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National Programme Annual Report 2015

SRI LANKA

UN-REDD Programme

January to December 2015

1.   Annual Report for the UN-REDD National Programmes

The Annual Report for the National Programmes (NPs) highlights progress over the twelve month period ending 31 December (1 January-31 December). This progress is reported against the consolidated Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2015, as approved by the National Programme Steering Committee or Executive Board.

The report includes the following sections:

1) National Programme Identification;

2) Progress Reporting;

3) Government and Non-Government Comments;

4) Results Matrix;

5) Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and Associated UNFCCC Decisions;

6) Financial Delivery;

7) Adaptive management; and

8) Targeted Support.

The lead agency for each National Programme is responsible for coordinating inputs to the Annual Reports, and for ensuring all agency and counterpart perspectives have been collected - in particular government and civil society organizations. The reports are reviewed and vetted by the agency teams, who provide quality assurance and recommendations to the national teams on articulating results and on adjustments to be made. It therefore follows an iterative process which serves to enhance the quality of the reports and enable a meaningful assessment of progress and identification of key lessons regarding knowledge exchange.

The Annual Report for the National Programmes should be submitted to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat (un-redd@un-redd.org) as per timeline indicated below.

Annual Report timeline:

Annual Report template sent to Country teams: *20 January 2016*
Submission of first draft of the Annual Report: *26 February 2016*
Secretariat revision sent back to Country: *4 March 2016*
Submission of final Annual Report: *11 March 2016*
Submission of final signed Annual Report: *25 March 2016*

2.   National Programme Identification

Please identify the National Programme (NP) by completing the information requested below. The Government Counterpart and designated National Programme focal points of the Participating UN Organizations are asked to provide their electronic signatures below, prior to submission to the UN-REDD Secretariat.

National Programme Title	Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme
Implementing Partners1	• Forest Department of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (Lead implementing partner) • Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment • Department of Wild Life Conservation (DWLC) of the Ministry of Sustainable Development
Participating Organizations	FAO (lead agency), UNDP, UNEP

Project Timeline			
Programme Duration	4 years and 3 months (with no-cost extension)	Original End Date[2]	02.04.2016
NPD Signature Date	27.02.2013	No-Cost Extension	Approved
Date of First Fund Transfer[3]	04.04.2013	Current End Date	30.06.2017

Financial Summary (USD)[4]			
UN Agency	Approved Programme Budget[5]	Amount Transferred[6]	Cumulative Expenditures up to 31 December 2015[7]
FAO	2,410,000	2,410,000	1,032,977
UNDP	915,000	915,000	568,322
UNEP	413,318	413,318	130,979
Indirect Support Cost (7%)	256,682	256,682	111,110
Total	**4,000,000**	**4,000,000**	**1,843,389**

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1 Those organizations either sub-contracted by the Project Management Unit or those organizations officially identified in the National Programme Document (NPD) as responsible for implementing a defined aspect of the project.
2 The original end date as stated in the NPD.
3 As reflected on the MPTF Office Gateway http://mptf.undp.org.
4 The financial information reported should include indirect costs, M&E and other associated costs. The information on expenditure is unofficial. Official certified financial information is provided by the HQ of the Participating UN Organizations by 30 April and can be accessed on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/CCF00).
5 The total budget for the entire duration of the Programme as specified in the signed Submission Form and NPD.
6 Amount transferred to the participating UN Organization from the UN-REDD Multi-Partner Trust Fund.
7 The sum of commitments and disbursement

Signatures from the designated UN organizations[8]			Signature by the Government Counterpart
FAO	UNDP	UNEP	
[Signature]	[Signature]	[Signature]	[Signature]
Date and Name of Signatories in Full:			
[Date]	[Date]	[Date]	[Date]
[Name]	[Name]	[Name]	[Name]

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8 Each UN organization is to nominate one or more focal points to sign the report. Please refer to the UN-REDD Programme Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Framework document for further guidance.

3.   Progress Reporting

This section aims to summarize the progress and identify key achievements of the NP during the reporting period. Additionally, the section aims to identify key challenges and solutions/ lessons that could be shared with other countries. These will be used as input to the UN-REDD consolidated annual report so please stick to the word limits.

3.1 Achievements

Please provide a description of key achievements made by the NP in relation to the 4 pillars of the Warsaw Framework and how the NP has supported those. [250 words for each pillar]

National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan

A roadmap for REDD+ strategy development was formulated through which Sri Lanka's vision for REDD+ in Sri Lanka was developed with representatives of key national and sub-national stakeholder groups. Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, identified in 2014, were analyzed to identify options for potential strategic REDD+ Policies and Measures (PAMs) for addressing the drivers. The PAMs were then prioritized through a stakeholder-defined multi-criteria process. Lessons and knowledge from this process were shared with other REDD+ countries at the 15th UN-REDD Policy Board meeting in Costa Rica. A financial mechanism was designed to access and manage potential REDD+ funds from international sources. A study on funds management was completed with recommendations for designing a financial mechanism to access and manage potential REDD+ funds from external sources, which will be incorporated into the REDD+ strategy. High-level support for REDD+ was further strengthened through the dialogue with key government policy makers including the Secretary of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE). The Secretary assured his full support in the strategy development process as a result of this dialogue. A new multi-stakeholder task force on national policies and strategy was formed to provide and coordinate inputs to the strategy development process.

Safeguards and Safeguards Information System (SIS)

As part of the safeguards work, a study on grievance redress mechanism for REDD+ reviewed the potential PaMs to identify potential grievances. Also, through Targeted Support (TS) a study on gender mainstreaming and women's inclusion in REDD+ was conducted to make policy recommendations for greater women's inclusion in REDD+ policy processes. The results from these initial assessments will be taken into consideration when the safeguards and SiS activities commence in 2016.

National Forest Reference Level

A training session on the development of FRL was held in September 2015 with 22 participants of 11 stakeholder institutions. A FRL action plan was developed and FRL Technical Working Group (TWG) initiated. The NP is supporting the government to resolve data gaps on forest cover for years 2005 and 2015 to obtain a complete forest cover data time series (1992, 1996, 2005, 2010 and 2015) for the development of FRL. The forest cover map for 2015 is in preparation by the FD.

National Forest Monitoring System

The MRV Task Force continued to meet regularly and provide guidance and support to NFMS development. Major achievements for 2015 include; development and validation of the parameters for the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and Satellite Forest Monitoring System (SLMS), trainings on

the principles of NFMS, Google Earth for forest cover mapping, Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) and the update of 1985 land cover/use data to 2000 and 2010. Over 45 personnel from about 15 different institutions including government and academia benefited from these events. Other important maps like agro-ecological map, soil map, environmental protection areas, administrative boundaries (country, province and districts), rail, road, river, contour map to prepare digital elevation models were collected from departments represented on the MRV Task Force and provided to the NFMS development team in FAO HQ Rome.

Supporting the above four elements, key communications related activities included the finalization and implementation of the Communication Strategy for the Readiness stage, training government district officials on strategic communication, launch of tri-lingual website for the dissemination of knowledge related to REDD+, conducting a REDD+ national awareness campaign in newspapers including REDD+ messages and articles and utilization of social media to engage with stakeholders were highlighted. REDD+ infographics were also developed for communication products. As part of the stakeholder engagement work, eleven district-level CSO awareness sessions and two district-level awareness sessions for government officers, on REDD+ and climate change impacts, were conducted.

3.2 Challenges and solutions

Please provide a summary of the challenges faced and solutions put in place to address them. These could be of any nature, operational, good procedure, unsuccessful process that other countries could benefit from. [150 words]

External factors have caused delays to NP implementation. In 2015 Sri Lanka held two national elections. The elections themselves and the subsequent change of government, reorganization of ministries and changes in senior government personnel have all led to delays in NP implementation.

There were difficulties finding suitably knowledgeable national personnel and consultants with the expertise needed to conduct the studies and activities under the NP. Several delays in recruitment and selection processes were experienced. Raising awareness more generally, among government and private sector stakeholders, is taking more time than initially expected, first in ensuring understanding of the concept and second relating the concept to stakeholders' work mandates. Different stakeholders often interpret REDD+ concepts in different ways, depending on their professional circumstances. The communication strategy has taken this into account. Furthermore, the NP was designed well before the inception. Some of the activities and modalities proposed in the NP have proved to be inappropriate during programme implementation, which required the technical officers to redesign some of the key concept notes.

A full-time CTA was in place from March 2015, after which implementation of NP activities has been markedly more efficient.

For these reasons, PMU requested a no-cost extension, which was endorsed by the PEB.

4. Government & Non-Government Comments

This section provides the opportunity to capture government and civil society perspectives and provide additional or complementary information.

4.1 Government Comments

Government counterparts to provide their perspective and additional complementary information not included in the overall progress assessment. [500 words]
Year 2015 could be considered as a very important year for the Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme. Outputs expected under action plans of each development agency – FAO, UNDP and UNEP were mostly achieved. Initiation of planning of National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Reference Level etc were some of the highlights to be mentioned under activities supervised by FAO. Development of REDD+ Roadmap for Sri Lanka is another commendable achievement. Considerable progress of stakeholder participation was also seen through the CSO platform, which was registered under government law and showed its progress in actively participating in a number of activities e.g. a study on non-carbon benefits of forests. Establishment of the Academics and Researchers Forum was also to be highlighted as they have showed a keen interest on certain activities that are of scientific interest. The Policies and Measures Task Force was also established during the reporting year. The communication component, which was significantly delayed, was reactivated and is functioning well. The Communication Task Force has met several times and provided necessary directions for an effective communication programme.   The guidance and directions received from regional experts were also to be appreciated. A good relationship and mutual understanding between the regional team and the national team was noticed. International and national consultants also have performed their duties satisfactorily.   The guidance received from the Chief Technical Adviser has immensely contributed to the success and quality assurance the implementation of the NP. Having the CTA on board throughout the year was a good decision. The MRV experts and adviser attached to the PMU have equally shown their competence in performing their duties as usual.   PMU staff, led by the Programme Manager and his supporting staff, have provided a commendable service for the success of the NP. The efforts made by them for the smooth functioning of the programme in both technical and administrative functions, including finance, are worth a special mention.   As a whole, it is pleasing to note that the programme is progressing well as expected.

4.2 Non-Government Comments

Civil society stakeholders to provide their perspective and additional complementary information (Please request a summary from existing stakeholder committees or platforms). [500 words]
The CSO REDD+ platform was initiated in 2014 with the presence of approximately 40 CSOs concerned on environment and similar interests. An Indigenous people's forum was also established during the same time. This network initially started as a stakeholder group of the UN-REDD related

discussions. Some of the CSO members have been trained on gender, landscape planning, and also got the opportunity to join the REDD+ academy in Indonesia in 2014. CSO network members organized several workshops in their localities together with the Forest Officers in respective areas. They also designed future regional level plans for promoting joint activities.

SLCFAN was registered under the Companies Act in 2015 with the registration number G/A 3101 as a guarantee limited and with the name **SRI LANKA CLIMATE AND FOREST ACTION NETWORK (SLCFAN)**. The Board of Directors is made up of the appointed convening committee members of the CSO REDD+ platform during the AGM 2015. It was agreed to provide the SLCFAN membership to the members of the CSO Platform who have been registered by the 30th June 2015 on a nominal fee and then to dissolve the CSO Platform.

SLCFAN successfully bid for the Non Carbon Benefit study under the NP. The consultancy team has already started working with the SLCFAN member groups to gather relevant information. The Research and Academic Forum was established under the NP to support the consultancy team with technical guidance where necessary.

At the Convening Committee meeting held on 23rd October 2015, it was agreed to organize a workshop for CSO members (including all CBR+ project grantees and knowledge management and capacity development teams) on important principles of REDD+ in November 2015. An awareness session was held on 5th December 2015 at Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA). In addition, CSO members actively participated in the first consultative session for the roadmap development, PAMs listing, prioritization and selection process, consultative session for grievance redress mechanism, fund management structures and also on the PLR review.

A work plan for 2015/16 for the SLCFAN was developed and has already been forwarded to the PMU for possible funding in 2016. This work plan includes the proposals made by the member groups as well as some of the planned activities under the NP through the CSO Platform. A list-serve for the SLCFAN was established in July 2015 slcfan@googlegroups.com. However, there is very little communication taken place via this list-serve.

Hemantha Withanage
Executive Director
Centre for Environmental Justice

5.   Results Matrix

The results matrix aims to measure progress made in the reporting year against annual targets for outputs indicated in the annual work plan for the year. If the log frame has been amended following a mid-term review, this should be mentioned above the output table. For this section please provide:

- For each outcome, please provide the outcome title. The intention is to report whether the programme is on track towards meeting its target, not to assess if target has been met. Based on the previous annual report, please tick the box below each outcome and provide a short summary of progress made. If the country has not yet produced an annual report, do not tick any box.
- For each output, please provide the output title and a summary of the progress towards achieving the specific output. Please list each performance indicator, the associated baseline and expected annual target for the output for this reporting year and a short narrative indicating progress against this annual target or deviation from plans.

Please repeat this for all outcomes and outputs of the NP results framework.

Outcome 1: **National Consensus Reached on the National REDD+ Programme**			
☐ Outcome Achieved;	☒ On track to achieving this outcome;	☐ Expected minor delays ☐ Corrective measures in place	☐ Expected significant delays ☐ Corrective measures in place
Progress towards Outcome: National consensus reached on the REDD+ Roadmap. The institutional arrangements for the Readiness phase and the REDD+ implementation phase has been agreed and endorsed by the stakeholders.			

Output 1.1: **Broad-based, multi-stakeholder national REDD+ advisory group established**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
Number of state and non-state entities actively supporting and contributing to REDD+ Readiness	No agreed consensus on national REDD+ management arrangements	New structures for the institutional arrangements in place 4 PEB meetings (quarterly) conducted All key stakeholders are fully engaged in the REDD+ road map and the national strategy development process	The TOR for REDD+ Advisory & Coordination Board (RACB) has been endorsed by the 8th Programme Executive Board; Its membership identified and agreed. Roadmap endorsed by the Stakeholders paving the path for the REDD+ strategy development. 2 PEB meetings were conducted during the year.

Progress towards Output: The state & non-state entities fully engaged in the REDD+ readiness activities. These entities include 25 state entities, CSO platform members (65), IP forum (36 representing six clans), private sector (two leading Chambers of Commerce in Sri Lanka representing various sectors in trade, business and commerce, Plantation Companies), academics and professionals. They were involved and actively contributed towards reaching national consensus on recommendations & findings of various REDD+ readiness phase studies. The completed assignments during the year include studies on REDD+ grievance redress mechanism, PAMs prioritization, design of REDD+ fund management mechanism, gender considerations (through TS) and the REDD+ Roadmap.

Output 1.2: **National legal, procedural, institutional and capacity needs arrangements for sectors relevant for REDD+ reviewed (i.e., agriculture, forestry and other land uses)**

Output Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Progress Against Target
Strategic directions available for effective implementation of REDD+ Programme in Sri Lanka	Limited capacity and gaps in implementing National REDD+ Readiness programme Work initiated in R-PP preparation Key guiding policies/programmes such as Haritha Lanka Programme, legal documents available for review. Set of national guidelines for REDD+ programme management not available.	N/A (already completed)	N/A (already completed)

Progress towards Output: N/A (already completed)

Output 1.3: **National REDD+ Roadmap prepared**

Output Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Progress Against Target
A well- structured REDD+ Roadmap agreed by all relevant stakeholders;	No roadmap	The Roadmap officially adopted and guiding further REDD+ readiness process.	The Roadmap was formally endorsed by the stakeholders.

Progress towards Output: After a series of consultative sessions during the year a REDD+ vision, Roadmap and links to the completed, ongoing and proposed studies/ assessments were articulated and endorsed by the stakeholders.

Outcome 2: **Management Arrangements contributing to the National REDD+ Process**			
☐ Outcome Achieved;	☒ On track to achieving this outcome;	☐ Expected minor delays ☐ Corrective measures in place	☐ Expected significant delays ☐ Corrective measures in place
Progress towards Outcome: PMU continued to support the implementation of the NP activities with the assistance of the NPD, PEB members, TF members and other key stakeholder audiences.			

Output 2.1: **UN-REDD Programme implementation arrangements established**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
Level of PMU staffing, and participation status of TFs and TWGs % of annual targets of the programme met Number of multi-stakeholder meetings/workshops held for coordination and capacity building	No PMU, TFs, TWGs or stakeholder networks	Within 18 months, three specific TFs and TWGs are established and fully operational Two meetings/workshops for coordination and capacity building are held monthly	Activities of the TF on MRV continued 2 new TFs; Research and Communications established. A number of multi-stakeholder meetings, workshops and training programmes held for coordination and capacity building
Progress towards Output: PMU is in full operation. Two PEB meetings were conducted. Two new TFs - on research and communications - were established. Over 20 meetings, capacity building events and consultative workshops were organized in relation to various activities in the NP including on REDD+ vision, roadmap, PaMs prioritization, REDD+ fund options and grievance redress mechanism for REDD+.			

Output 2.2: **Capacity Building Action Plan developed for REDD+ (linked to Output 1.2)**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
A REDD + management structure, institutional arrangements and required competencies for institutions (output 1.2) approved by RPMCC	Capacity assessment not available	A REDD+ management structure, institutional arrangements and required competencies are identified under output 1.2 and	This has been shifted to 2016 until the relevant institutional arrangements required for national REDD+ implementation have been identified.

	the CBNA completed	

Progress towards Output: N/A

Outcome 3: **Improved Stakeholder Awareness and Effective Engagement**			
☐ Outcome Achieved;	☒ On track to achieving this outcome;	☐ Expected minor delays ☐ Corrective measures in place	☐ Expected significant delays ☐ Corrective measures in place

Progress towards Outcome: The Programme adjusted the communication strategy based on the progress and priorities of stakeholder engagement and implemented strategic communication and consultation plans for different stakeholder groups. The government's commitment to REDD+, as the key target stakeholder group, was evidenced with the active participation and the leadership of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE) in the PEB and the TF on National Policies and Strategies. The incorporation of REDD+ in the MMDE's 'Vision for Sri Lanka – towards a blue-green era' was a good example of this commitment. Awareness raising activities involved stakeholders at the district level. A number of articles on REDD+ were published in national newspapers along with original infographics. REDD+ was also presented to the private sector as a means of contributing to the national agenda in relation to the increase of forest coverage. The Communication Task Force was established to ensure the engagement of stakeholders and provide strategic direction in terms of communication. In addition, the CSO platform is now recognized as a registered legal entity, which has ensured that civil society is actively engaged in driving REDD+ in Sri Lanka. The partnership with IUCN has made significant impacts on delivery and assisted the Forest Department in various aspects of communication activities, including the launch of a green economy work plan on communication, which aims to develop materials targeting different stakeholders on the contribution of forests and REDD+ in Sri Lanka.

Output 3.1: **Strategic communication and consultation plan prepared**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
Well-structured work plans for Communications Network and activities based on the Communication Strategy and adjusted to national circumstances	Not REDD+ specific but some communication materials and processes are available	Key state and non-state stakeholders are fully aware of REDD+ and able to contribute to national REDD+ processes effectively	Key stakeholders have been consulted during the year, and therefore are aware of REDD+ and its potential benefits to the country.
Progress towards Output: Communication Strategy developed and being implemented. One national-level awareness campaign was completed followed by district-level events. A Communication Task Force was formed. The communication strategy was adjusted to align with national priorities. Two briefings/workshops were held for journalists and articles were subsequently published. Five infographics depicting REDD+ activities were created and used for communication purposes.			

Output 3.2: **Stakeholder engagement in REDD+ readiness process enhanced (incl. FPIC, the private sector engagement)**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
Number and types of stakeholders meaningfully engaging in REDD+ readiness;	Majority of stakeholders are not aware of REDD+ readiness	One hundred key state and non-state stakeholder groups including IPs and forest dependent communities are aware of REDD+ and engaged in REDD+ Readiness activities	Both state & non state sector (IPs, CSOs, Private & professionals) stakeholders are fully engaged in REDD+ readiness consultations.
Progress towards Output: All national-level state entities including key Ministries and Departments are actively contributing to REDD+ readiness. Through their constructive feedback, members of the CSO Platform, the IP forum, the private sector and the academic and professional forum also contributed towards enrichment of the REDD+ readiness work. Recommendations from the private sector engagement plan, completed in 2014, and the proposal for grievance redress mechanisms for REDD+ will be mainstreamed into the development of the national REDD+ strategy. Similarly, results from the upcoming study on non-carbon benefit of indigenous and non-indigenous forest dependent communities by the CSO Platform will also be considered and adapted to the strategy. Eleven district-level awareness raising events for CSOs and two sessions for government agencies were conducted and included discussions on district-level drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.			

Outcome 4: **National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework**			
☐ Outcome Achieved;	☒ On track to achieving this outcome;	☐ Expected minor delays ☐ Corrective measures in place	☐ Expected significant delays ☐ Corrective measures in place
Progress towards Outcome: Several components of the Implementation framework is in place with the identification of responsible agencies. The National REDD+ Strategy focus areas identified. Potential PAMs were prioritized and are being compared against the existing Policies, Laws and Regulations (PLRs) for further assessment; a fund management mechanism for accessing and managing REDD+ funding from international sources was proposed. The Roadmap provides the national vision and a structural framework for the Strategy.			

Output 4.1: **Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and legal and policy alignment needs identified**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
A comprehensive National REDD+ Strategy together with implementation plans, and validated with stakeholders;	National REDD+ Strategy not available	within 36 months, the National REDD+ strategy and implementation plans are fully supported by all relevant stakeholders	PAMs prioritization completed and they are being assessed against the current PLR framework of the country.

Progress towards Output: Policies & measures need to address the drivers of Deforestation and forest Degradation (D&D) have been identified and prioritized and are currently being assessed against the existing PLRs.	

Output 4.2: Land tenure and use rights clarified towards the benefit sharing of REDD+

Output Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Progress Against Target
A detailed report describing different land tenure patterns in Sri Lanka is available	Unclear land tenure and land rights in rural areas	Information related to land and forest tenure and use rights compiled	Study initiated with the assistance of both the National Consultant and the international Consultant

Progress towards Output: Land tenure study was initiated. Preliminary work including the data collection at the ground level initiated. National consultant compiled the first two chapters of the report.

Output 4.3: Options for addressing deforestation and forest degradation at sub-national level identified

Output Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Progress Against Target
Number of options for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, stakeholder engagement, technical approaches at sub-national level identified	Some REDD+ relevant lessons already generated	Within 12 months at least 20% of identified options are considered in the preparation of REDD+ strategy	The District Awareness programmes for CSO members and government officials were conducted; Supported the revision of Management Plans of Forest Department.

Progress towards Output: The district-level drivers of D&D were identified by the CSOs and the Divisional Forest Office and Localized Drivers of D&D impacting the forest reserves identified by the FD staff with the Forest Dependent Communities (FDC) living close by. Field visits to degraded forest sites were conducted to understand issues related to forest degradation and also to understand and explore the solutions and associated social concerns which may lead to potential demonstration activities. This led to the identification of nearly 300km of boundaries for survey and demarcation of assisted natural regeneration (ANR) areas in the northern and eastern provinces which could be developed as a demonstration activity.

Output 4.4: Options for equitable and transparent benefit sharing identified

Output Indicators	Baseline	Annual Target	Progress Against Target
A set of policy recommendations on	Some relevant lessons from other	An analysis of possible REDD+ fund	Options for REDD+ fund management

| benefit sharing mechanism is approved by the RPMCC) | sectors | management arrangement is completed. Within 30 months, consultation on implementation arrangement for fund management is completed. | explored with the stakeholders and one model was endorsed with additional option of a trust fund also made available if required. |

Progress towards Output: Funds management models identified together with implementation arrangements. These will be incorporated in the national REDD+ strategy.

Output 4.5: **National REDD+ Strategy developed**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
Officially endorsed National REDD+ strategy available	No REDD+ roadmap, strategic actions identified during RPP preparation	Within 33 months, a National REDD+ Strategy is fully elaborated. Within 36 months, the Strategy officially is endorsed and implementation plans agreed	REDD+ Roadmap completed and REDD+ Strategy work initiated.

Progress towards Output: REDD+ strategy development initiated. The PMU has already planned to obtain technical and policy level support from members of the TF on National Policies and Strategies and also through a TWG established by technical experts from the key government institutions who will be directly involved in the REDD+ strategy implementation.

Outcome 5: **Monitoring and MRV Results for REDD+ Activities Provided**			
☐ Outcome Achieved;	☒ On track to achieving this outcome;	☐ Expected minor delays	☐ Expected significant delays
		☐ Corrective measures in place	☐ Corrective measures in place

Progress towards Outcome: Much prominence was given to capacity building needed for REDD+ implementation using a multi-stakeholder approach in following categories. (A) Training of stakeholder institutions in related disciplines such as remote sensing/GIS, GHG inventory training programmes (3), National Forest Inventory (1 international training and 2 local), National forest Monitoring System (2 trainings) and in one training on development of FRL. (B) Data development support on land use/ land cover for 1985 and 2000 and forest cover data 2015, which was still ongoing at end of 2015. (C) Initiation of the web portal development for national forest monitoring systems. (D) Identification and validation of NFI parameters and initiation of the national forest inventory design, and (E) Initiation of the FRL development by conducting training and initiating data collection. FRL construction Action Plan was prepared and FRL TWG initiated.

Output 5.1: **MRV process initiated**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
A set of technical guidelines/instruction manuals available	No MRV Baseline is available	Within 36 months, QA/ QC procedures are operational, and guidelines/instruction manuals are available.	Guidelines on GHG inventory, Allometric equation development, National Forest Inventory parameters, are available in the form of workshop proceedings. FRL Action Plan is also developed. Based on these, manuals will be prepared for each thematic area.
Progress towards Output: A second training on GHG inventory in March 2015 was held with the participation of 16 officers representing 8 government institutions. A customised training on GHG inventory for 8 officers of the CCS based on local data was held in October 2015 as an input for the third national communication of Sri Lanka. A customized GHG inventory guidelines was developed and training provided. This included a simplified version of GHG calculations using Excel worksheets and a customized training for the CCS staff using local activity data.			

Output 5.2: **National forest monitoring systems established**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
National forest monitoring system available A set of pre-tested technical guidelines/instruction manuals available	No Satellite Forest Monitoring System in Sri Lanka	Within 36 months, existing satellite imageries for Sri Lanka are analysed. Within 36 months, a reference forest map is developed. Within 36 months, the national forest monitoring system is operational.	Satellite imagery based land use land cover map preparation for years 1985, 2000 completed and year 2010 in progress. These maps will be harmonized using LCCS approach to be utilized in NFMS. Forest cover map for year 2015 is in progress and this will lead to development of reference forest map. National forest monitoring system is in advance stage of development and will be operational by June 2016.
Progress towards Output: All available data files (agro-ecological map, soil map, environmental protection areas, administrative boundaries (country, province, districts), rail, road, river, contour map to prepare digital elevation model) have been forwarded to the system developer at the FAO HQ for uploading to the NFMS system. In July			

2015, a one day training programme was held on using Google Earth for forest cover mapping (25 participants representing 6 institutions). . One week consultation and one day brainstorming workshop on NFMS parameters was organized in June 2015 attended by 14 participants representing 7 stakeholder institutions. A follow-up two day workshop on NFMS in October 2015 was attended by 20 participants. In the process participants discussed resolving data gaps on forest cover for years 2005 and 2015 to obtain a complete forest cover data in a time series (1992, 1996, 2005, 2010 and 2015) for the development of FRL. The forest cover map for 2015 is in preparation by the FD and Land Use Land Cover map are being prepared by Survey Department of Sri Lanka.

Output 5.3: **National forest inventory designed**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
National Forestry Inventory is designed, field inventory manuals are developed and adequate technical tools are developed to assess emission factors	No existing national forest inventory to provide emission factors	Within 24 months, a forest inventory database is developed. Within 27 months, the database is populated by all available forest inventory data. Within 24 months, 10 field trainings are achieved. Within 30 months, the National forest inventory is designed and adopted.	National government partners and stakeholders have agreed on parameters for a NFI.
Progress towards Output: A study tour to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on NFI took place from 18th to 24th January 2015 with six participants (FD-4, DWLC- 2). A consultative workshop on parameters of NFI was held in March 2015. A validation workshop on NFI parameters was held in April 2015 (Participation by 19 participants representing 9 stakeholder institutions). NFI design is expected to start in year 2016.			

Output 5.4: **National circumstances considered for REL/RL**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
Assessment report on national circumstances addressing different scenarios available for future implementation	National circumstances analysis is not adapted for REDD+	Within 24 months, different socio-economic scenarios are tested. Within 36 months, the national circumstances are assessed.	Studies postponed to year 2016
Progress towards Output: The ToR for the study on national circumstances has been approved by national partners. Action has been initiated to hire a national consultant.			

Output 5.5: **National REL/RL tested**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
Nationally agreed REL/RL available	No REL/RL exist in Sri Lanka	Within 30 months, different RELs/RLs are tested.	Study postponed to year 2016
Progress towards Output: A training session on the development of FRL/FREL was held for two days in September 2015 with 22 participants of 11 stakeholder institutions. TOR for FRL Technical Working Group (TWG) was prepared and first TWG meeting held. A FRL Action plan was developed as a guideline for work required to support decisions on FRL construction methods, scope, and forest definition, among others.			

Output 5.6: **Framework for social and environmental risk mitigation and potential multiple benefit enhancement designed**			
Output Indicators	*Baseline*	*Annual Target*	*Progress Against Target*
A set of pre-tested, nationally appropriate safeguards are endorsed and used by the national REDD+ programme.	No REDD+ safeguards in place	Within 24 months, nationally appropriate safeguards and indicators are identified. Within 30 months, National REDD+ safeguards and indicators are tested and submitted for official endorsement. Within 36 months, the safeguards information is made available in the central database	This study was further postponed to 2016.
Progress towards Output: Team of experts was recruited in December and the work was scheduled to begin in Q1 2016.			

6. Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and Associated UNFCCC Decisions

This section aims to provide insight and to support a thought process into how countries are progressing against the framework of the convention, namely: 5.1) a National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan; 5.2) a Safeguards and Safeguards Information System; 5.3) a National Forest Reference Emission Level/National Forest Reference Level; and 5.4.) a National Forest Monitoring System. Only complete the sections that apply to the priorities identified for the country and mark as N/A any criteria that do not apply to the context of the country.

6.1 National Strategy or Action Plan

Supported by (select all that apply and provide name of other source): ☒ National Programme; ☐ Targeted Support; ☐ Other Source; ☐ Not Applicable
Please provide a brief description of the progress being made in developing a National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan (NS/AP) as well as the source of the support provided in this regard (100 words):
A roadmap for REDD+ strategy development was formulated through which Sri Lanka's vision for REDD+ in Sri Lanka was developed with representatives of key national and sub-national stakeholder groups. Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, identified in 2014, were analyzed to identify options for potential strategic REDD+ Policies and Measures (PAMs) for addressing the drivers. The PAMs were then prioritized through a stakeholder-defined multi-criteria process. Lessons and knowledge from this process were shared with other REDD+ countries at the 15th UN-REDD Policy Board meeting in Costa Rica. A financial mechanism was designed to access and manage potential REDD+ funds from international sources. A study on Funds Management was completed and the results will be incorporated into REDD+ strategy. High-level support for REDD+ was further strengthened through the dialogue with key government policy makers including the Secretary of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE). The Secretary assured his full support in the strategy development process as a result of this dialogue. A new multi-stakeholder task force on national policies and strategy was formed to provide and coordinate inputs to the strategy development process.

Indicator	✓	Qualifier (select all that apply)	Please provide a short narrative describing the reason for selection as well as means/source of verification
Does the country have a National Strategy or Action Plan (NS/AP) to achieve REDD+?		Not yet initiated	Intended to complete by end 2016
	✓	Under design	
		Drafted, under deliberation	
		Adopted	
		Link to the NS/AP provided on the UNFCCC REDD+ Web Platform Info Hub	
		Implementation in early stages	
		Full implementation of NS/AP	

Degree of completeness of national REDD+ strategies and/or action plans.	✓	The NS/AP identifies, assesses and prioritises the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation , as well as the barriers to the "plus" (+)[9] activities on the basis of robust analyses.	The D& D study was completed in 2014 and fully edited version was made available in early 2015. Full report is available on the web site. District-level CSO awareness programmes organized through the Divisional Forest office assisted in identification of district-level drivers, with participation of CSOs.
	✓	The NS/AP proposes a coherent and co-ordinated set of policies and measures (PAMs) for REDD+ that are proportionate to the drivers & barriers, results-oriented and feasible.	6 months consultative process was undertaken to define, prioritize and categorize the PAMs and PAM priority areas
		The NS/AP relates to the scope and scale of the FREL/FRL, taking into account national circumstances.	[input text]
	✓	The NS/AP defines the institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation, including governance measures, participatory oversight and inter-sectoral coordination.	Institutional arrangements were endorsed by the PEB members at the 8th PEB meeting
Degree to which the NS/AP incorporates principles of social inclusion and gender equality.	✓	The NS/AP is developed through a multi-stakeholder, gender-responsive and participatory consultation and dialogue process.	6 stakeholder groups (GOSL, CSOs, Pvt sector, IPs, academics and FDCs) have been consulted so far to support strategy development work A study was initiated to seek possibilities of including gender considerations in the forestry sector
	✓	The proposed policies and measures for REDD+ integrate gender-responsive actions.	A study, with Targeted Support, was initiated to identify key entry points for policy integration in REDD+, as well as to build the capacity of CSOs to embed relevant gender lessons from the field.
	✓	The proposed policies and measures for REDD+ consider the realization of land and resource tenure rights (when relevant), as well as the development priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as their development priorities.	Initiation of a study to analyze land tenure implications of the identified PAMs
Degree of anchoring of the NS/AP in the national development policy and institutional fabric.	✓	There is effective inter-ministerial coordination for REDD+ action.	The TF on NP&S and the proposed RACB structure have already brought the different state agencies to a common platform.
		Endorsement of the NS/AP has been obtained at a high political level, beyond the agency or ministry that led the REDD+ readiness process.	[input text]

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[9] Plus (+) activities within the context of REDD+ refer to conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks

	✓	REDD+ actions or targets are embedded in the national plan or policy for sustainable development.	'Punarudaya' the 3 year programme of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment has aptured some REDD+ actions.
	✓	There is evidence that ministries/agencies outside the forest and environment sectors are committed to implementing REDD+ policies and measures.	Other ministries and agencies have provided substantive inputs in the strategy development process
	✓	Financing arrangements to start implementing the NS/AP (or to channel results-based finance) are designed.	Full report is available in the website.

6.2 Safeguard Information System

Supported by (select all that apply and provide name of other source): ☒ National Programme; ☐ Targeted Support; ☐ Other Source; ☐ Not Applicable
Please provide a brief description of the progress being made in developing a Safeguard Information System (SIS) as well as the source of the support provided in this regard (100 words): National approach for REDD+ safeguards concept note developed

Indicator	✓	Descriptor (select all that apply)	Please provide a short narrative describing the reason for selection as well as means/source of verification.
Does the country have a Safeguard Information System (SIS) that provides information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout implementation of REDD+ actions?	✓	No	We have developed the national approach for REDD+ safeguards concept paper.
		SIS objectives determined	
		Safeguard information needs and structure determined.	
		Existing information systems and sources assessed.	
		The SIS is designed, building on existing, together with any novel, information systems and sources clearly articulated in a national government-endorsed document.	
		The SIS is functional, building on existing, together with any novel, information systems and sources that are clearly articulated in a national government-endorsed document.	
		Summary of information on REDD+ safeguards, informed by the SIS, has been submitted to UNFCCC.	
Degree of completeness of the design of a country approach to address the social and environmental safeguards for REDD+		Aligns with the NS/AP, covering the social and environmental benefits and risks of the policies & measures for REDD+ being considered by the countries.	[N/A]
		Defines specific policies, laws and regulations (PLRs), as well as other measures, to address the identified benefits and risks.	[N/A]
		Have institutional arrangements and/or capacities to implement those PLRs and to monitor the REDD+ safeguards.	[N/A]
		Transparently provides information on how safeguards are respected and addressed.	[N/A]

6.3 Forest Reference Emission Level / Forest Reference Level

Supported by (select all that apply and provide name of other source): ☒ National Programme; ☐ Targeted Support; ☐ Other Source; ☐ Not Applicable

Please provide a brief description of the progress being made in developing a Forest Reference Emission Level / Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL)as well as the source of the support provided in this regard (100 words): FRL development is in the capacity building phase. A training session on the development of FRL was held in September 2015 with 22 participants of 11 stakeholder institutions. FRL action plan was developed. FRL Technical Working Group (TWG) was initiated. The NP is supporting the government to resolve data gaps on forest cover for years 2005 and 2015 to obtain a complete forest cover data time series (1992, 1996, 2005, 2010 and 2015) for the development of FRL. The forest cover map for 2015 is in preparation by the FD.

Indicator	✓	Descriptor (select all that apply)	Please provide a short narrative describing the reason for selection as well as means/source of verification
Has the country established a FREL/FRL?		Not yet initiated	A capacity building event on FRL was organized for key national experts in Sri Lanka based on a guided dialogue and decisions related to the development of FRLs. FRL Action plan was developed covering all topics required for FRL construction. FRL TWG was established.
	✓	Capacity building phase	
		Preliminary construction phase	
		Advanced[10] construction phase	
		Submission drafted	
		Submitted to the UNFCCC	
Robustness of FREL/FRL submissions		Submission is transparent, complete, consistent and as much as possible accurate and allows reconstruction of the submitted FREL/FRL.	N/A
		Includes pools and gases, and REDD+ activities (Scope) and justification for omitting significant pools and/or activities.	N/A
		Justifies where the submission is inconsistent with previous versions of GHG inventory.	N/A
		Includes details of the forest definition used and national circumstances.	N/A
		Defines the geographic area covered by FREL/FRL (scale).	N/A

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[10] FREL/FRL elements defined or at an advanced stage (scope, scale, forest definition, methodology and data compilation).

6.4 National Forest Monitoring System

Supported by (select all that apply and provide name of other source): ⊠National Programme; ☐ Targeted Support; ☐ Other Source; ☐ Not Applicable
Please provide a brief description of the progress being made in developing a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) as well as the source of the support provided in this regard (100 words):
NFMS development is in an advanced phase. Two capacity building programme was conducted during the reporting period on the principles of NFMS. Over 45 personnel from about 15 different institutions including government and academia benefited. Major achievements for 2015 include development and validation of the parameters for the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and Satellite Forest Monitoring System (SLMS), trainings on Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) and the update of 1985 land cover/use data to 2000 and 2010. Other important maps were collected from departments representing MRV Task Force and provided to NFMS development team in FAO HQ Rome.

Indicator	✓	Descriptor (select all that apply)	Please provide a short narrative describing the reason for selection as well as means of verification
Has the country established a NFMS?		No	Two capacity building training competed. Data required for NFMS development collected and submitted to NFMS development team at FAO HQ Rome. Time series land use land cover maps will be provided for development of activity data to support GHG inventory.
		NFMS capacity building phase	
		Preliminary construction phase	
	✓	Advanced[11] construction phase	
		NFMS generating preliminary information for monitoring and MRV	
		NFMS institutionalized and generating REDD+ monitoring and MRV (satellite land monitoring system, national forest inventory, greenhouse gas inventory)	
Degree of completeness of the NFMS in UN-REDD supported countries		NFMS includes a Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS)	N/A
		NFMS includes a National Forest Inventory (NFI)	N/A
		NFMS includes a National GHG Inventory (GHGi)	N/A
		The NFMS is suitable for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources, and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest-area changes	N/A

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[11] NFMS elements at an advanced stage (satellite land monitoring system, national forest inventory, greenhouse gas inventory).

		resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities;	
		The NFMS is consistent with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance and guidelines;	N/A
		The NFMS enables the assessment of different types of forest in the country, including natural forest.	N/A

7.   Financial Delivery

In the table below, please provide information on expenditure for 2015 and the planned and anticipated expenditure for the year 2016. These are to be provided against the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2016 as approved by the PEB/NSC, meaning before any budget revisions were done. Anticipated expenditure by 31 December 2016 should indicate what would be realistically expended at the end of the year, and therefore provide a measure of deviation against the AWP.

Programme Outcome	UN Organization	Annual Expenditure for 2015 (as of 31 Dec 2015)	Planned Expenditure for 2016[12]	Final Expenditure for 2016
Outcome 1: National Consensus Reached on the National REDD+ Programme	FAO	83,970.34	0	
	UNDP	28,043.83	45,500	
	UNEP	0	0	
Sub-total		108,912.85	45,500	
Outcome 2: Management Arrangements contributing to the National REDD+ Process	FAO	134,776.82	178,332	
	UNDP	2,150.79	39,380	
	UNEP	0	0	
Sub-total		136,927.61	217,712	
Outcome 3: Improved Stakeholder Awareness and Effective Engagement	FAO	0	0	
	UNDP	100,269.87	67,701	
	UNEP	84,788.04	170,849	
Sub-total		185,057.91	238,550	
Outcome 4: National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework	FAO	3,262.74	233,443	
	UNDP	202,243.79	210,238	
	UNEP	0	0	
Sub-total		205,506.53	443,681	
Outcome 5: Monitoring and MRV Results for REDD+ Activities Provided	FAO	241,376.37	686,483	
	UNDP	0	60,000	
	UNEP	0	40,318	
Sub-total		241,376.37	786,801	
Indirect Support Costs (7% GMS)	FAO	32,437.17	76,878	
	UNDP	23,089.21	29,597	
	UNEP	0	14,782	
Indirect Support Costs (Total)		58,632.7	121,257	
FAO (Total):		495,823.44	1,175,136	
UNDP (Total):		355,802.49	452,416	
UNEP (Total):		84,788.04	225,949	
Grand TOTAL:		936,413.97	1,853,501	

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[12]As indicated in the 2016 annual work plan.

8. Adaptive management

Referring to the deviations and delays indicated in the results framework above and considering whether expenditures are on track, please provide a short narrative of delays encountered, the reasons for them and what action has been considered to alleviate their impact on the Programme. Please indicate if these have been discussed at the Programme Executive Board (PEB) or National Steering Committee (NSC) meetings, between the Programme Management Unit (PMU) and national counterparts and what measures have been proposed to overcome them.

8.1 Delays and Corrective Actions

What delays/obstacles were encountered at country level? [150 words]
Delays were encountered during the year due to the Presidential Election in January 2015 and the General Election in August 2015. The absence of a full-time technical advisor and Communication Officer was also an obstacle, when moving forward according to the Work Plan. Identifying good quality national consultants to undertake the studies was a major issue; hence some of the studies and activities were delayed.

Have any of the delays/obstacles been raised and/or discussed at the Programme Steering Committee meetings? [150 words]
☒ Yes; ☐ No At each PEB meetings these constraints were tabled and possible solutions were discussed. However, it was highlighted that the PMU could still roll out the annual work plan where activities can be implemented without the direct assistance of high level government officials. The recommendations of the Mid Term Review were also incorporated into the AWP where possible and it was helpful for the NP to address most of the reasons for the delays/obstacles. Restructuring of the PEB, getting IUCN's assistance to expedite the communications drive and improved team work are some of the achievements of the review recommendations.

What are the delays/obstacles anticipated in terms of their impact on the NP? [150 words]
The proposed timeline for the NP activities was delayed and some studies were postponed. Due to difficulties in finding suitable national consultants, PMU technical officers had increased workload. For new senior officials, appointed after elections, awareness raising and orientation on REDD+ and the UN-REDD programme has to be repeated.

How are these delays/obstacles being addressed? [150 words]
The Programme Steering Committee decided to recruit a full time Chief Technical Advisor and the position was filled in April 2015. To expedite the process of delivering communication products, and to improve the quality of the products (e.g. design, message, graphics/infographics), the Programme entered into a partnership with IUCN to support the Forest Department and PMU. A Communications Task Force was established to guide communications activities at the national level.

8.2 Opportunities and Partnerships

Over the reporting period, have any opportunities that were not foreseen in the design of the programme been identified to help advance efforts on REDD+? [150 words]
The Task Forces that have now been formed are playing an important role in providing relevant

direction to the PMU. The formation of Task Forces at earlier would have been beneficial. This is true also of the Academic and Research Forum of the Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme.

The engagement of the private sector in a more proactive and participatory manner from the inception would have been beneficial for the UN-REDD Programme. Biodiversity Sri Lanka, the forum of the private sector players who are investing in environmental protection have already shown their interest to address the REDD+ activities in their CSR projects.

Sri Lanka, as one of the pilot countries for Community-based REDD+ (CBR+), has approved 10 grants, two of which involves indigenous communities, and two of which involve knowledge management and capacity building. Out of the global UN-REDD Programme's funds for CBR+ in Sri Lanka, US$ 400,000 has been fully disbursed. Lessons from the field are expected to highlight community-based approaches to addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, with preliminary results expected in 2016 to inform the development of the national REDD+ strategy.

How are these opportunities being incorporated into the work of the NP? [150 words]

The newly formed Task Forces and forums are actively involved in supporting REDD+. A methodology to engage the private sector in a more meaningful manner is being devised.

9. Targeted Support

If the country has received Targeted Support during the reporting period, please provide a narrative of how this was complementary to the NP, and how it has contributed to furthering the readiness process in country.

Summary of Targeted Support: [100 words]
Targeted Support for Addressing Gender Considerations and Inclusion of Women in REDD+ Policy Processes was made available to the National Programme. The study identified and prioritised key messages and entry points for greater gender considerations and women's inclusion in the REDD+ readiness process, including within the CSO Platform; raised awareness and developed capacity of CSO Platform to strengthen gender sensitivity in providing policy feedback; and in coordination with the CSO Platform, facilitated effective dialogue with policy makers and public institutions involved in REDD+ to advance gender inclusion.