National Programme Submission Form- Mongolia

UN-REDD PROGRAMME TWELFTH POLICY BOARD MEETING

7-9 July 2014
Lima, Peru

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1. Policy Board Submission	
Policy Board Meeting ☒ No. 12	Inter-sessional Meeting ☐
Date of Meeting: 7 - 9 July 2014	Date of Inter-sessional Decision:

2. National Joint Programme Summary	
Details of National Joint Programme	
Country	Mongolia
Programme[1] Title	Mongolia REDD+ Readiness Programme
Implementing Partner(s)[2]	Ministry of Environment and Green Development
Details of Participating UN Organizations' Representatives	
UN Resident Coordinator: *Name*: Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu	Contact details: *Telephone:* + 976-11-327585 *Email:* sezin.sinanoglu@one.un.org
FAO: *Name:* Mr. Sheikh Ahaduzzaman *Title:* Deputy Country Representative	Contact details: *Telephone:* +976-11-310248 *Email:* sheikh.Ahaduzzaman@fao.org

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[1]*The term "programme" is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes*.
[2]*Refers to National counterparts. List the lead entity first.*

UNDP:	Contact details:
Name: Mr. Thomas Eriksson	Telephone: + 976-11-327585 ext. 290
Title: Deputy Resident Representative	Email: thomas.eriksson@undp.org
UNEP:	Contact details:
Name: Mr. Thomas Enters	*Telephone:* + 66-2-288-2126
Title: UNEP/UN-REDD Regional Coordinator	*Email:* thomas.enters@unep.org

Type of National Joint Programme	
Full NJP:	Initial NJP
☒ New Full NJP	☐ New Initial NJP
☐ Continuation from an Initial NJP	☐ Continuation from previous funding
☐ Other (explain)	☐ Other (explain)

3.   Executive Summary

As a signatory to both the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, in 1992) and the Kyoto Protocol (1997), Mongolia is fully aware of the causes and potential impacts of climate change. Mongolia is therefore striving to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while maintaining its path of economic development.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC has taken a number of decisions to encourage developing country Parties to take forestry climate change mitigation actions. These measures relate to *'policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries'*, known as "REDD+". The COP decisions set out a process by which the voluntary actions of developing country Parties may be rewarded through results-based payments.

Although still largely a poor country, Mongolia has recently experienced rapid rates of economic growth due to growth in the exploitation of mineral resources. However, there is a risk that the benefits of this boom will be unequally distributed to all of Mongolia's people. Moreover, unless astutely managed, the growth may have negative impacts on the environment and the natural resource base. Compounding this, climate change threatens to reverse socio-economic advances. Recognizing these inter-related challenges, the Government has recently committed to a green development path, notably through the creation of the Ministry of Environment and Green Development and the preparation of the Green Development Concept and Mid-Term Programme. REDD+ has the potential to contribute to green development by protecting global environmental resources (forest carbon stocks and biodiversity), helping to reverse land degradation, promoting the improvement of rural livelihoods and aiding adaptation to climate change.

Mongolia's vast surface area includes approximately 13 million hectares of forest – an area roughly the size of Nepal. These forests can be categorised into two broad zones: northern boreal forests and southern Saxaul forests. The northern boreal forests cover approximately 10.9 million hectares, and are being lost at an annual rate of 0.74%, or just over 80,000 hectares. The southern Saxaul forests cover 1.9 million hectares, and are estimated to be lost at the alarming rate of 6.5% per year[3].

Mongolia is the first country with significant boreal forest cover to become a partner country of the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries (UN-REDD Programme). Mongolia has significant potential to reduce its forest carbon emissions, and enhance and sustainably manage its forest carbon stocks, through the implementation of REDD+ activities.

Summary of Roadmap components
Mongolia became a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme in June 2011 and has quickly taken

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[3] These statistics are taken from *State of the World's Forests* (FAO, 2011), and are consistent with the figures provided in Mongolia's FAO Forest Regional Assessment report for 2010. The Government's figures in *State [of] Forest Land in Mongolia 2011* (Forestry Agency, 2011) report total forest cover as being much higher at 12.9 million hectares, of which boreal forest cover is 10.6 million hectares, and Saxaul 2.2 million hectares.

steps to start implementing REDD+ readiness activities. This Roadmap sets out how Mongolia will implement its REDD+ Readiness activities and develop a comprehensive National REDD+ Strategy in Phase 1 of REDD+. The Roadmap has six components.

Under Component 1, Mongolia will establish the management structure to manage the REDD+ Readiness process and to develop its National REDD+ Strategy. A multi-stakeholder National REDD+ Taskforce will be created, which will be supported by three Technical Working Groups providing guidance and coordination support. A National REDD+ Programme Unit will be established within government to provide day-to-day operational support. The Division of Forest Conservation and Reforestation Management of the Ministry of Environment and Green Development (MEGD) will be at the core of the management structure, and it will Chair of the National REDD+ Taskforce.

The Government of Mongolia will engage a broad range of non-government stakeholders in the REDD+ implementation process. To achieve this, a Civil Society Organisation/Local Community Forum will be established. The Forum will be a mechanism for stakeholder consultation and engagement both within the non-government sector, and between the non-government sector and government. The Forum will nominate representatives to sit on the National REDD+ Taskforce. Key local stakeholder groups that will be represented on the Forum include herder communities, Forest User Groups, civil society and private sector representatives.

A Consultation and Participation Plan will also be developed under Component 1. This Plan will address the need for public awareness raising on REDD+ and for educating key stakeholders on REDD+. Related to this, National Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be developed and field-tested. A REDD+ Grievance Mechanism, in line with existing systems, will also be developed and field-tested.

Under Component 2, Mongolia will prepare its National REDD+ Strategy. The first task is to identify the major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Mongolia. These drivers are expected to be different from tropical countries – due to the different ecological characteristics of boreal forest and the different pressures on Mongolia's forest resources. A preliminary analysis of drivers, undertaken during the preparation of this Roadmap, tentatively identified the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation to be: forest fires (many of which are caused by humans), legal and illegal logging (a combination of fuel wood gathering, collection of timber for livelihoods and commercial logging), pest invasion, tree diseases and the impacts of mining and mineral exploration.

Under this Component, the drivers will be analyzed and verified through detailed studies. Three priority drivers will be selected, and strategies to address them tested through demonstration activities. Part of the analysis under this Component will include an assessment of the legal and institutional framework for forest management, leading to recommendations for policy alignment and institutional arrangements for REDD+.

Component 2 also includes the process to identify and elaborate effective REDD+ strategies to address drivers. Preliminary strategies have been identified and include: strengthening forest management and governance; supporting research into improved forest management (e.g. to address problems related to fires, pests and diseases); reducing external pressures on forests; and raising awareness on forest protection and sustainable forest management.

Component 2 will also establish the implementation framework for REDD+, including a National REDD+ Fund and a Positive Incentive Distribution Plan. This will also include the Social and Environmental

Safeguard Policy Framework.

A range of demonstration and pilot REDD+ activities will be implemented under Component 2, all in accordance with FPIC principles and processes. These activities will generate lessons and provide feedback to the REDD+ development and implementation process.

Under Component 3, Mongolia will establish its national forest Reference Emission Level and/or forest Reference Level (REL/RL), with sub-national forest RELs/RLs as potential interim measures. RELs/RLs will provide the benchmarks against which future forest carbon emissions reductions and removals will be measured. The emphasis of this Component will be the collection of data on historical land-use and the analysis of relevant national circumstances, as well as the development of specific capacities to further develop, pilot and implement RELs/RLs under a full National REDD+ Strategy.

Under Component 4, Mongolia will develop a national forest monitoring system, comprising a monitoring function and a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) function. The monitoring function will serve to assess whether REDD+ activities are results-based, while the MRV function will be used to assess and report on the mitigation performance of REDD+ activities to the UNFCCC. This component also develops the Safeguard Information System to share transparently information on how Mongolia is addressing and respecting the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards, and generating co-benefits and reducing risks.

4. Budget Allocation (UN-REDD Fund Source only)				
Outcome/Output	FAO($)	UNDP ($)	UNEP ($)	Total ($)
OUTCOME 1a: NATIONAL REDD+ MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS ESTABLISHED	**0**	**730,000**	**0**	**730,000**
Output 1a.1: Establish a broad-based, multi-stakeholder National REDD+ Taskforce	0	80,000	0	80,000
Output 1a.2 :Establish National REDD+ Programme Unit	0	550,000	0	550,000
Output 1a.3: Establish CSO/LC Forum	0	100,000	0	100,000
OUTCOME 1c: IMPROVED STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS AND EFFECTIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	**0**	**50,000**	**380,000**	**430,000**
Output 1c.1: Public Awareness Raised	0		300,000	300,000
Output 1c.2: Consultation and Participation Plan	0		80,000	80,000
Output 1c.3: National FPIC Guidelines	0	50,000		50,000

Output 1c.4: REDD+ Grievance Mechanism	0		0	0
OUTCOME 2: NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY PREPARED	**0**	**550,000**	**0**	**550,000**
Output 2a: 1) Drivers of desforestation and forest degradation identified 2) Legal and policy alignment needs identified	0	350,000	0	350,000
Output2b: 1) Identification of strategies to reduce D&D 2) Undertake demonstration activities to test identified drivers and strategies	0	200,000	0	200,000
Output 2c: Implementation framework developed for REDD+	**0**	**550,000**	**0**	**550,000**
Output 2c.1:National Fund Management and Mechanism for Distribution of Positive Incentives	0	200,000	0	200,000
Output 2c.2:Capacity-Building Action Plan	0	50,000	0	50,000
Output 2c.3: Gender analysis	0	50,000	0	50,000
Output 2 c.4: REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguard Policy Framework	0	200,000	0	200,000
Output 2d: National REDD+ Strategy (Components 1 and 2 combined)	0	50,000	0	50,000
OUTCOME 3: FOREST REFERENCE EMISSIONS LEVELS AND FOREST REFERENCE LEVELS DEVELOPED	**600,000**	**0**	**0**	**600,000**
Output 3.1: Capacity-building and activity planning	150,000	0	0	150,000
Output 3.2: Historical data assessed	50,000	0	0	50,000
Output 3.3: Assessment of national circumstances completed	150,000	0	0	150,000
Output 3.4: Testing of different RELs/RLs methodologies completed	250,000	0	0	250,000
OUTCOME 4: NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM AND SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION SYSTEM DEVELOPED	**675,000**	**0**	**200,000**	**875,000**
OUTPUT 4a.1: Capacity Building and National forest monitoring system Action Plan Development	50,000	0	0	50,000
OUTPUT 4a.2: Satellite land monitoring system established	200,000	0	0	200,000
OUTPUT 4a.3: Multi-purpose national forest carbon inventory (NFI) designed and implemented	175,000	0	0	175,000
Output 4a.4: Capacity built for producing accurate and transparent GHG inventories for the LULUCF sector	150,000	0	0	150,000

Output 4a.5: NFMS-related research supported	100,000	0	0	100,000
OUTPUT 4b: Information systems for measuring multiple-benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards established	0	0	200,000	200,000
Administrative costs and overheads (7%)	**89,250**	**131,600**	**40,600**	**261,450**
Grand Total ($)	**1,364,250**	**2,011,600**	**620,600**	**3,996,450**

NOTE: A breakdown of the budget allocations using the UNDG "harmonized input budget categories" must be provided to the UN-REDD Secretariat (for onward transmission to the Administrative Agent) with the signed NJP document. Please see Annex 1.

5. Secretariat Review		
Submission Criteria		
(a)	Is the NJP consistent with the UN-REDD Programme Framework Document?	Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(b)	Has the UN Resident Coordinator been involved in submitting the NJP?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(c)	Is documentation of the in-country validation meeting(s) included?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(d)	Did the validation include the national government counterpart (or designate)?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(e)	Did the validation include civil society/Indigenous Peoples representation as per the UN-REDD Operational Guidance[4]?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐

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[4]In this context the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways:

i. Self-determined representative(s) meeting the following requirements: