The RSC members reiterated that the project's Operation Manual be updated to reflect this. As per the task team leader (TTL) in the previous meeting, Ms. Haddy Jatou Sey, the approved World Bank additional financing aims to increase targets of most of the indicators and to increase program efficiency. There will be no new call for proposals but continuation of the existing projects is being considered.

SHARING: Latest Developments in REDD+ Processes

I. CAMBODIA

Mr. Samin Ngach, CIYA President

The REDD+ program engagement with the IP organizations in Cambodia is generally low. According to Mr. Samin, there has been no additional funding but the benefits of REDD+ program to the IP community is always discussed to them irrespective of the absence of a specific program which will fully help them understand the importance of this project.

Nevertheless, the manual for REDD+ and FPIC that is being used for capacity building for Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and other related partners were produced for the general use of the community in the awareness raising campaign. The AIPP also has an important role in the funding negotiation since compliance with the requirements is very strict. There is also an ongoing cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) but the process is still not clear to them. In the official cooperation, they have a program that is focused on the coordination and information sharing with IPO which were also conducted and updated in the process.

II. NEPAL

Mr. Tunga Bhadra Rai, NEFIN National Coordinator

There is not much update on the country level regarding the REDD+ project but there are milestones that were undertaken including the approval of the National REDD+ Strategy. There is also a participation of the IP community in the REDD+ mechanism in all levels from local, provincial and national where they are involved in a total of six (6) mechanisms. Nepal also expects the REDD+ readiness support from FCPF since the Emission Reduction Project Document (ERPD) has been approved and Nepal has to finalize the Emission Reduction Project Agreement (ERPA) for signing by the end of this year. There has to be lots of negotiation between the board, the country and the IP focusing on two important aspects such as “*How the benefits will be shared with IPs*” and “*What does that implementation will look like*”. Currently, they have been working on the general strategy as the input on participation of IP awareness was already submitted.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) which is being implemented by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) received support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) but is not yet informed how they will organize or administer the development of this adaptation plan. Surprisingly, the global UNDP who is working on the sequencing of these proposals are prioritizing the proposals of other countries and not Nepal but they are now on the development stage.

The GCF Government of Nepal is preparing two proposals for the GCF: one with the International Union for Conservation of Natures (IUCN) and another with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) including UNDP. Nepal is a mountainous country hence they wanted to forward the prevailing mountain issues of the country in the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC). Some sub chapters or chapters are now incorporated in the said process.

III. THAILAND

Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, AIPP Chairperson

Thailand also received funding support from FCPF on readiness program which is expected to be settled by this year's end according to the timeline. Through the conduct of different readiness projects, there were three major steps that were undertaken for the effectiveness of this project which includes (i) Review of REDD+ task force structure, (ii) Formation of project steering committee (PSC), and (iii) Setting up of website for information sharing.

Initially, Mr. Kittisak was part of the task force but did not receive any updated information for almost two years since the review of the task force. The project steering committee conducted a meeting early January 2018 and also conducted national activities for some stakeholders for consultation mainly for the Department of National Park (DNP). In the report that was relayed to them, the activity also included the communities that they supported who in turn conducted seven (7) capacity building activities for the direct pilot communities of Thai government. The Office of the Forest and Climate Change (OFCC) was established to directly deal with REDD+ implementing activities. The website focuses on information sharing about the lessons learned and benefit sharing among the concerned individuals.

The Department of National Park (DNP) which is under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) is the implementing body of the government of Thailand for REDD+. The problem being encountered in this set up is on the channeling of the budget to the Ministry of Finance being the reason why the process of budget acquisition is very long. Had the budget been channeled to the DNP, the project implementation will be easier and faster.

In general, the progress of REDD+ readiness implementation in Thailand is still low compared to other countries who are already in their second stage, according to Mr. Kittisak. The factors that contributed to this result are (i) not enough staff to work on the REDD+ issues, (ii) Internal adjustment/transition from the MNRE to the Department of National Park which is the implementing agency and (iii) lack of interest and political support from the policy making body to move forward with the implementation. He also met with RATANAYA who offered a capacity building workshop that they can organize.

IV. VANUATU

Mr. Lai Sakita, VANGO President

The status of REDD+ Readiness program in Vanuatu is still on the readiness stage. It is under the national program which is being administered by the Forestry Department (FD) who works with the different organizations. Upon the recommendation of the World Bank,

the Forestry Department set up the Civil Society Organization (CSO) REDD+ Platform to cater to the REDD+ program in the communities. There were at least five (5) islands that was selected for the program. However, some problems were also encountered during the implementation of the readiness program. Mr. Lai mentioned that the CSO are still being used in the island who works with the forestry project offices. Another one is the channeling of funds similar to the case of Thailand where the budget is directly channeled to the ministry of finance and it takes a lot of processes before the organizations can finally get the funds for implementation.

The Forestry Department also said, according to Mr. Lai, that they have the capacity to run the program but it turns out that it is the main cause why the REDD+ readiness program is slow. The readiness phase ends this year. Mr. Lai also said he asked for strategic planning meeting with the Forestry Department which is still on the process. They are expecting for the full support of the upcoming project workshops on capacity building.

V. VIETNAM

Ms. Luong Thi Truong, CSDM Executive Director

There is not much update on the UN REDD program for Vietnam as the project was completed last year since it started the first phase in 2010 until 2014 and the second phase from 2015 until 2018. According to Ms. Truong, almost all of the activities were reviewed and summarized last year by the member of REDD+ national program. The carbon fund was also redirected to six (6) pilot provinces in Vietnam but there still are no mechanism for IP to participate in the process. Ms. Truong was also invited to several workshops but did not really participate in the UN REDD program due to lack of mechanism for IP participation.

Nevertheless, the six (6) pilot provinces set up their plan called Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP) while the pilot communities set up Site REDD+ Action plan (SRAP). The national level of Vietnam also finished the National REDD+ Action Plan (NRAP). Last year, the country finished the report on Safeguard Information System followed by the approval of Summary of Information (SOI) last December about the SIS and how the system of law or policy apply for REDD+.

The involvement of IP in REDD+ process is very difficult in Vietnam, according to MS. Truong, because of the very few NGO's who are involved in this program and that they have to submit mechanisms for ethnic minorities supported by CSDM and they have to have their own representatives. She also mentioned about the funding that CERDA received from Tebtebba in the earlier part of the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development. Finally, in the second phase of REDD+ program, there has been no new update because of the existence of project management unit of UN REDD and FCPF in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) where the program is positioned but they come together in one office for all program and project that is why their mechanism becomes smaller and smaller.

OPEN FORUM: *Latest Development on REDD+ Processes*

The open forum took place following the sharing on latest developments on REDD+ processes by the RSC members in their respective countries. Mr. Raymond de Chavez, deputy director of Tebtebba, pointed out two major questions which served as the guide during the open forum tackling the overall standing of REDD+ program in the region.

- 1. Among the countries covered in the region, how many are moving towards the REDD+ implementation of carbon fund? How many are stuck in the readiness phase?*

Mr. Samin of Cambodia mentioned the signing of the second project agreement between UNDP and Ministry of Environment for implementation in 2019 under UN REDD. He further said that the agreement needs further transparency and discussion regarding the representatives which must be dominated by the IP community. Vietnam, Nepal and Cambodia also moved to the carbon fund according to Mr. Kittisak. The existing projects are also too small as evidenced by the insignificant changes and he added that if they want to make an impact, it takes a lot of funding and investment to make a concrete impact.

The CIYA President, Mr. Samin was inquired by Ms. Helen Valdez of Tebtebba if Cambodia is already moving to the carbon fund. Mr. Samin said that the capacity is very low in terms of communication and technical aspect which needs a lot of support but is already promoted in the national level. In the ministry of environment, they are promoting it in the national strategic planning because Cambodia have policies to work on that. He also added that the process of UNDP and the government are very fast on how to get the IP in the project but the benefit is unrealistic.

In Thailand, they have resources for the ground activities that enabled them to establish working groups in each province like REDD+ working groups and it was easier for them to bring the IP communities into the program.

- 2. While the REDD+ is not moving as expected, what is our sense on how REDD+ is effectively being done in the global level?*

According to Tunga, Nepal, their government is not really excited regarding this program. From the beginning, REDD+ is seeing how we can harness the benefit. He stressed out that the RSC is not for REDD+ but for how can this program benefit the IP community.

Mr. Bong Corpuz of Tebtebba mentioned about the function of the RSC and the members suggested some mechanisms on communication among the members of RSC. It was agreed that (i) emails will be the primary mode of communication; and (ii) online meeting depending on the issue to be addressed and urgency of the issues that needs to be cleared.

An Update: Outcomes on the Previous Financing

Ms. Helen C. Valdez, Project Management Team, Tebtebba Philippines

Ms. Helen started delivering the update on the outcomes of the previous financing by stressing out the two (2) project development objectives (PDO) remains: to strengthen (i) the knowledge of targeted forest-dependent indigenous peoples on REDD+ Readiness at the national level; and (ii) knowledge exchange at the regional level. In the first objective, Ms. Helen said that what happened really is there were more activities implemented at the sub-national level. Activities on the second objective were the Regional Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand on October last year and the research and publication of Customary Tenure System (CTS).

The timeline for the sub-project implementation is supposed to end on June 30, 2018 but most of the sub-grants were extended until July 31, 2018 to wind up the pending activities. She also added that the common denominator between the sub projects rests on the capacity building on climate change, REDD+ and forest related issues.

Component 1: National Capacity Building and Awareness Raising

The capacity building and awareness raising sub-projects were implemented as follows: two (2) in Bhutan (Royal Society for protection of Nature (RSPN) and Tarayana Foundation); one in Fiji (Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei Trust Board or SSV); one in Vanuatu (Vanuatu Foresters Association); and two in Vietnam (Hoa Binh Cooperative for Agro-Forestry and Environment/CERDA and International Centre for Tropical Highlands Ecosystems Research (ICTHER).

In addition to trainings, the sub-grantees implemented other activities. RSPN and Tarayana documented some traditional knowledge in sustainable forest management. RSPN focused on a village where they were able to organize a community REDD+ group.

SSV in Fiji, did a baseline survey on the perception of I Taukei on climate change and REDD+. It was gathered that most of the respondents are not aware of the REDD+ but are aware of the changes in the weather as evidenced by heavy rains that cause floods and drought that killed their livestock and crops.

Hoa Binh Cooperative for Agro-Forestry and Environment/CERDA in Vietnam trained cooperative leaders called the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) team who then served as facilitators in the community-based trainings for Self-Governing groups (SGGs).

The International Centre for Tropical Highlands Ecosystems Research (ICTHER) came out with an Operation manual for Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach (ACMA) which was based on the result of Socio-Economic REDD Needs Assessment (SERNA) being the necessary prelude to the establishment of ACMA.

Component 2: Regional Exchange and Sharing of Lessons Learned

The regional learning and exchange were the research and publication of Customary Tenure System and the regional workshop held in Bangkok.

The project management team leader also presented the breakdown of fund allocation for Component 1, Component 2 and Component 3 which are 60%, 28% and 12%, respectively. The unspent amount of approximately 100,000 USD is forwarded to the additional financing as per World Bank instruction. Component 3 is on the Project Management and Evaluation where there is not much update aside from the new finance staff who just started on January 3, 2019.

Target Outcomes

Given the additional financing, it was reiterated that the indicators did not change but some targets were increased. Indicator 1 which measures the increase in knowledge as perceived by participants on a set of REDD+ related topics and indicator 5b on the percentage of women participating in trainings/activities will remain at 80% and 50% respectively.

For indicator 1, the actual result is 69% compared to the 80% target. Of the 50% target outcome in indicator 5b, only 41% was achieved for women's participation in project activities. There were 104 trainings that were collectively implemented beating the target outcome of 6 for indicator 2. For the Indicator 3 or the regional learning exchange, the target was met at 2-2. For Indicator 4 or meetings between the IPs and the government REDD+ decision makers, the target was 6 but the actual result is 15. Finally, the result for the indicator 5a which is on the direct beneficiaries reached is met with an actual outreach of 4,693 which is significantly higher than the target of 400.

Generally, the project is on track. The target is met and, in some cases, even exceeded except for indicators 1 on the impact of knowledge of participants and the 50% women's participation. Mr. Raymond de Chavez of Tebtebba also cited that maybe the 50% target is not realistic. It was explained that with the additional financing, the PMT will try to ask the sub grantees to make some adjustments so women will be accommodated but in reality, the IPs/ethnic minorities have to work because food is the priority for us to survive.

Open Forum

With regards to the figures in the indicators presented, Mr. Tunga of Nepal asked if the basis of those figures were from the reports of the sub-grantees. It was explained that the sub-grantees are supposed to submit a narrative report, a finance report and evaluation forms. A template for the narrative report was provided by the PMT. For indicator 1 for example, there were 100 participants but only 70 sets of feedback forms were submitted. The computation is done based on the 70 feedback forms if all were accomplished properly and completely. There are also cases where there are 10 feedback forms submitted before the training and 15 after the training, the PMT can only process 10 sets.

Mr. Lakpa inquired how the PMT ensures that there are no double counting for the number

of outreach (Indicator 5). It was explained that initially, the sub-grantees were asked to indicate the first timers, second timers, etc. but in case that this was missed out and there is no way to gather the actual information, the PMT would pick out the highest number of attendances for the same village where several trainings were conducted. This is the actual case for Buli Village in Bhutan where they conducted 4 trainings of several topics.

Mr. Raymond also cited how the funders wanted to have the accuracy of quantitative reports backed up by the suggestion of Mr. Lakpa on the previous meeting regarding the qualitative assessment that would complement the quantitative reports. Mr. Raymond also informed everyone that the World Bank brought together the recipients from the different regions to share their updates and lessons learned and understand how the other regions are going. Mr. Lakpa ended the open plenary by saying that they should not only limit themselves to this project but also relate the lessons learned to other existing projects that they are working on.

DISCUSSION: *Audit and Factual Findings on The Previous Financing*
Mr. Catalino "Bong" Corpuz Jr., Finance and Admin Manager, Tebtebba

The audit and factual findings on the previous financing was also discussed although this is not incorporated in the agenda, the RSC members decided to go over the line items which needs to be known to them as it is a very essential matter among the project implementing organizations.

UHY M.L. Aguirre & Co. CPAs conducted the audit covering the period from August 21, 2017 to October 31, 2018 for the first phase with the total budget of \$ 490,750.00 where 77% of the total funding was reviewed or approximately \$350,000.00. The project is carried out on guidelines set by the World Bank and Tebtebba. The audit findings are; salary expenses and management fees under sub-grantees do not have contracts that should be the basis of such expenses; some expenses were supported only by piece of papers with signatures; the amount stated in the document is more than the amount of total receipts; the receipts were not stamped "PAID"; inconsistency in exchange rates; and non-reporting of bank charges. Among the enumerated findings, suggestions and recommendations were also cited by the audit team which includes the setting up of contract between the sub-grantee and the service provider; further documentation of the amount received and the presence of a paper trail for approval and the use of First-In First-Out (FIFO) method in the exchange rates.

In the discussion, Mr. Corpuz mentioned about the case of Vanuatu Foresters Association with 36,500 USD insufficient supporting documents which is approximately 86% of the total sub-grant. In a brief discussion that was done, Mr. Lai said that only big groceries issue receipts. He also added that what they do is bring their own receipts and have these signed by the person receiving the payment. It was also agreed that Mr. Lai from Vanuatu will help in settling these findings and that there will be a bilateral discussion regarding this

Plan of The Additional Financing

Ms. Helen Valdez, Tebtebba Philippines

The additional financing is a mere continuation of the existing project. The development objectives will remain but will just scale up the outcomes of the previous project among the existing sub-grantees from the same eligible countries. As previously mentioned, the unspent amount will be forwarded to the additional financing.

The budget for component 1 is 378,290 USD. It was explained that national capacity building on benefit sharing and carbon accounting will be prioritized. In the Kingdom of Bhutan, an extension of the sub-grant agreement was signed with RSPN but no fund transfer has been made. Tebtebba encountered some problems in submitting the withdrawal application to the WB. Tarayana's proposal is still being finalized for clearance by the WB. The proposals of Hoa Binh and ICTHER of Vietnam are on the process of finalization while that of SSV in Fiji needs more elaboration on the comments that are addressed to them. One concern directed to Fiji is that of the communication process because it is not the staff of SSV who is communicating with Tebtebba but somebody from the National REDD+ Unit. Up to this moment, there are no proposals from Vanuatu but is still open for recommendation. It was also mentioned that the PMT is looking for a possible sub grantee from Papua New Guinea and is in communication with FORCERT.

In relation to the difficulty of finding a sub-grantee in PNG and Pakistan, Mr. Lakpa clarified if it is still possible for RSC to request the inclusion of Cambodia, Nepal and Thailand as eligible countries under the additional financing. He added the possibility of submitting a written situation about the discussion of RSC about the countries who are in need of REDD+ project. The RSC was informed that the link to WB is Ms. Haddy who is the project's TTL. Mr. de Chavez added that the result of this meeting could trigger the committee to work on that matter.

For the Component 2, the allocated budget is 288,500 USD. The RSC was informed that the gender analysis in Fiji is being fast tracked as requested by the TTL so the result can feed into the ERPD to be finalized by March or April 2019. However, the difficulty being encountered here is on the identification of researchers because as per the Terms of references (TOR), the researcher is preferably an indigenous woman. In case there are no qualified indigenous woman, a validation workshop is proposed because it is the only opportunity for IP women to input in the research output. As of now, there are two men researcher that are still being considered.

The additional financing also aims to increase the target outcomes while keeping the indicators unchanged. The target on trainings conducted will be increased from 6 to 20 and the regional knowledge exchange from 2 to 6. The meetings between IPs and REDD+ decision makers will be increased from 12 to 16 while the direct beneficiaries reached will be increased from 400 to 600. Targets for impact of trainings (Indicator 1) remains at 80% well as women's outreach at 50%

Open Discussion

The RSC members are anticipating another face to face meeting by mid-year in Thailand in case there are savings which can be utilized for this activity. It was explained that the budget per component can be moved to other components only with prior approval of the WB. Reallocation between categories (Category 1 or sub-grants and Category 2 covering consulting services, goods and non-consulting services, trainings, audit, administration, M&E and operational cost) requires a more elaborate process with the WB.

For your information, budgets can be moved between components with the prior approval of a revised procurement plan, budget and work plan by the World Bank. Where reallocation cannot happen easily is between disbursement categories (sub-grants is one category and everything else: operating costs, consultant services, goods, non consultant services - is another category). To be able to move funds between categories we need to process a restructuring internally first. We can discuss this during the mission as needed.

One issue that Mr. Tunga raised is concerning those organizations who claimed to be IPO's but are not working for IP and those organizations who are not IPO but are working for IP because in the case of Bhutan, RSPN and Tarayana never claimed to be an IPO but are working for IPs. It was clarified that Bhutan is supposed to access funds from ANSAB for CSOs but two organizations are already funded from the IP budget being managed by Tebtebba that is why ANSAB was told not to fund any organizations in Bhutan to balance the distribution of funds.

There is a tentative Forest Carbon Accounting Training probably by the last week of March 2019. The venue is still hanging but it has to be done somewhere in a place with forests hence Cambodia or Indonesia is nominated for the venue. It was requested to add more participants. If schedules are met, the draft of the training tool kit is supposed to be received by last week of February.

AN UPDATE: LCIP And How the Project Can Feed into The Platform

Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, AIPP Thailand

During the discussion of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform or LCIP and on how the project can feed into this platform, it was projected that in another three years, the local communities can join and select their own representatives. Out of the seventeen (17) members, they will be selecting two where one is an IP. The possible selection process of facilitative working group members from the seven (7) regions is foreseen to be done by regions where each region selects one man and one woman representative. The Pacific region has its own selection process. Guidance on how to operationalize this platform is anticipated.

Mr. Kittisak laid the general time frame starting from 2018 which marks the commencement of operationalization. There is a work plan for 2019 but the idea on what to be done is still vague. For 2020 to 2021, the implementation of the work plan is being

projected followed by a review of the platform based on the implementation by the end of 2021. The second phase starts 2022.

Mr. Lakpa also commented on the launching of network among the four countries namely, Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia because he believes that the community has something to contribute. For the first time, he also added that there is an IP representative in the government along with the huge opening in the financial sector.

WAYS FORWARD

As the moderator of the RSC meeting, Mr. Kittisak highlighted the major question that encompasses the summary of what has transpired during the meeting. He asked the question “What are we going to do to get there?” and then went on with the strategies that were discussed. (I) Maintain a good communication among the RSC members through e-mail exchange to talk about the common issues and other important matters. (II) The committee also agreed to make recommendations to the World Bank through a letter addressed to the Task Team Leader for the inclusion of other countries in Component 1 in the additional financing.

Mr. Tunga of Nepal also clarified the second responsibility of RSC which is the monitoring sub-projects in countries where RSC members reside if there are plans to visit some countries at some point in time. The PMT said that it depends on the status of implementation of sub-project because monitoring can be done only when activities have been implemented. It can possibly be done around May 2019.

Presentation: Project Results, Lessons Learned and Recommendations and New Proposals

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to look into the project results, lessons learned and recommendations from the sub-project implemented by ICTHER together with their new proposal and the proposal of Hoa Binh/CERDA. The second day it was joined in by a representative from ICTHER, Ms. Tran Thi Nhu Phuong and two representatives from Hoa Binh/CERDA, Mr. Thong Ha and Ms. Vu Thi Hien. The two government representatives were not able to come due to the upcoming holiday that is being celebrated in Vietnam, but Mr. Vu Hoai Minh, Project Coordinator of the FCPF REDD+ Unit attended.

International Center for Tropical Highland Ecosystems Research (ICTHER) Ms. Tran Thi Nhu Phuong, *ICTHER Representative*

The presentation of Ms. Phuong regarding the outcomes of ICTHER’s sub-project started with the two objectives that it aims to achieve which are (i) to provide practical guidance on how to apply ACMA methods in communities and how to transfer these to others and (ii) to focus on the establishment and promotion of the Forest Management Council (FMC)

together with the Forest Management Enterprise (FME) in Muong Lat District, Thanh Hoa Province.

The new ACMA seeks to replace the top down approach to forest management and protection and encourages more collaboration with forest owners with the Forest Management Councils (FMC). The benefit sharing which was originally made between the forest owners and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) through a contract will now be designed and agreed by stakeholders through discussions. The ACMA operational manual was designed for consultants, local authorities, forest owners and local people especially the ethnic minorities and women who would like to improve their participation in the forest protection and management.

Ms. Phuong then presented the benefit sharing mechanism which is to (i) Make consensus between FMEs and local people; (ii) Create the good cooperation to reduce conflict and confusion concerning forest boundaries, right to harvest NTFPs, land use right; (iii) Encourage sustainable forest as agro-forestry activities; (iv) Determine rights and responsibilities of each parties; (v) Avoid any activities with negative impact on conservation and protection of natural resource; (vi) BSA reflects both carbon and non-carbon benefits of the ER-P will be negotiated and signed by the FMC; (vii) BSA must be fully detailed as status of resources, list of beneficiaries, quantification, monitor management, assess deforestation and degradation impacts, prevent& reduce negative impacts, risks; (viii) The principle includes the lists of FMC members, village communities, households and individuals.

Mr. Kittisak asked what kind of ownership right does the forest owners have in Vietnam and according to Ms. Truong, it is only the right to use the forest that is given to the community and not on land. As to the forest use rights, they can be the management board, organizations, household or individual but they cannot own the land. The rationale behind this practice is on the benefit that they get hence they are responsible for the management. As per the discussion, it is the forest use rights that can be sold and not the forest itself. According to Mr. Minh, an FCPF REDD+ Unit representative, the problem in the protected areas is that the people enter those areas. There are also corporations who enter into some arrangements with the local people. Some local people also organize councils to protect their areas from outsiders. Ms. Hien also added that when the land and forest are allocated as one, it can be sold to anyone, but if the land and the forest were allocated separately, it cannot be sold.

The presenter also discussed their new proposal that will focus on Promoting and Implementing ACMA to Reduce Carbon Emissions Among Da Krong Protection forest and Forest-Dependent Communities in Quang Tri Province. Activities include capacity building on REDD+, forest management, benefit sharing and carbon accounting. A SERNA will be undertaken to guide the preparation of the ACMA operational manual and a pilot FMC will be established. Results of the sub-project will be shared with government and other REDD+ stakeholders.

II. Hoa Binh Cooperative for Agro-Forestry and Environment/CERDA Proposal

Ms. Vu Thi Hien, CERDA *Representative*

The presentation of Ms. Hien summarized the proposal of Hoa Binh for the FCPF World Bank covering a period of six months entitled “Upscaling and Replicating Capacity building for the ethnic communities to be ready to actively participate in REDD+ as an independent stakeholder through their legal entities”. It aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To assist the communities to set-up legal entities (cooperatives) to access to the government policy on forestry as the independent stakeholder.
2. To improve knowledge of ethnic minorities and forest-dependent communities on REDD+ and the ERP and related topics
3. The communities are capable to participate in REDD+ processes including ERP implementation at local and national levels

The sub- project’s expected outcomes include Community Institutional development by setting up 2 co-operatives and an Alliance of Community Cooperatives (ACC) among 4 cooperatives. The other 2 cooperatives were already established under previous projects. The alliance will try to manage some 2,800 hectares of natural protection forest. Secondly, it aims to prepare the community to participate in REDD+ trainings. It was also presented that the district government confirmed to sign the long-term forest protection contract over 1,000 ha of natural forest under the government forest management program. Lastly, it proposed to run the model of “Landscape– inter-community – Customary governance forest management” to reduces forest management management costs and to use the “Community –based forest monitoring and information system – CBMIS” for results-based payment.

Mr. Kittisak queried if the inter community land scape approach is a collaborative management among the community in the area. The presenter answered that the community who resides in the area will work together and collaborate.

Annex A
Agenda

Date/Time	Activity	Organization / Person responsible
DAY 1, 29 January 2019, Tuesday		
9:00 am – 9: 15 am	Welcome Introduction of Participants	Ms. Luong Thi Truong Executive Director Centre for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas, Vietnam
9:15 am – 10:00 am	Review of the minutes of the previous RSC meeting	Mr. Kittisak Rattankrajangri Chairperson Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
10:00 am – 10:15 am	BREAK	
10:15 am – 11:00 am	Sharing from RSC members on latest developments on REDD+ processes in their respective countries (10 minutes each)	RSC Members from Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal, Vietnam, Vanuatu
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Open Forum	
11:30 am – 12:00 noon	Update on the Outcomes of the previous financing	Ms. Helen Valdez Project Management Team Leader Tebtebba
12:00 noon – 12:30 pm	Open Forum	
12:30 pm- 1:30 pm	LUNCH BREAK	
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Discussion of the Work and Financial Plan of the additional financing	Ms. Helen Valdez
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Open Forum	
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Possible support of RSC members in the implementation of the additional financing	Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa Environment Programme Coordinator Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Update on the LCIP and how the project can feed into the platform	Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsi
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Open Forum	
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	BREAK	
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	Ways Forward	
DAY 2, 30 January 2019, Wednesday		
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Recap of Day 1	
9:15 am – 9:45 am	Presentation of the ICTHER - Project results, lessons learned, recommendations	
9:45 am – 10:15 am	Presentation of the government representatives on the ACMA including comments on ICTHER's work (No representative attended)	Dr. Pham Minh Thoa Consultant Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy National Project Director Support for the REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Vietnam Phase 2 Management Board for Forestry Projects Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
10:15 am – 11:00 am	Open Forum	
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Presentation of Hoa Binh new proposal	Hoa Binh representative
11:30 am – 12:00 am	Presentation of ICTHER new proposal	ICTHER representative
12:00 am – 1:00 noon	Comments/inputs on the proposals	
1:00 noon	Closing	Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsi

Moderators: Day 1 – Kittisak
Day 2 – Lakpa

Documentor – Tebtebba

Annex B
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization/Country	E-mail Address
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10. Ms. Helen Valdez	Tebtebba, Philippines	h.valdez@tebtebba.org
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