

**SUBMISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

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

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice in its thirty-fourth session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the UNFCCC Secretariat, by 19 September 2011, views on the following issues: (1) Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in Appendix I to decision 1/CP. 16 are addressed and respected; (2) Modalities relating to forest reference emissions levels and forest reference levels; and (3) Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying as referred to in Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16.

Lay down

Recalling paragraph 73 of Decision 1/CP. 16, Parties decided that REDD+ be implemented in phases starting with the development of national strategies/action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies/action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, and evolving into results-based actions that require full measurement, reporting and verification. Furthermore, as laid down in paragraph 74 of the Decision, 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.

Indonesia is of 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 consider issues referred to in paragraphs 73 and 74 of the decision 1/CP. 16.

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

Characteristics. The safeguards and guidance, for REDD+ implementation as appears in the Annex 1 of the Decision 1/CP. 16 are conceptually logical but practically challenging to be implemented. Indonesia considers that it is necessary to translate the safeguards into practical elements to enable REDD+ countries to effectively implement them within the context of national legislation and specific circumstances. In order to maintain transparency and inclusiveness in the development of the system for information provision on safeguards, there is a need to carry out consultation processes at both policy and technical levels involving all stakeholders.

Design. REDD+ countries should develop the most appropriate system for information provision on safeguards implementation in REDD+ activities. Given the fact that safeguards are needed in all phases of REDD+ implementation, the system should allow access for information on how safeguards as referred to in Annex 1 of Decision 1/CP.16 being addressed and respected. Furthermore, the system should accommodate different levels and scales in the implementation of the seven elements of safeguards.

Provision of information. Referring to the explanation in the design of system for information provision on safeguards, Indonesia is of the view that seven elements of safeguards as contained in paragraph 2 of the Annex I of Decision 1/CP.16 have different levels and scales of implementation. REDD+ countries should establish a system to provide information relating to the implementation of the safeguards in their national policies. For example, actions to address the risks of reversals and actions to reduce displacement of emissions may be part of the MRV while other elements could remain as part of the system for information provision on safeguards.

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

Scope and/or purpose.

Decision 1/CP. 16 requested developing countries aiming to undertake REDD+ activities to develop a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (REL/RL). The decision also allowed sub-national forest REL/RL as interim measure in accordance with national circumstances, and with provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. In accordance with national circumstances, national forest REL and/or forest RL could be a combination of sub-national forest REL and/or forest RL.

Indonesia underscores that phase one and phase two are learning by doing process. Thus, REDD+ countries could select approaches for establishing forest REL and/or RL according to their national circumstances and capacities; it could start from sub-national REL/RL). National forest REL and/or RL should only be required during full implementation. During the two phases, REL/RL should be considered as a benchmark to assess progress, while for the full implementation, REL/RL should be constituted as the baseline to measure emissions reductions/carbon stocks enhancement/carbon stocked conserved from REDD+ actions, which in turn could serve as the basis to determine incentives for result-based actions.

Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of appendix 1 to decision 1/CP.16. Referring to decision 4/CP. 15, the establishment of forest REL and RL should be done transparently, taking into account historical data and adjust for national circumstances in accordance with relevant COP decisions. Adjustment to national circumstances could include national development needs and goals including addressing poverty, maintaining economic growth while responding to climate change. Furthermore, it should be consistent with the objective of environmental integrity and take into account the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems.

Guidance for the construction. Referring to the explanation in the “Scope and/or Purpose,” more flexibility of approaches in forest REL/RL establishment should be given during phase I and phase II. Using guidance as provided by Decision 4/CP. 15 and Decision 1/CP. 16, construction of forest REL/RL should include elements and process as follows :

- Historical data (starting from 1990) on forest cover and forest cover changes, forest carbon stocks and its associated changes. Phase I and phase II should be used to improve data as needed.
- Future scenario relating to national development needs and goals including addressing poverty, maintaining economic growth while responding to climate change, consistent with the objective of environmental integrity and take into account the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems.
- Clarity on definitions of relevant terminology, pools and GHGs to be included.
- For phase I and phase II forest REL and/or RL establishment could start from sub national level, taking into account their national circumstances and capacities,
- For full implementation, national forest REL and/or RL should be established. REDD+ countries who select national forest REL/RL as the combination of sub-national forest REL/RL should aim to assure the consistency between forest REL/RL at the sub-national and national levels.
- Effective engagement of stakeholders to address national development needs and priorities and to assure transparency.

Process for communication. REDD+ countries should develop internal/domestic process for communicating REL/RL as part of MRV system they develop. Forest REL/RL should be reviewed periodically, taking into account that REDD+ is implemented in phases. As the benchmarks to assess progress of REDD+ actions in phase I and phase II, review should be subjected to draw lessons from the REDD+ implementation in phase I and phase II to anticipate the full implementation. As a basis to determine incentives in full implementation from emissions reductions/carbon stocks enhancement/carbon stocked conserved, review should be done to accommodate any changes including development needs and priorities, data improvement along with the improvement of capacities and technology development and access.

3. **Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying as referred to in Annex II of Decision 1/CP.16.** Decision 4/CP. 15 requested developing countries to establish, according to national circumstances and capabilities, robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems that: (1) use a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches for estimating, as appropriate, anthropogenic forest-related GHGs emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes; (2) provide estimates that are transparent, consistent, as far as possible accurate, and that reduce uncertainties, taking into account national capabilities and capacities; (3) are transparent and their results are available and suitable for review as agreed by the COP.

A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system was also emphasized in decision 1/CP. 16. Both decision 4/CP. 15 and decision 1/CP. 16 allowed sub-national forest monitoring systems as part of national forest monitoring system. Decision 1/CP.

16 also emphasized the need for monitoring and reporting of emissions displacement at the national level, if appropriate, and reporting on how displacement of emissions is being addressed, and on the means to integrate sub-national monitoring systems into a national monitoring system. Furthermore, MRV of REDD+ should be consistent with any guidance for MRV of NAMAs by developing country Parties agreed by the COP.

Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of Annex 1 of Decision 1/CP.16. Both COP decisions on methodological guidance for REDD+ (decision 4/CP. 15 and decision 1/CP. 16) lay down the need to develop a robust national forest monitoring system. Both decisions also allow sub-national monitoring systems as part of the national forest monitoring systems.

MRV system for REDD+ should enable the assessment of REDD+ contribution to the achievement of the objective of the Convention, contribution in promoting sustainable management of forests and in ensuring environmental integrity and taking into account the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems.

Elements. Modalities on MRV development should cover both technical and institutional aspects, taking into account that REDD+ be implemented in phases, in accordance with national circumstances and respected capabilities. The MRV system should include, inter alia the following elements :

- Clarity on definitions of relevant terminology, pools and GHGs to be included.
- Measures to address national-sub national issues, including : (a) monitoring and reporting of emissions displacement at the national level, (b) reporting on how displacement of emissions is being addressed, and (c) the means to integrate sub-national monitoring systems into a national monitoring system.
- Link between MRV of REDD+ and MRV of NAMAs.
- Structure of MRV including institutional setting and mechanism for reporting and verification.
- Guidelines for measuring forest cover and forest cover changes, forest carbon stocks and its associated changes.
- Data management and improvement.
- Effective engagement of stakeholders and ensure transparency. in the process and results.

Process for reporting. Similar to modalities for the development of forest REL/RL, REDD+ countries should develop internal/domestic process for reporting as part of their national MRV system, taking into account that REDD+ is implemented in phases and in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities. 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. REDD+ countries may initiate the exercise in the implementation of MRV at the sub-national level or initiate the development of the system at the national level. For full implementation, national MRV system should be developed. REDD+ countries who select national-sub national approaches, should establish measures for monitoring and report of emissions displacement at the national level and how displacement of emissions is being addressed, as well as the means to integrate sub-national monitoring systems into a national monitoring system. 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.