

Submission by

Belize, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, Togo, Uganda

Views on modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16

19 September 2011

1. Paragraph 71 (c) of decision 1/CP.16 requested developing country Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of that decision, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure, in accordance with national circumstances, and with the provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties.

2. Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 recognized that in the development of its work programme, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice is requested to:

(c) Develop, as necessary, modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, consistent with any guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties agreed by the COP, taking into account methodological guidance in accordance with decision 4/CP.15, for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session.

3. The SBSTA at its 34th session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in paragraphs 28-30 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2¹. It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.

4. For this purpose, the Coalition for Rainforest Nations and a number of like-minded developing countries met in Pretoria, South Africa, from 2 to 4 September 2011 to consider issues related to modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16. This submission has been prepared in reflection of those discussions and incorporates input from many other developing country Parties.

5. Most of the necessary elements regarding MRV for REDD+ have already been agreed by the Parties and discussions under SBSTA should be focused on missing elements only.

6. Monitoring: Decision 4/CP.15 contains guidance on the National Forest Monitoring Systems which should be based on a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory. Reference materials could also be retrieved from the outcomes of the technical workshops and expert meetings organized by the Secretariat in the previous years. Countries should be allowed to have a “tiered approach” in setting their national forest monitoring system according with the approach used in the IPCC Guidelines and Guidance that Parties agreed to be used, in their most recent version as adopted or encouraged by the

¹ Report of the SBSTA on its thirty-fourth session, held in Bon from 6 to 16 June 2011, document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, 3 August 2011.

COP as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

7. **Measuring:** Measurements should be consistent with data requirements for estimating emissions and removals based on IPCC guidance and guidelines as for Decision 4/CP.15. Therefore, collected data should be representative of the whole variability, which is present in the country, of carbon stocks and their dynamic, be free of bias as far as can be judged and ensure spatial and temporal consistency of compiled databases.

8. **Reporting:** in paragraph (c) of Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 the Parties agreed that MRV for REDD+ should remain consistent with any guidance for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) (paragraphs 60 to 64 of decision 1/CP.16). In particular:

- a. *National Communications:* in paragraph 60(b), the Parties agreed to enhance reporting in National Communications, including inventories, with additional flexibility given to least developed country parties and small island developing states;
- b. *Frequency:* in paragraphs 60 (b) and (c), the Parties agreed that National Communications should be submitted every four years, with biennial update reports submitted consistent with their capabilities and level of support provided for reporting;
- c. *Content:* in paragraphs 60, 60 (c) and 64, the Parties have agreed to provide national greenhouse gas inventories, including a national inventory report, and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received.

9. Therefore, Parties should set a permanent national system able to ensure continuity in the planning, preparation and management of the information to be reported, including its archiving, quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) and publication.

10. **Verification:** in paragraph 63 of decision 1/CP.16, the Parties agreed to conduct international consultations and analysis of the biennial reports under the SBI, in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive, and respectful of national sovereignty and legislation, with the aim to improve transparency of mitigation actions and their effects, through analysis by technical experts in consultation with the Party concerned and through a facilitative sharing of views that will result in a summary report.

11. The procedures for monitoring, reporting and verification described above should apply to all phases of REDD+; noting that lower tiers for monitoring and reporting being consistent with IPCC Guidance and Guidelines may be implemented while national forest monitoring systems are being implemented, and therefore not fully operational, and that verification shall not include procedures set to ensure full equivalence of Party's carbon units. Accuracy of monitoring and reporting may improve depending on the support received.

12. Measurement, reporting and verification of the support provided by Annex I Parties to Parties not included in Annex I for activities referred to in paragraph 70 to decision 1/CP.16 should be carried out by an expert review team equitably balanced between members of developed and developing countries selected from the roster of experts of the Convention and supported by the secretariat in consultation with relevant national authorities in accordance with countries different capacity and capabilities.