

Informal Summary of the 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**

Summary by the chair of the expert meeting on issues raised by participants

Four Parties made presentations: Indonesia, Paraguay, Brazil and the United States. The presentations are available on the workshop page at the UNFCCC website.¹ Parties shared their experiences with the set-up of national online information portals for REDD-plus. These systems in general serve the information needs of the Party for planning, management and to inform stakeholders. They are also frequently interlinked with other information systems related to REDD-plus. Some valuable lessons learned from the experiences with designing such systems can be derived from the presentations, for example that such systems should be simple, user-friendly, and present information transparently.

Parties also presented on the options for the information hub, and shared some detailed consideration on the set-up of the information hub in line with the mandate in decision 9/CP.19. There was apparent convergence of a shared understanding that the combined ideas from these presentations could be a good basis for the design of a useful information hub.

Presentations were also given by three intergovernmental organizations: the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the Forest Resources Assessment, and the REDD+ Partnership on the Voluntary REDD+ Database. Many of the experiences with data management at the international level were useful, especially on challenges with updating information and with ensuring data quality. Certain characteristics were deemed important, in particular, an adequate consultation process on submitted data and a user-friendly web interface. The need to keep the data-entry options flexible in order to allow broad participation was emphasized.

The rich discussions among participants added very useful ideas and further information. Among the ideas were: the use of an open format database for the management of data and making the data freely downloadable for use by different stakeholders. Many participants were also in favour of adding visualizations to the information hub, like graphics and figures, if possible.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/8458>

The participants deemed it very important that the information hub should be practical, user-friendly, simple and transparent. Participants further emphasized that the information hub has to be designed in a way that avoids any double-reporting. Parties agreed that information should only be inserted upon consultation with the developing country Party, as agreed in paragraph 13 of decision 9/CP.19, and that it would be useful to display corresponding contact information in the information hub, as appropriate.

The discussions also touched upon the possibility to add additional information to the information hub on a voluntary basis. There was a diversity of views on what kind of additional information could be useful, and participants agreed to leave the decision to the developing country Party providing the information. In order to keep the information hub simple and avoid an unmanageable increase of information fields in the information hub, it was agreed that such information should be displayed on a separate page dedicated to the developing country providing the information.

Parties also discussed the question whether the information hub should contain only results-based actions, or also information on activities in the earlier phases of REDD-plus.

Participants noted that there is already a space for this information on readiness activities on the REDD Web Platform,² which was initially set-up for this purpose as mandated by the COP in decision 2/CP.13, and on which the information hub will also be located. It was also noted that the COP reaffirmed, in decision 9/CP.19, that the progression of developing country Parties towards results-based actions occurs in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support for all phases of REDD-plus activities and actions.

All Parties requested the secretariat to explore ways to make the REDD Web Platform more visible and easier to find on the UNFCCC website, and to establish several entry points for the information hub in different locations of the UNFCCC website. It was further suggested to consistently use the term “REDD-plus Web Platform” on the UNFCCC website.

Finally, several Parties emphasized that the information hub does not need to be perfect from the beginning, but that it should have sufficient flexibility to allow for an evolving process in case Parties would like to revisit some options or functions later after gaining more experiences with the implementation of results-based REDD-plus actions.

² <http://unfccc.int/redd>