

Submission by

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

Views on guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected

19 September 2011

1. Paragraph 71 (d) 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 system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, while respecting sovereignty.

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:

(b) Develop, *inter alia*, guidance relating to paragraph 71 (d) of this decision, for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session;¹

3. For all phases the SBSTA has therefore been requested to develop guidance with the view to assist developing country Parties to develop a system for providing information on how safeguards indicated in Annex I of Decision 1/CP.16 will be addressed and respected throughout implementation.

4. 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/2011/2². It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.

5. 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 the systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected, in particular issues related to guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected. This submission has been prepared to reflect those discussions, following the general guidance for submissions provided in Annex II of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2 and expresses input from many other developing country Parties.

a) Characteristics

6. Guidance, provided by SBSTA, on the system for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected should be:

¹ “A system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in annex I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70, while respecting sovereignty”, paragraph 71(d) to decision 1/CP.16.

² 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.

- Consistent with the elements identified in paragraph 1 of Annex I to decision 1/CP.16;
 - Flexible, including taking into account national circumstances and evolving conditions in the country;
 - Nationally led and developed, respect national sovereignty, legislation, diversity and socio-economic conditions;
 - Consistent with national development priorities, strategies, institutions, processes, so as to build upon existing infrastructure and national expertise;
7. Furthermore, transparency, regularity, consistency, reliability and broad participation should be guiding principles of the system.
8. Responsibility for the system on informing how safeguards are addressed and respected should remain with the relevant national authorities.
9. Guidance developed by the SBSTA should take into account national circumstances and should not be a prejudice to official national information systems.

b) Design

10. The systems for providing information on how safeguards are respected should be an integral part of REDD+ strategy and therefore should be simultaneously developed and implemented in phases so that the financial sources and levels of complexity supporting the design and development of the system can be identified and dealt with progressively.
11. The collection and type of information provided should be in conformity with relevant decisions by the Parties along with the relevant national regulations, procedures and modalities related to the implementation of safeguards (scope, standard, methods for gathering and processing information, presentation and assessment). Local institutions and existing information systems on forest related activities should be used.

c) Provision of information

12. Information on how the safeguards referred to in Appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are being respected throughout implementation of REDD+ activities should be provided only for supported actions and should be consistent with the level of development of the national REDD+ strategy and its agreed phases.
13. Information on safeguards should be regularly reported by the official authority, the National Focal Point to the UNFCCC, through existing systems such as national communications consistent with country capability and the level of technical and financial support received as part of the whole REDD+ strategy.

d) Potential barriers, including barriers, if any, to providing information on addressing and respecting safeguards

14. Providing and gathering of information and participation of stakeholders should be adjusted to the existing national processes and modalities and the implementation must be progressive and consistent with the financial support provided and in accordance with national circumstances, policies and capabilities.