

**DRAFT**

**PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION DRAFT**

**Government of Aceh REDD+ Program  
Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in Aceh, Indonesia**

**REDD Taskforce, Government of Aceh**

August 2010

## **Government of Aceh REDD Task Force**

In March 2009 a Government of Aceh (GoA) REDD Task Force consisting of representatives from relevant provincial government agencies (Forestry Department, Legal Bureau, Economic Bureau, Community, Empowerment Agency) was established with a mandate to coordinate and progress REDD+ in the Province. The GoA and the REDD Taskforce are in the initial stages of developing a multi-stakeholder institutional framework for the long term management of Aceh's forests through REDD. The REDD Taskforce is also responsible for engaging and coordinating activities between relevant stakeholders, including the Private Sector, Aceh NGOs and CSOs, Forest-edge communities and local government on Aceh's REDD+ program.

## **Standards**

The recent REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards, which apply to REDD+ programs, are providing useful guidance as Aceh develops its provincial level REDD framework. Principle 6, for example, states that 'All relevant rights holders and stakeholders participate fully and effectively in the REDD+ program'. The Criteria and Framework for Indicators associated with principle 6, as with the other principles, provide a practical framework to assist with the implementation of the principles in a logical manner.

## **Private sector**

*Donors and investors:* The GoA REDD Taskforce is responsible for engaging with private sector actors to source long-term financing for REDD activities in the province.

*Concession-holders:* A review of all forestry and mining concessions is being undertaken by the GoA following a 2007 Moratorium on Logging in Aceh. Concessions throughout the province are being reviewed for their legal status, procedural correctness and performance. The GoA, Aceh Green Secretariat, is meeting with all concession holders as part of this process.

## **Aceh NGOs and CSOs**

A NGO forum has been established to foster dialogue between REDD project proponents and Aceh NGOs and CBOs. NGO REDD working groups are currently being formed around key REDD issues including: transparency, governance frameworks, livelihoods, tenure rights and benefit-sharing mechanisms.

## **Forest-edge communities**

The GoA is committed to fulfilling a free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) process with forest-edge communities. The FPIC design process for the Ulu Masen project, which was validated pursuant to the CCB Standards (Version 2) in December 2009, includes four main steps, outlined below (see Diagram 1).

The GoA will seek consent from Ulu Masen customary *Mukim* Leaders<sup>1</sup>, as representatives of their communities, to the inclusion of their respective areas of *Mukim* forest within the Ulu Masen REDD project area.<sup>2</sup>

*Step 1: Initial consultation meetings with Ulu Masen Mukim Leaders*

The Ulu Masen Project held initial education and information-sharing meetings with Ulu Masen *Mukim* Leaders and *Mukim* Secretaries in each of the five Ulu Masen districts in April and May 2010. The REDD Task Force, with Fauna & Flora International (FFI), developed education materials for these meetings, including an easy-to-read comic on climate change and REDD and a PowerPoint presentation which covered the following topics:

- ♦ the importance of forests in providing ecosystem services to the people of Aceh;
- ♦ the GoA's environmentally-friendly development vision for the province, known as 'Aceh Green';
- ♦ the concept of REDD, and how the GoA envisages REDD to fit into the Aceh Green development model; and
- ♦ the Ulu Masen REDD Project.

Meeting participants provided extensive verbal and written feedback on their hopes and concerns for REDD in Aceh.<sup>3</sup>

*Step 2: Workshop with Mukim leaders*

The GoA REDD Task Force will facilitate participatory workshops with *Mukim* leaders and/or their selected representatives to outline the FPIC process herein and receive *Mukim* input on its design. The workshop will also explain the Ulu Masen REDD project, including its principles and proposed activities and work plan, focusing on benefit-sharing and *Mukim* forest boundaries as two key issues raised by *Mukim* in step 1. The workshop will be interactive and *Mukim* will have plenty of opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues raised by *Mukim*, including those raised in step 1. Aceh NGOs will be invited to present on relevant topics, including *Mukim* tenure rights.

*Step 3: Community consensus (Deuk Pakat) on Ulu Masen REDD Project*

Ulu Masen *Mukim* will be supported to undertake an internal decision-making process as to the inclusion of their respective areas of *Mukim* forest within the Ulu Masen REDD project area. *Mukim* leaders or their representatives who attended Step 2 will be asked to play a key leadership role at this meeting. Representatives from the REDD Task Force will also attend these meetings to respond to issues raised. *Mukim* may decide to proceed directly to step 4 at this meeting. Alternatively, communities may wish to meet again at a later date to make a decision, either because they have questions for the REDD Task Force or because they need more time for deliberation within the community.

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<sup>1</sup> A *Mukim* is a traditional Acehnese community governance institution which encompasses between 3-8 villages. *Mukim* are present in many parts of Aceh, in particular in the Ulu Masen Ecosystem.

<sup>2</sup> As *Mukim* forests presently enjoys very weak legal protection, *Mukim* will be asked to consent to the inclusion of areas which *Mukim* claim to be *Mukim* forest. While the project is committed to establishing *Mukim* forest boundaries, demarcating these boundaries and establishing their legal protection will take time and efforts at both field and policy levels.

<sup>3</sup> Ulu Masen REDD Project, *Initial Consultation Report: Results and Feedback from Ulu Masen Forest-edge Mukim Leaders*, June 2010 (Bahasa Indonesia and English).

Step 4: Decision

Having reached consensus, the *Mukim* leaders will convey the community's decision, either in writing using a template prepared by REDD Task Force or, if preferred, orally. If a document is prepared, it will be signed by the *Mukim* leader and will indicate that the decision was reached by consensus to proceed with the project.

Ongoing consultation and involvement:

Ulu Masen communities will continue to be involvement in ongoing Project design and implementation, including related to design of REDD revenues mechanisms at a community level and customary tenure and management rights and responsibilities over forest areas.

**Diagram 1: Ulu Masen Project FPIC Process**

