



SUBMISSION BY POLAND AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Albania, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Warsaw, 20th September 2011

Subject: views on the methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

General remarks

The EU seeks to mobilise sources to support the full implementation of results-based REDD+ actions, with the aim of halting global forest loss by 2030 at the latest, and reducing gross tropical deforestation by at least 50% of the current level by 2020. This can only be achieved on the basis of sound methodologies and by ensuring broad participation of developing countries. The EU notes that a successful agreement on REDD+ would contribute to achieving the Aichi targets for biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Decision 1/CP.16 sets out clear priorities for a substantive decision on these methodologies to be adopted at COP17. This submission follows the general guidance on the issue set out in the SBSTA 34 conclusions and sets out a vision for a decision on REDD+ at COP17.

Given the importance of rural development, food security, mitigation and adaptation in the agricultural sector and agriculture expansion as a driver of deforestation, the EU looks forward to consider the implications of REDD+ in broader landscapes as part of the work towards COP 18 in relation to paragraph (a) of Annex II to decision 1/CP 16.

Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected

The purposes of systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected are to build confidence and transparency that countries can assess social and environmental effects of REDD+ actions and to facilitate dialogue among national and international actors.

Characteristics

Systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected should be consistent with Annex 1 of Decision 1/CP.16. In addition, broader MRV principles that are relevant include: transparency, consistency over time, accuracy, international comparability, complete coverage in addressing each of the seven safeguards as described in paragraph 2 of Appendix I to Decision 1/CP.16. Further characteristics include the involvement of stakeholders, reliability of information, regularity, and reflection of national circumstances as well as existing national arrangements and institutions. Also, consistency with the provision of related information to relevant international agreements needs to be ensured. The system should be simple and not over-burdensome, and aim for continuous improvement.

Design

A *system* implies a structure of institutions and processes to enable regular provision of information (i.e. a concept similar to the national inventory system). Whilst the system should conform to broad guidelines agreed by the COP, it should not be imposed from the outside. Rather, it should be in the context of national legislation and policies, including national REDD+ strategies, broader development and adaptation strategies and biodiversity strategies and action plans.

National information systems need to satisfy two distinct purposes: (i) supporting national REDD+ strategies/action plans in defining expected outcomes and showing and helping to verify how they are being delivered, and (ii) satisfying the accountability needs of donors on the use of finance.

Guidance for national information systems should address what information is needed, how it is collected, processed, made available and published. The guidance should strike a balance between: (i) the required flexibility to prioritise country-specific issues and use existing national arrangements as a basis, and (ii) the comparability of information provided by various countries, required for transparency at international level and for maintaining the credibility and legitimacy of a REDD+ mechanism.

The system should build on existing institutions, processes and mechanisms where possible, including those under relevant agreements and processes, and where available existing sources of information should be integrated into the system.

Developing countries should develop and apply national indicators, quantified where possible, for the different safeguards to operationalize the provision of information on the safeguards. International processes and existing monitoring schemes for biodiversity could provide useful lessons and experiences. A core set of information requirements should be agreed to ensure international comparability. An EU proposal for this is included at the end of this submission in the Appendix III.

Developing countries should ensure the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders in the design of their national information system. Independent monitoring including broad stakeholder consultation has proved to be an effective tool in providing reliable information in the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) program and it should be part of the information systems.

Provision of information

A summary of the information should be submitted as supplementary information to National Communications and biennial update reports.

Results-based payments require a system with independent review of core information to ensure compliance with the agreed requirements.

Potential barriers

Potential implementation barriers may relate to:

- the extent of legal or other provisions in place to deliver safeguards *in principle*,
- the extent to which these provisions are implemented in practice,
- the information systems in place to show how the provisions are working,
- the extent to which the populations affected by REDD+ activities can access relevant information and recourse mechanisms,
- the challenge of developing indicators for all seven safeguards and implementing and maintaining information systems.

Parties should describe the relevant barriers for the application of safeguards and the steps undertaken to overcome those barriers.

Guidance for modalities relating to forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels

Scope and purpose

The purpose of forest reference emission level and forest reference level is to measure the effects of the implementation of REDD+ strategies and activities by estimating changes in anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals compared to business-as-usual (BAU) scenarios. Emission reductions shall be assessed by subtracting the forest reference levels from the actual anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks. Forest reference levels do not establish a basis for the provision of positive incentives per se and Parties may wish to establish separate levels for this purpose.

Broad participation of developing countries is required to reduce global gross tropical deforestation by at least 50% of the current level by 2020 and achieve deep emission cuts at the global level, consistent with the 2°C target and Aichi biodiversity targets.

The wording “*national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level*” in paragraph 71(b) of Decision 1/CP.16 implies that the scope covers all REDD+ activities listed in paragraph 70 undertaken by a Party. This should be captured in a single aggregate emission and removals reference level¹ that encompasses the relevant IPCC reporting categories. The EU believes that a Party should at least include activity 70 a. Where significant emissions are anticipated, other activities identified in paragraph 70 should also be included.

Characteristics

- **Accurate:** Reference levels should rely on sound science and be neither an over or under estimate so far as can be judged. They should be based on historical data and reflect to national circumstances.
- **Comprehensive:** All REDD+ activities undertaken by a Party should be reflected in an aggregate reference level. Subcomponents should however allow for a disaggregation so to distinguish emissions from gross deforestation or from forest degradation.
- **Simple and Inclusive:** To enable the broadest possible participation of countries. Data and formal requirements should be limited to those necessary to ensure the integrity of reference levels.
- **Consistent:** Consistency between monitoring and reporting approaches and reference levels in terms of scope, pool coverage and methodologies, is essential and should be maintained.
- **Continuously improving:** national reference levels should be regularly revised every 5 years to reflect new scientific knowledge, new trends and any modification of the scope and methodologies.

Guidance for the construction

Aggregate reference levels should be based on historical data, taking into account causal factors which influence the rate of deforestation or forest degradation. Deforestation and degradation rates can be understood causally in terms of geographical and socioeconomic factors, direct and indirect, (e.g. commodity prices, demographic changes, use and tenure rights, forest related policies, law enforcement, governance). Therefore, a national aggregate reference level being simply set equal to the historical rate may not be appropriate.

Reference levels should be agreed for a period of at least 5 years, to help smooth out the effects of statistical fluctuations originating from extraordinary disturbances causing deforestation and forest degradation and associated emission rates and to allow MRV systems to pick up meaningful changes in deforestation and degradation trends.

National reference levels may be elaborated on the basis of a complete set of various province-based, biome-based and/or activity-based levels, as may be necessary for methodological purposes, data availability or for the devolution of positive incentives to subnational jurisdictions. The EU understands that the “*interim measure*” (paragraph 71 (c) of Decision 1/CP.16) means that where the reference level is not a national reference level, it should be seen as a step towards one in maximum 5 up to 10 years.

Process for communication

Developing country Parties could voluntarily propose country-specific national reference levels. Country-specific national reference levels could be proposed progressively as they become ready to do so, rather than all at the same time, recognising that the choice of starting phase of REDD+ will depend on specific national circumstances. The proposed national reference levels should be independently reviewed following a procedure inspired by the review process of forest management reference levels of Annex I countries. Following the review, the country-specific reference levels could be forwarded to the COP for adoption.

National reference levels should be agreed for a period long enough to detect any significant changes in the loss and degradation of forest, yet short enough to capture new knowledge and new trends. In the EU’s view, a period of 5 years is an appropriate default timeframe for revising national reference levels. There should be provisions for technical recalculations if needed in between revisions of reference levels.

¹ Throughout the document, a term “reference level” refers to the provided definition of a Party national forest reference level.

Guidance on modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying, as referred to in appendix II to decision 1/CP.16

Characteristics

Appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16 notes that the modalities for MRV of performance of anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, forest carbon stock and forest area changes resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities should be consistent with MRV modalities for nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries (NAMAs). They should follow the guidelines for national communications and biennial update reports. Key characteristics should be consistent with the general MRV principles, which are: transparency, accuracy, consistency, comparability, and completeness. MRV systems should be efficient and build on existing arrangements where possible in order to support the cost-effectiveness. Where possible they should build on existing forest monitoring systems and aim to allow for other biomes / activities / carbon pools being added over time.

Elements

The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance and guidelines, as adopted and encouraged by the COP should be used as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes.

To estimate changes in forest carbon stocks, the EU notes that, although the IPCC's guidance provides default values for undisturbed forest, additional work including ground based observations will be necessary to establish carbon densities where deforestation is taking place on forests that have already been subject to human activity, and that ground based measurements are also likely to be necessary where default values are not appropriate to particular ecosystem types, or where countries wish to depart from default values and use higher Tier methods.

The IPCC 2006 Guidelines contain useful additional scientific information and should be available for use in applying the currently agreed Guidelines.

Further SBSTA work may be needed to specify possible simplified reporting requirements that could be used, in earlier phases, in combination with conservative estimates of emission reductions before results-based actions are fully MRV'd (e.g., using proxies in combination with land conversion matrices, allowing tier 1 approaches and default carbon density values, excluding certain carbon pools and non-CO₂ greenhouse gas, addressing the subnational jurisdictions or biomes).

REDD+ activities should be independently reviewed as a part of national communications and biannual update reports. This review should address changes to GHG emissions and removals due to REDD+ activities and additional core information in relation to safeguards.

Process for reporting

The emissions and removals from REDD+ activities should be reported in National Communications and biennial update reports. The modalities for international assessment and review for NAMAs should apply timing to start the reporting and frequency of REDD+ reporting activities.

Other issues

The IPCC TFI should be invited to prepare supplementary documentation to consolidate and facilitate the use of existing guidance and guidelines for REDD+ including existing guidance and guidelines on the use of remote sensing to collect more reliable and comparable information.

Guidance on national forest monitoring system

The combination of Decision 4/CP.15, Decision 1/CP.16 and IPCC inventory guidelines and methodological guidance provide essential elements to guide the development of national forest monitoring systems. National forest monitoring systems need to be capable of providing estimates of anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes.

National forest monitoring systems should provide results that are transparent, documented, consistent over time, complete, comparable, assessed for uncertainties, subject to quality control and assurance and suitable for review. The national forest monitoring systems should be forward compatible with regard to possible future expansion of the scope of monitoring. The systems should be efficient in the use of resources and so it may be efficient to combine the national forest monitoring system with the system to provide information on how safeguards are addressed and respected.

Proposal for draft COP decision

The EU seeks a decision by the COP at its 17th session in relation to methodological guidance for REDD+ activities. The EU is pleased to submit textual proposals for the consideration of Parties on such a decision.

The Conference of Parties:

Recalling the provisions of Decisions 1/CP.13, 2/CP.13/, 4/CP.15, and 1/CP.16 including Appendices I and II thereto,

Reaffirming that, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support to developing country Parties, Parties should collectively aim to slow, halt and reverse forest cover and carbon loss, in accordance with national circumstances, consistent with the ultimate objective of the Convention, as stated in Article 2,

Noting decision X/2 (Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020) of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Pursuant to the need for modalities and guidance related to paragraph 71 of Decision 1/CP.16,

(Modalities for reference levels)

1. *Notes* that developing country Parties aiming to undertake mitigation actions in the forest sector should prepare a forest national reference level,
2. *Agrees* that national reference levels should be proposed on a voluntary basis by developing country Parties, independently reviewed in accordance with the guidance set out in appendix I to this decision, and agreed by the Conference of Parties,
3. *Acknowledges* that proposed forest reference levels should encompass emissions from gross deforestation and proposed forest reference emission levels should cover other activities listed in §70 of Decision 1/CP.16, where significant emissions are anticipated,

4. *Agrees* that the purpose of a reference level is to estimate the effect of activities undertaken by a Party in accordance with §70 of Decision 1/CP.16, and that these emission reductions shall be assessed by subtracting the reference level from the actual net anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks,
5. *Decides* that reference levels shall be established on the basis of anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks as shown in greenhouse gas inventories and relevant historical data, estimated using the most recent guidance and guidelines developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as adopted or encouraged by the COP, be linked to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and take into account geographical and socioeconomic factors affecting anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks in a business as usual scenario;
6. *Stresses* the need to maintain consistency between reporting approaches and reference levels in relation to scope and methodologies;
7. *Acknowledges* that a national reference level may be elaborated as an aggregate of subnational reference levels and that, over an interim period of 5 to 10 years, the reference level of a Party may cover less than its entire national territory;
8. *Decides* that, after approval of its reference level, a developing country Party shall propose a revised reference level for review and agreement within no more than 5 years, taking into account new knowledge, new trends and any modification of scope and methodologies. Upon agreement by the COP, the revised reference level supersedes the previous one;
9. *Further decides* that the COP shall be guided by the principle that application of all approved reference levels should collectively lead to an aggregate reduction compared to historic rates of forest-related emissions in developing countries;
10. *Requests* the Secretariat to publish information on reference levels on the UNFCCC REDD web platform, including submissions with proposed reference levels and the final review report;

(Modalities for national forest monitoring system)

11. *Reiterates* relevant provisions of Decisions 4/CP.15 and 1/CP.16,
12. *Invites* the IPCC to update and consolidate documentation to facilitate the use of existing guidelines and guidance in relation to the requirements of relevant sections of §1 of Decision 4/CP.15,
13. *Requests* the SBSTA to develop simplified monitoring and reporting requirements that could be combined with conservative estimates of emission reductions as a step towards fully measured, reported and verified results-based actions, and to make recommendations on this matter to the COP at its 18th session,
14. *Encourages* Parties, when designing their national forest monitoring systems, to consider the need for forward compatibility with regard to any future expansion of the scope of monitoring;

(Guidance on information systems for safeguards)

15. *Notes* that information systems on safeguards aim to support national strategies/action plans in defining and delivering expected outcomes,
16. *Agrees* that the development of systems referred to in §71d of Decision 1/CP.16 should be based on the following principles: transparency, consistency over time, international comparability, complete coverage of the safeguards, and accuracy. Further characteristics include: participatory, reliability of information, regularity, tailored to national circumstances and existing national arrangements and institutions,

17. *Decides* that a Party aiming to undertake activities in accordance with §70 of Decision 1/CP.16 shall submit a summary of the information related to application of safeguards as supplementary information to its National Communications and biannual update reports, in accordance with appendix III,
18. *Requests* the SBSTA, at its 36th session, to consider how this summary should be presented, with a view to recommending a decision on the matter for adoption by the COP at its 18th session,
19. *Requests* the Secretariat to consult with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and explore options to streamline the information requirements in relation to § 2 of the Appendix I to Decision 1/CP.16 with the reporting requirements of other relevant international agreements and processes,
20. *Recalls* that Parties, when designing their national forest monitoring systems in accordance with the provisions of §1d of Decision 4/CP.15, and § 2e of appendix 2 of Decision CP 16, should do so in a way that enables a separate estimation of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals concerning the conversion of natural forests,
21. *Encourages* regional processes to contribute to promoting sharing of experience on the application of safeguards, and to developing further guidance as may be appropriate in the regional context;

(Modalities for monitoring, reporting and verification of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals)

22. *Adopts* the modalities for monitoring, reporting and verification of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals as contained in Appendix II to this decision,
23. *Urges* Parties to aim for consistency with the monitoring and reporting of other types of nationally appropriate mitigation actions.

Appendix I: Guidelines for submissions and review of reference levels

1. Each developing country Party aiming to undertake mitigation actions in the forest sector shall include in its submission transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate information required under Part I of these guidelines, for the purpose of allowing a technical assessment, as specified in Part II, of the data, methodologies and procedures used in the construction of reference levels as specified above to facilitate the consideration on the reference level.

Part I: Guidelines for submissions of information on reference levels

Objectives

2. The objectives of the submissions are:

(a) To provide information consistent with the general reporting principles set out by the UNFCCC and elaborated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on how the elements contained in paragraph 5 of this decision were taken into account by Parties in the construction of reference levels, and to provide any additional relevant information,

(b) To document the information that was used by Parties in constructing reference levels in a comprehensive and transparent way,

(c) To provide transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate methodological information used at the time of construction of reference levels.

3. Parties shall provide submissions in accordance with the following guidelines:

General description

4. Provide a general description of the construction of the reference levels consistent with paragraph 5 of this decision,

5. Provide a description on how each element contained in paragraph 5 of this decision was taken into account in the construction of the reference level.

Pools, gases and activities

6. Identify pools, gases and activities listed in paragraph 70 of Decision 1/CP.16 which have been included in the reference levels and explain the reasons for omitting a pool and/or activity from the reference levels construction.

7. Explain how consistency was ensure between the pools included in the reference level.

Approaches, methods and models used

8. Provide a description of approaches, methods and models, including assumptions used in the construction of the reference levels.

Description of construction of reference levels

9. Provide description, where relevant, of how each of the following elements were considered or treated in the construction of the reference levels, in particular of:

- (a) Areas under consideration,
- (b) Corresponding emissions and removals,
- (c) Forest characteristics,
- (d) Historical and assumed deforestation and harvesting rates,
- (f) Natural disturbances.

10. Provide description of any other relevant elements considered or treated in the construction of the reference levels, including any additional information related to paragraph 5 of this decision.

Policies included

11. Provide description of the domestic policies adopted, implemented and planned and explain how these policies have been considered in the construction of the reference levels.

Part II: Guidelines for review of submissions of information on reference levels

Objectives of review

12. The objectives of the review are:

- (a) To assess whether Parties have provided transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate information on how the elements contained paragraph 5 of this decision were taken into account in the construction of reference levels,
- (b) To ascertain whether the construction of the reference level is consistent with the information and descriptions used by the Party,
- (c) To provide, as appropriate, to the developing country Party, technical recommendations,
- (d) To provide a technical assessment to support consideration by the COP at its subsequent session of the reference levels to be used,
- (e) To assess whether Parties have provided transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate methodological information to facilitate reviews of methodological consistency.

Scope of the review

13. A technical assessment of the data, methodologies, assumptions and procedures used in the construction of the reference levels of developing country Parties to determine whether they are consistent with the guidelines in part I of this appendix.

14. The review team will assess the following issues:

- (a) Whether the Party has identified pools, gases and activities included in the reference level and explained the reasons for omitting a pool, a gas or an activity from the reference level and whether the coverage of pools in the reference levels is consistent,
- (b) The description of approaches, methods and models used in the construction of reference levels,
- (c) How each element in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Part I is considered, including justification for why any particular element was not considered,
- (d) Whether the reference levels value is consistent with the information and descriptions provided by the Party,
- (e) Whether the information was provided by the Party in a transparent manner,
- (f) Whether a description is provided of domestic policies included in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 11 above that were used in the construction of the reference levels and how these policies were used in the construction of the reference levels,
- (g) Whether confirmation has been provided that the construction of the reference levels does not include assumptions about changes to domestic policies according to paragraph 12 above.

15. As part of the technical assessment, the review process may provide technical recommendations to the developing country Party on the construction of its reference levels. This may include the recommendation to make a technical revision to elements used in its construction.

16. Review teams shall refrain from making any judgment on domestic policies taken into account in the construction of the reference levels.

Review procedures

General procedures

17. Each submission will be assigned to a review team responsible for performing the technical assessment in accordance with procedures and timeframes established in these guidelines.

18. Each review team will provide a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the reference levels submission and will under its collective responsibility prepare a report.

19. The review process will be coordinated by the Secretariat. Review teams will be composed of LULUCF review experts selected from the roster of experts. Participating experts will serve in their personal capacity and will be neither nationals of the Party under review, nor funded by that Party.

Composition of the review teams

20. Review teams should be made up of at least three LULUCF experts. The Secretariat shall ensure that in any review team one co-lead reviewer shall be from an Annex I Party and one co-lead reviewer shall be from a non-Annex I Party. The Secretariat will select the members of the review team with a view to achieving balance between experts from Annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties.

Timing

21. In order to facilitate the Secretariat's work, each Party should confirm to the Secretariat, their active experts on the LULUCF roster of experts who will be able to participate in the review of reference levels.

22. The Secretariat should forward all relevant information to the review teams in good time before the start of the review.

23. Prior to the review, the review teams should identify any preliminary questions requiring clarifications from the Party, as appropriate.

24. The review should take place within 12 weeks after the submission by the Party has been received and be conducted according to the indicative timings set out in paragraphs 28 to 32 below. The Party being reviewed may interact with the review team during the review of their submission to respond to questions and provide additional information as requested by the review teams.

25. The review teams may seek any additional clarification from the Party no later than one week following the review. This may include technical recommendations to the Party on the construction of its reference level. The Party is to provide any required clarifications to the review team no later than five weeks following the request and may also submit a revised reference level in response to the technical recommendations of the review team.

26. The review team will prepare a draft report and make it available to the Party no later than eight weeks following the review. The report should include a short summary.

27. The Party will have three weeks to respond to the draft report of the review team.

28. If the Party does not agree with the findings in the draft report, in responding to the Party's comments, the review team will seek advice from a small group of experienced reviewers to be convened by the Secretariat, which will consider comparability across Parties.

29. The review team will prepare a final report within three weeks following the Party's response and the report will be sent to the Secretariat for publication on the UNFCCC website. The final report contains the technical assessment, technical recommendations, if appropriate, and the responses by the Parties and where provided, the advice of the small group of experienced reviewers convened by the Secretariat.

30. The Secretariat will prepare a synthesis report of key conclusions of the reference level review process, including comments by Parties for consideration at the subsequent COP. The synthesis report will be made publicly available and be published on the UNFCCC REDD web platform.





Appendix II: Modalities for monitoring, reporting and verification of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals

1. A Party aiming to undertake activities in accordance with paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 shall submit inventories of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals supplementary information to its National Communications and biennial update reports.
2. This information shall be reviewed by expert review teams coordinated by the UNFCCC Secretariat and composed of experts selected from those nominated by Parties to the Convention and, as appropriate, by intergovernmental organizations.
3. The review process shall provide a thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of all aspects of the implementation of actions relevant to paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16. The expert review teams shall prepare a report to the COP, assessing the implementation of these actions and identifying any potential problems in, and factors influencing, the fulfilment of objectives. Such reports shall be made public by the Secretariat on the UNFCCC REDD web platform.
4. The Secretariat shall list those questions of implementation indicated in such reports for further consideration by the COP.
5. The COP shall, with the assistance of the SBI, consider the information submitted by Parties, the reports of the expert reviews thereon and the questions of implementation listed by the Secretariat, as well as any questions raised by Parties.

Appendix III Core information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected

<i>Safeguards as contained in paragraph 2 of Appendix I to decision 1/CP.16</i>	<i>Information requirements</i>
(a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;	Contribution of REDD+ actions to achieving objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international agreements and processes;
(b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;	Description of policy, legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks, including on law enforcement;
(c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;	Identification of different right holders and their rights and description how those rights are respected;
(d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;	Description of participatory process for the design and implementation of a national REDD+ strategy or action plan and how this process was applied, including a description of systems to disseminate and receive information;
(e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;	Identification of the positive and negative impacts of a national REDD+ strategy or action plan on biodiversity and ecosystem services and identification and monitoring of natural forest;
(f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;	Description of the actions and liabilities;
(g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions;	Description of the actions and identification of significant sources, and the collection of data on, the displacement of emissions.