

## Republic of the Philippines

### **Submission 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**

#### **Preamble**

- During the thirty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the SBSTA Chair, through his draft conclusion (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.14) invited Parties and observer organizations to submit to the Secretariat their views on the issues identified in the same draft conclusion. This submission refers to the issues of such draft conclusion, as well as to the issues identified in the Appendix II of Decision 1/CP.16.
- This submission is solidly grounded on the Philippine National REDD-Plus Strategy, which has been developed jointly by government, civil society, non-government organizations, indigenous and peoples' organizations, and the academe.
- Recognizing the Philippines' vulnerability to climate change, the country shall pursue REDD-Plus to facilitate important synergies and mutual reinforcement between mitigation and adaptation.
- The Government of the Philippines is particularly committed to the sustainable management of forests, and the conservation and enhancement of existing forest carbon stocks.
- The Philippines will follow a phased approach building on project-based and subnational pilot activities that are embedded and fully compliant with IPCC guidelines
- The Philippines will adhere to the principles and standards contained in its Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (1997) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### **System for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected**

##### ***(a) Characteristics***

- The system shall be transparent in collecting and sharing information, comprehensive in coverage and be in accordance with gender and rights consideration and the application of safeguards in particular the full and effective

participation of stakeholders, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities, and the independent verification of information.

- The system shall place equal value to non-carbon information as with carbon information.
- The system shall promote equitable benefit and responsibility sharing.

***(b) Design***

- The system should be harmonized with and mainstreamed alongside relevant monitoring systems, including but not limited to forest, biodiversity, and socio-economic monitoring. Efforts towards enhancing the quality of data and information collected should be promoted and incentivized. This includes the development and use of community participatory monitoring processes as well as determination of monitoring indicators.
- National and subnational institutions shall be responsible for the collection and sharing of information. The collection of information should cover the forest management unit, subnational and the national level, with feedback mechanisms towards sharing reviewed and independently verified information to stakeholders transparently.

***(c) Provision of information***

- A common reporting format shall be used for the provision of information on how safeguards are being addressed and implemented.
- Its scope shall, at the least, include the following types of information: information on how REDD-Plus safeguards are applied, an independent assessment and verification of the information provided, and actions taken in response to the assessment.
- Information must be easy to access and be readily available for all relevant stakeholders in keeping with the regular tracking of the application of safeguards over time.
- The frequency of the provision of information shall match that of national reporting requirements and all forestry related reporting protocols shall be adjusted accordingly.

***(d) Potential barriers***

- The Philippines recognizes possible technical as well as financial challenges in acquiring regular information on safeguards implementation. Further guidance and support towards cost-effective and harmonized data collection and reporting would be useful.

## **Modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels**

### ***(a) Scope and purpose***

- The Philippines takes note of the report on the expert meeting on methodological issues relating to reference emission levels and reference levels of SBSTA in May 2009 (FCCC/SBSTA/2009/2)
- The purpose of modalities is to provide guidance on constructing reference emissions level (RELs) and reference levels (RLs) as benchmarks to consistently and transparently monitor progress in pursuing the goals of REDD-Plus.
- The scope shall include guidance to (i) a framework of elements which shall be considered towards the calculation of RELs/RLs; and (ii) establish measures towards ensuring and enhancing objectivity and rigor, environmental integrity and transparency in constructing RELs/RLs.

### ***(b) Characteristics***

- Objectivity and rigor
- Environmental integrity
- Transparency

### ***(c) Guidance for the construction***

- The Philippines recommends establishing reference emission levels in a spatially explicit way anticipating approach 3 of the IPCC 2006 Inventory Guidelines (land-based approach).
- RELs and RLs must be based on average historical emissions but should flexibly include national circumstances and anticipate future development needs.
- Methodologies, data, models and assumptions for developing RELs/RLs should be transparent, verified and validated based on agreed scientific standards, and made publicly available.
- Reference emission level assumptions, approaches, and outcomes shall be revised and adjusted at the end of each commitment period following rules and guidance to be established under the UNFCCC.
- Subnational and project-based pilot activities should follow common rules and standards to be agreed nationally to maintain consistency in the national GHG accounting framework.

- Forestry sector based activities focusing on forest harvesting or enhancement of carbon stocks can be anticipated at each level (subnational, national) following the sustainable management of forest as long as accounting consistency is maintained across all levels.

***(d) Process for communication***

- The Philippines encourages the use of common communication formats, and the most recent guidelines and guidance established by the IPCC.

**Guidance on modalities for measuring, reporting and verification**

***(a) Characteristics***

- The Philippines encourages the combined use of IPCC 2006 tier 2 and 3 for the GHG inventory subject to available national forest inventory data and data needs to establish a consistent GHG inventory across multiple scales.
- The Philippines is committed to a MRV system that covers forest carbon and co-benefits such as good governance, social/community concerns, well-being and biodiversity as well as the co-benefits that go REDD-Plus actions,
- The MRV system shall be guided by the respect for and use of the safeguards.

***(b) Elements***

- The Philippines encourages all subnational and project-based activities within the country to use common MRV elements regarding stratification, key categories, inventory design, safeguards, measurement and reporting.
- The choice of appropriate activity data and processing methods depends on country specific circumstances. The Philippines takes note on the emerging remote sensing technologies, particularly in the field of microwave sensing, LIDAR, and direct biomass assessments.
- The Philippines encourages the development of specific standards for validating the results of change detection analysis and the uncertainty analysis.

***(c) Process for reporting***

- The Philippines recommends the use of common agreed reporting formats and periods in line with the most recent IPCC good practice guidelines, considering the availability of data.