

PRO / 053 / 2013
PRO/303/UN-REDD

Kinshasa March 26, 2013

Dear Sir,

**Subject: Notification of No-Cost extension
Democratic Republic of Congo's UN-REDD National Programme (2nd phase)**

I. Approval status

Through this letter, I would like to inform you that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the UN Agencies in the country and the national UN-REDD programme's stakeholders have jointly agreed on the need of a no-cost extension of the mentioned programme for 9 (nine) months, from April until the end of December 2013. This agreement was first reached during the last joint UN-REDD mission in August 2012, in which an independent evaluation of the national REDD+ process took place, with the participation of the Government, key non-governmental and indigenous-peoples representatives, and UN and UN-REDD experts (the members of the programme's technical & monitoring committee participated in such joint mission and in the deliberation for an extension). This request of extension was further ratified in a recent UN-REDD mission, just conducted in mid-March, 2013, together with the mentioned members of the programme committee.

This decision and request will allow FAO to complete the activities under its technical and financial responsibility, notably the component to advance a national system for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV). It will also serve to conduct a robust final evaluation process, in order to take lessons and provide guidance for the follow up of the national REDD+ process and associated investments. This does not affect the activities under the responsibility of UNDP and UNEP, which will be completed, as anticipated, by the original end date, 31st March 2013. The Programme will continue under the quality assurance process of each participating UN organization.

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Mr. Mario Boccucci
Head of UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
Geneva



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Please note that there is no particular issue underlying this request of implementation extension. It is just a matter of ensuring that implementation follows the adequate pace and serves for national capacity building. The reasons of the delay are probably a combination of an ambitious design, the relatively weak in-country capacities for MRV (which require more time to be properly built) and the notable degree of technical sophistication of the MRV system in a vast country like the DRC.

II. Other Recommendations

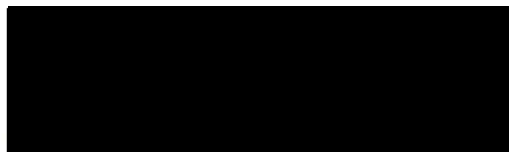
A specific action plan has been prepared to ensure a successful implementation of the pending activities under the new, extended period. The programme implementation will continue under the same design framework (outcomes and budget), the same approach and the quality assurance of the UN system.

III. Monitoring and Reporting

As per the Programme's monitoring and evaluation framework, annual work-plans and biannual reports will continue to be prepared and submitted to the UN-REDD Programme's Secretariat. Furthermore, a final evaluation will be also conducted prior to the closure of the Programme, as per UN-REDD rules and procedures, and as a matter of good practice.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude for the support of the UN-REDD Programme's Secretariat to the national REDD+ efforts in the DRC.

Yours sincerely,



Moustapha Soumaré,
UN Resident Coordinator
Democratic Republic of the Congo

