

Project Executive Board sets ambitious agenda for REDD+ in 2015

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The Ninth Meeting of the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF Project Executive Board was held in Phnom Penh on 24 February 2015. Members of the PEB include representatives of the Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Ministry of Environment; UNDP; FAO; UNEP; Indigenous Peoples; civil society organizations; representative of the embassies of Japan and Norway; development partners such as JICA, the EU.

H.E. Dr Chheng Kimsun, Director General, Forestry Administration as Co-chair of the PEB in his opening remarks noted significant progress related to REDD+ activities during 2014. He specially noted the progress on the National REDD+ Strategy and was pleased to see that the first draft was already available and a roadmap for consultations and finalization of the REDD+ strategy had been evolved. The PEB has set itself ambitious goals and targets that includes presentation of the National REDD+ Strategy and the reference emission level at the UNFCCC COP21 that will be held in Paris in December 2015.

Co-chair Claire Van der Vaeren, UN Resident Coordinator in her remarks supported the consultative process to generate high level support for REDD+ from all relevant ministries in Cambodia. She stressed that the REDD+ strategy should ensure that voices of forest dependent poor, indigenous peoples, women, elderly and youth are heard in the consultations.

The PEB approved the annual work plan and budget for the FCPF project, noted the achievements of 2014, and noted the approval of the CBR+ national strategy for Cambodia and looked forward to its implementation. The PEB have also taken note of the arrangement between UNDP and FAO for the implementation of outcome four of the FCPF project.

The PEB also approved the terminal evaluation of the UN-REDD Programme that will begin in April 2015 and looked forward to reviewing findings and recommendations at the next PEB meeting as an ongoing process of strengthening the REDD+ programme in Cambodia.

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