

Expert Meeting on “Guidance on systems for providing information on how the safeguards for REDD-plus activities are addressed and respected”

**Panama City, Panama
8 - 9 October, 2011**

Co-chairs’ summary

Lessons

- Information systems are useful because they:
 - inform stakeholders
 - are potential tools to improve governance
 - are helpful for identifying opportunities and avoiding negative impacts
 - could build confidence that the safeguards are addressed
- Recognition of a diversity of national and international safeguard systems
- In most cases there is no need to develop new systems and indicators. It is more a matter of combining existing systems and instruments and of policy coherence
- Addressing the safeguards and providing information on them is a learning process with continuous improvement
- Guidance for information systems needs to be realistic in terms of national capacities
- It is useful to integrate safeguards in national planning from the beginning
- Early stakeholder participation leads to increased confidence and creates long-term benefits
- Implementing safeguard systems is costly and capacities are not always in place; that’s one of the reasons why existing safeguard systems are not always implemented
- Countries could provide information at the national level with a different frequency than at the international level
- Countries could provide information through National Communications and biennial reports, and also potentially through additional channels such as a web platform
- It could be useful to make a distinction between :”addressing” and “respecting” the safeguards

Elements of COP decision

- Preambular text
 - Recognition of existing systems and the usefulness of harmonisation at the international level
 - Recognition of the consistency with national sovereignty, national legislation and national circumstances

- Characteristics:
 - simplicity
 - consistency
 - transparency
 - completeness
 - regularity
 - accessibility for all stakeholders
 - flexibility
 - Comprehensiveness
 - adequacy
 - discussion about comparability and accuracy

- Design:
 - build on existing systems
 - guidance should be general enough to accommodate different national circumstances and respect national legislation
 - Systems should be flexible to allow for improvement over time
 - A ‘matrix’ could be a useful tool to compare or map Parties’ existing safeguards to the 7 safeguards from the Cancun decision

- Provision of information: use national communication, and potentially the use of biennial reports