

1 December 2012

English only

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

**Thirty-seventh session**

**Doha, 26 November to 1 December 2012**

Agenda item 5

**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 stock in developing countries**

**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**

**Submissions from Parties**

1. The secretariat has received two submissions from Parties relating to this agenda item.
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced\* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.<sup>1</sup>

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\* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

<sup>1</sup> Also available at <<http://unfccc.int/5901>>.

**FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.22**

GE.12-70936

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20 November 2012

**Taking steps to facilitating the full, effective and sustained implementation of REDD+**

**Submission by Colombia to SBSTA 37 - Agenda Item 5:**

Colombia wishes to present views in advance of the SBSTA discussions at the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties in Doha, Qatar, 26 November - 1 December 2012, regarding *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*. Colombia has presented another submission on related issues of REDD+ finance modalities and procedures to the AWG-LCA 15 - Agenda Item 3. (b) (iii).

***With reference to decisions 2/CP.13, 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17 and 12/CP.17***

**Consideration: Securing the environmental integrity and equitable implementation of REDD+.**

**Modalities for reference emission levels and/or reference levels (REL/RLs) should encourage an early and broad participation of countries while pursuing environmental integrity and avoiding perverse incentives.** REL/RLs expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year that are implemented at the national and, as an interim step, subnational level serve as benchmarks for assessing each country's performance in implementing the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70.

**It is prudent and environmentally conservative to construct subnational REL/RLs that eventually, in their aggregate, will serve to develop a national REL/RLs, as indicated in paragraph 71 b) of decision 1/CP.16.** A step-wise and environmentally robust approach in the development of national REL/RLs includes the development of subnational REL/RL that help to build a transparent set of data and the supporting systems and expertise which serve as a step towards an integrated, spatially explicit national REL/RL.

**Dividing the countries into reference regions of a significant area, or jurisdictions, can provide more accurate estimations of projected emissions with less uncertainty.**

Environmental integrity in emission estimates and reporting is supported by complete, transparent, consistent, accurate and conservative data. REL/RLs submitted to the UNFCCC should be substantiated with information that allows for the technical assessment of the data, methodologies, and procedures used in their development. In countries with a high diversity of ecosystems, social and development levels, deforestation agents and drivers, it is a challenge to estimate future emissions with reduced uncertainty at one single national REL/RL.

**The registration of subnational reference emission levels and/or reference levels in the context of a national forest monitoring system allows broad participation of countries, reduces international leakage, and creates broad incentives for early emission reductions and forest carbon enhancements in developing country Parties.** The environmental success and integrity of REDD+ depends on a broad international implementation of REDD+ activities. The widespread and full implementation of developing country Parties of national REDD+ schemes is not likely in the short term due to lack of human resources, technical capacity, and available data. Therefore, limiting the participation of such Parties until they have full national MRV systems and a national REL/RL in place increases the risk of

unaccounted international leakage. This risk can be effectively mitigated by encouraging broad REDD+ participation through flexible approaches that allow governments to develop REL/RLs at significant subnational scale or jurisdictions in the context of a step-wise approach towards national REL/RLs in accordance with decision 12/CP.17 para.10, with a national forest monitoring system in place (as indicated in para. 77 of decision 1/CP.16).

**The registration of subnational REL/RLs allows developing country Parties to participate sooner in results-based payments while promoting the building of capacities and MRV**

**systems.** The implementation of REDD+ requires a massive capacity-building effort that should go in parallel with the implementation of results-based actions. If a Party decides to participate in the incentive mechanisms at the subnational level as an interim measure, national monitoring systems have to be in place and the participating countries have to report on the displacement of emissions due to REDD+ actions.

**A stepwise approach for national MRV systems and REL/RLs can relate to the gradual expansion of the scope of the REL/RL.** Provided that such approach is environmentally conservative and robust, developing country parties can start with estimating certain carbon pools at the national level while excluding others. A stepwise approach of measuring and reporting the activities listed in decision 1/CP.16 para. 70 would allow a country like Colombia to begin with estimating carbon in aboveground forest biomass and deforestation emissions as a first step within the third phase of REDD+. Countries would have to include significant carbon pools and activities affecting forest greenhouse gas emissions, according to national circumstances, as a starting point for the stepwise approach to MRV. Subnational monitoring systems within the national system can develop at different speeds, for example incorporating more carbon pools and REDD+ activities for a given region of the country.

**With respect to a decision prepared under the auspices of the SBSTA, Colombia proposes the following:**

- Recalling decision 12/CP.17 para. 11, Colombia reiterates the agreement that subnational forest REL/RLs may be elaborated as an interim measure, while transitioning to a national forest REL/RL, and that interim forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels of a Party may cover less than its entire national territory of forest area.
- In reference to decision 12/CP.17 para. 9 and para. 13, Colombia welcomes the invitation to developing country Parties, on a voluntary basis and when deemed appropriate, to submit proposed forest REL/RLs, that can cover national or, as an interim step, subnational areas of significant scale, and calls upon developed countries to contribute financially to the development of these REL/RL.
- In support of a step-wise approach to national REL/RL as referred to in decision 12/CP.17 para.10, Colombia supports the clear indication that the step-wise approach to REL/RL refers to (1) activities; (2) carbon pools; and (3) significant areas, which can refer to administrative jurisdictions of a critical size, and biomes or ecoregions.
- Equally, in support of a step-wise approach to full national MRV, Colombia supports the

indication that the step-wise approach to MRV refers to the gradual inclusion of (1) activities; (2) carbon pools; and (3) gases, (4) significant areas, which can refer to administrative jurisdictions of a critical size, and biomes or ecoregions. The country must include the most significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the evolving national and subnational MRV systems as well as national monitoring of displacements of emissions as minimum requirements for the third phase of REDD+.

- When establishing procedures that enable the technical assessment of the proposed forests REL/RL in accordance with decision 12/CP.17 para. 15, Colombia emphasizes that such assessment should cover national and subnational REL/RLs.
- Colombia emphasizes that subnational monitoring and reporting may be an essential element of MRV systems and that subnational monitoring and reporting to the UNFCCC should be done under the auspices of the developing country Party.
- Colombia also stresses that measures that counter deforestation drivers have to be driver and location specific and require subnational coordination and implementation.

Paper no. 2: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

**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**

**26 November 2012**

The joint submission by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, as members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), address the methodological guidance for activities in paragraph 70 Dec. 1/CP. 16. Another submission on policy approaches and positive incentives for REDD+ has been presented to the AWG-LCA 15 – Agenda Item 3. (b) (iii). The ASEAN member states request the submission be published in Misc. document.

**(1) Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected**

The Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session (COP-17) provided guidance for a system for providing information on how safeguards under Cancun agreement are addressed and respected, and modalities for development of reference emission level or reference level.

At COP-17 Parties agreed that developing countries undertaking REDD+ should provide a summary of information on how all of the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities. According to decision 12/CP. 17, summary of information on safeguards should be provided periodically and be included in national communications, or communication channels agreed by the COP. COP-17 requested SBSTA at its thirty-sixth session (SBSTA-36) to consider the timing of the first and the frequency of subsequent presentation of the summary of information of safeguards. The COP-17 also requested SBSTA-36 to consider the need for further guidance to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness when informing on how all safeguards are addressed and respected and, if appropriate, to consider additional guidance.

ASEAN Member States are of the view that national communications should be the main channel for providing summary of information on safeguards, taking into account national circumstances and capacities. Parties may provide information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected at different phases of REDD+ implementation through their national safeguards information system, subject to the level of support received to develop the safeguards information system.

ASEAN Member States also take the view that further and additional guidance for the information provision on safeguards implementation may be considered after gaining experiences from the development of safeguards information system as mandated by COP at its sixteenth session (COP-16).

**(2) Modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels**

COP at its seventeenth session agreed to establish a process that enables technical assessment of the proposed forest REL/RL when submitted or updated by Parties in accordance with guidance to be developed by SBSTA-36.

ASEAN Member States take the view that technical assessment of the proposed forest REL/RL should enable REDD+ countries with differing level of readiness and national circumstances to make progress. The technical assessment process should be non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty.

### **(3) Modalities for national forest monitoring systems and measuring, reporting and verifying**

SBSTA at its thirty fifth session agreed to continue its work on modalities for national forest monitoring systems and measuring, reporting and verifying. At its thirty sixth session, SBSTA discussed elements for a possible draft decision on modalities for national forest monitoring systems and measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV).

ASEAN Member States recognized that each country has differing circumstances and arrangements and level of supports received for a national forest monitoring system (NFMS), and therefore, modalities for national forest monitoring system should not be too prescriptive on the details. A national forest monitoring system that is sufficiently rigorous to permit reliable estimates of forest and carbon stocks and change should be acceptable. In relation with REDD+ incentives, it could be on a sliding scale, less for Tier 1 estimates and more for Tier 3 estimates. However, all Tier 1, 2 or 3 estimates should use forest data from the national forest monitoring system.

ASEAN Member States are also of the view that national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) may be part of a broader system of measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV). Nevertheless, a balance must be achieved between requirement for REDD+ actions and the level of support received (financial, capacity building, and technical-methodological supports).

### **(4) Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation**

COP at its sixteenth session requested SBSTA to identify LULUCF activities in developing countries especially activities that relate to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, to identify methodological issues relating to emission and removals and to assess their potential contribution to mitigation. SBSTA at its thirty sixth session initiated consideration of issues relating to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and agreed to continue its work on the issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

ASEAN Member States recognize that drivers of deforestation and forest degradation vary among countries and should be addressed. Some of these drivers may require long-term solutions. However, efforts to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation have to take into account national development priorities, circumstances and capabilities of developing countries. We underscore that discussion on this issue should not be unnecessarily long and complicated so as to avoid any delay in REDD+ implementation.