



SUBMISSION
by
**Indonesia on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia,
Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam**
(ASEAN MEMBER STATES)
on
**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**

BACKGROUND

ASEAN countries own approximately 216 million ha of forests (50% of land areas). These forests are the home of about 20% of world's plants and animals and play a vital role in providing ecosystem services. The region (together with South Asia) is also the home of about 6 million ha of mangrove forests (35 % of world mangrove forests)¹ which are known to play a central role in climate change adaptation and disaster prevention such as tsunamis. ASEAN countries also the home of 25 million ha of peatland (about 6 % of global peatland)² which is known to have both very high carbon stocks and high potential as source of emissions. Forests in this region play important role in generating income and employment opportunity, also as a natural resource where 60-70 million local communities & indigenous people depend for provision of fuel wood and other essential goods to meet basic needs.

BASIS FOR SUBMISSION

Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice in its thirty-fourth session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, by 19 September 2011, their views relating to : guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in Appendix I to decision 1/CP. 16 are addressed and respected; modalities relating to forest reference emissions levels and forest reference levels; and modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying as referred to in Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16.

VIEWS OF ASEAN MEMBER STATES

According to decision 1/CP. 16 paragraph 73, REDD+ be implemented in phases starting with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology

¹ Source : FAO 2010 (Forest Resource Assessment)

² Source : Hooijer et al. (2006) in CCROM-SEAP (2010) and International Peat Society (2008)

development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, and evolving into results-based actions that require full measurement, reporting and verification. Furthermore, under paragraph 74 of the decision 1/CP. 16, the implementation of REDD+, including the choice of a starting phase, depends on the specific national circumstances, capacities and capabilities of each developing country and the level of support received.

ASEAN member states are in the view that guidance for the development of a system for information provision on safeguards; modalities relating to forest reference emissions levels and forest reference levels; and modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying REDD+, should take into consideration paragraph 73 and 74 of the decision 1/CP. 16.

A. Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in Appendix I to decision 1/CP. 16 are addressed and respected.

The guidance should allow REDD+ countries to develop the most appropriate system for providing information on how safeguards as agreed in COP-16 are addressed and respected, within their national circumstances and phases of implementation they are in.

The safeguards as referred to in Appendix I to decision 1/CP. 16 have different levels (policy and technical) and scales (national and sub-national) in the implementation. And so, the system should reflect the different levels and scales in the implementation of the safeguards, and allow access, based on national policy and circumstances, to information on how safeguards are addressed and respected.

Development and operationalization of the system should be transparent and should encourage broad participation.

B. Modalities relating to forest reference emissions levels and forest reference levels

Modalities should cover all phases of REDD+ implementation and allow flexibility for countries who select to implement REDD+ with national-sub national approaches. This is in line with decision 1/CP. 16 paragraphs 73-74 on REDD+ phases and paragraph 71 on the development of national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (REL/RL). Under paragraph 71, national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (REL/RL) could be a combination of sub-national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (REL/RL).

Phase I and phase II should be considered as learning by doing processes, and so, REDD+ countries could select approaches for establishing forest REL and/or RL according to their national circumstances, capacities, capabilities, and financial support, for example, to start with sub national REL/RL. National forest REL and/or RL should only be required during full implementation. REL/RL should be considered as a benchmark to assess progress for phase I and phase II, while for the full implementation REL/RL is the baseline to measure performance from REDD+ actions, accordingly, as the basis to determine incentives for result-based actions.

Decision 4/CP. 15 guided the establishment of forest REL and RL to be done transparently, taking into account historical data and adjust for national circumstances in accordance with relevant COP decisions. The modalities should enable REDD+ countries to undertake

adjustment of REL/RL to their national circumstances, including national development needs and goals.

Construction of forest REL/RL should include elements and process as follows, with more flexibility of approaches for phase I and phase II :

- a. Definitions of relevant terminology, pools and GHGs to be included.
- b. Historical data (whenever possible starting from 1990) on forest cover and forest cover changes, forest carbon stocks and its associated changes.
- c. Future scenario relating to national development needs and goals.
- d. For phase I and phase II forest REL and/or RL establishment could start with sub national level, taking into account national circumstances and capacities,
- e. Phase I and phase II should be used to improve data as needed,
- f. For full implementation, national forest REL and/or RL should be established.
- g. Effective engagement of relevant stakeholders at all levels and phases of REDD+ implementation.

REDD+ countries should develop national process for communicating REL/RL as part of MRV system. As the benchmarks to assess progress of REDD+ actions in phase I and phase II, review of forest REL/RL (whenever necessary) should aim at drawing lessons from the REDD+ implementation in these two phases to anticipate full implementation. As a basis to determine incentives during full implementation, national review of forest REL/RL should be done to accommodate any changes including national development needs and priorities, data improvement along with the improvement of capacities and technology development and access.

C. Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying as referred to in Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16.

Decision 4/CP. 15 and decision 1/CP. 16 stated the need to develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system. Both decisions also allowed sub-national monitoring systems as part of national forest monitoring systems.

Modalities on MRV development should cover both technical and institutional aspects, taking into account phases in REDD+ implementation, national circumstances, capacities and capabilities. MRV should be able to assess REDD+ contribution to the achievement of the objective of the Convention. The modalities should be simple, allow broad participation, and minimize transaction costs.

MRV system should include following elements, with more flexibility of approaches for phase I and phase II :

- a. Definitions of relevant terminology, pools and GHGs to be included.
- b. Measures to address national-sub national issues, including : monitoring and reporting of emissions displacement at the national level, reporting on how displacement of emissions is being addressed, and the means to integrate sub-national monitoring systems into a national monitoring system.
- c. Institutional arrangement and mechanism for reporting and verification.
- d. Guidelines for measuring forest cover and forest cover changes, forest carbon stocks and its associated changes.
- e. Effective engagement of relevant stakeholders at all levels and phases of REDD+ implementation.

As applied to the development of forest REL/RL, more flexibility in MRV of REDD+ actions should be given for phase I and phase II, where REDD+ countries may start developing MRV at the sub-national level. For full implementation, national MRV system should be developed.

The modalities should allow REDD+ countries to develop their own reporting mechanism, for example, for phase I and phase II, REDD+ reporting could be part of National Communication with the rules as applied to national communication of developing countries. For full implementation, MRV of REDD+ should be consistent with MRV of NAMAs (whenever appropriate).

Other relevant issues :

The needs for capacity building, access to data and technology. Methodological guidance for REDD+ implementation (decision 4/CP. 15 and decision 1/CP. 16) required appropriate level of capacity, availability of data and technology, in which many developing countries have not reached that stage. Substantial international and national resources will be required for capacity building, technology and knowledge transfer, and capability to implement REDD+, as well as access and analysis of data especially remote sensing data. Capacity building, transfer of technology and knowledge, access to data should be seen as a continuous process irrespective of the phases of implementation with more resources for these purposes should be available during phase I and phase II.