



Expert meeting on an information hub for information on results of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 and results-based payments

*2-3 September 2014
UN Campus, Bonn, Germany*

Background Note

Mandate

The COP, in its decision 9/CP.19, decided to **establish an information hub** on the REDD web platform on the UNFCCC website as a means to publish information on the results of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 (REDD-plus) and corresponding results-based payments. The aim of this information hub is to **increase transparency of information on both the results-based actions and corresponding payments** as well as on the associated elements of implementation.

In the same decision, the COP also **decided that this hub will contain information** on and links to, the following:

- a) The results in tCO₂/year and as reported in the technical report¹;
- b) The assessed forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level and a link to the report by the technical assessment team²;
- c) The summary of information on how all of the safeguards are being addressed and respected;
- d) A link to the Party's national strategy or action plan on REDD-plus;
- e) Information on the national forest monitoring system as provided in the technical annex to the BUR;
- f) Information on quantity of results for which payments were received and the entity paying for results

The information on results-based payments will be published on the hub in consultation with the developing country Party concerned.

In establishing this information hub, **the COP requested the secretariat:**

- To **organize an expert meeting** on the matters noted above as well as on a format for the insertion of the information provided by Parties **before SBI 41**;
- To **prepare a report** on the expert meeting for the **consideration of SBI 41**.

Scope of this background note

This background note identifies technical and design questions in the consideration of the design of the information hub. The questions included will form a basis for the

¹ A technical report prepared by the technical team of LULUCF experts after analysis of the results reported in a technical annex to the BUR, decision 14/CP.19, paragraph 14. This report will be published on the REDD web platform.

² Decision 13/CP.19, annex, paragraph 18

technical discussions and facilitate the effective consideration of this matter by the expert meeting.

Session I: Setting the scene

Country experiences

The first session of the expert meeting will focus on sharing of experiences from national processes in the set-up and running of information portals related to the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70. For the plenary discussions following the presentations, it would be beneficial if each participant could come prepared to share experiences related to the following question:

What are some lessons learned from implementation of national REDD-plus portals that could inform the design of the information hub?

Session II: The big picture – general look and feel

Relationship between information hub and REDD web platform

By decision 2/CP.13, Parties have requested the secretariat to develop a Web Platform for sharing of information on ongoing efforts, capacity building, demonstration activities and mobilization of resources relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (see figure 1 below). For the purpose of structuring the all information on the REDD Web Platform, a separate country page has been created for every Party that has submitted information. According to the mandate in decision 9/CP.19, the new information hub should also be established on the REDD Web Platform.



Figure 1: Screenshot of REDD Web Platform

Following this current structure of the REDD Web Platform, two of the elements to be considered in the design of the information hub are the design of the information page and the entry points. Some basic options for the setup of these elements can be identified:

- 1) For countries that have the necessary information for an entry on the information hub according to paragraphs 11-14 of decision 9/CP.19:
 - Option a) A separate dedicated information hub country page could be created on the information hub
 - Option b) The information could be listed in an overview information hub page for all countries
 - Option c) Both of the above

- 2) There are also options for the design of the entry point of the information hub on the REDD Web Platform:
 - Option a) Centrally on the start page of the REDD Web Platform, e.g. as a hyperlink and/or map
 - Option b) On each dedicated country page on the REDD Web Platform once all of the relevant information is available for the country
 - Option c) Both of the above

The following questions may help to guide the discussions:

- *What can be learned from international reporting of forest-related data and the design of related information portals with regards to making the information available in a simple, transparent and easily accessible manner?*
- *What should be the entry point for the information hub, and the relationship between the information hub and the REDD Web Platform?*

Consultation & Processes

For entering payments received for results by developing country Parties a communication process has to be established according to paragraph 13 of decision 9/CP.19. This process should also extend to allow for consultation with the developing country Party concerned if such payments are communicated by any other entities. Two basic options can be identified for such a consultation process:

| | Option 1: Email communication | Option 2: Self-registration |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Description | Parties' UNFCCC national focal points fill in a form and send to the secretariat by email. In case information is provided by other entities, the secretariat sends an email to the UNFCCC national focal point of the Party concerned to consult on the information before insertion in the information hub | Parties' UNFCCC national focal points self-register in an online-portal. Information provided by other entities triggers an automatized email request for confirmation of the information by the developing country Party. |
| Advantages | No technical system required Generally the preferred option for very few communications | Relatively simple technical setup can replace lines of emails Less staff requirements Generally the preferred option for many communications |

The following question may help to guide the discussions:

- *How can the interaction between the secretariat and the developing country Party on the matter of insertion of information on results-based payments be structured efficiently?*

Session III: Detailed technical considerations

Data structure

The information mandated to be inserted in the information hub given in paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision 9/CP.19 can be categorized as follows:

| Information | Number format | Text format |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| The results in tCO ₂ /year and as reported in the technical report | tCO ₂ /year | Hyperlink |
| The assessed forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level and a link to the report by the technical assessment team | tCO ₂ /year | Hyperlink |
| The summary of information on how all of the safeguards are being addressed and respected | - | Hyperlink |
| A link to the Party's national strategy or action plan on REDD-plus | - | Hyperlink |
| Information on the national forest monitoring system as provided in the technical annex to the BUR | - | Hyperlink and/or text |
| Information on quantity of results for which payments were received and the entity paying for results | tCO ₂ /year | Entity |

Some additional information would probably be needed for each result in order to differentiate between entries, e.g. the name of the submitting country and the submission year or date.

The first five entries have clear one-to-one relationships: there is only one technical report per result, there is only one assessment report per reference level, there is only one summary of safeguards information per entry, there is only one national strategy or action plan per entry, there is only one BUR with information on the national forest monitoring system per entry.

The situation is different for the last entry: one reported result in tCO₂/year can have several payments from several entities. In addition, paragraph 17 of decision 9/CP.19 “notes that the information on results included on the information hub should be linked to the same results reflected on any other relevant future system that may be developed under the Convention”.

The following questions may help to guide the discussions:

- *In order to differentiate between the different sources of payments for one result, should there be a voluntary possibility to specify information for each payment received, e.g. time, geographic location, project number, weblink, or other additional information?*
- *How to best ensure that links with any other relevant future system under the Convention will be possible (para 17 of decision 9/CP.19)?*