

SUBMISSION FROM REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE

Submission on: General Principles Relating to Safeguards, Forest Reference (Emission) Levels and Measuring, Reporting and Verification with regards to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

For SBSTA 35

In response to the call at the second part of the 34th Session of the SBSTA in Bonn in June 2011 for parties to submit their views on issues in relation to safeguards, forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels as well as modalities for measuring, reporting and verification of anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks with regards to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), we would like to reiterate the following:

1. Information System on how Safeguards are being addressed and respected:
 - Safeguards are an integral part of the REDD+ system. They are not a supplementary and voluntary adjunct. The adequacy of information supplied on how safeguards are being addressed and respected should be amongst the criteria used in the review and implementation of REDD+.
 - Addressing and respecting safeguards is the joint responsibility of donor countries/funding sources and recipients/implementers of REDD+, taking into account their different roles.
 - The information system must be transparent. It should also include the following elements:
 - o be consistent with national forest objectives, with the support of a robust legal framework, and be flexible enough to take into consideration the relevant international conventions and agreements, as well as sub-national differences where relevant and appropriate.
 - o address any linkages to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
 - o take into consideration the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders.
 - o take into consideration the conservation of natural forests and preservation of biological diversity and avoid the risks of reversals and displacements or leakages.
 - o take into account the provisions and requirements of national legislation and sovereignty.
 - The system of National Communications under the UNFCCC can be one avenue for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected. This does not preclude the development of other additional or complementary channels of communication deemed useful.
2. Modalities for Forest Reference Levels and Forest Reference Emission Levels:
 - We welcome further consideration of how forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels can properly reflect the co-benefits of REDD+ that may be indirectly related to forest area, carbon stocks and carbon emissions.
 - We also welcome elaboration of ideas on the comparability of forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels with respect to the different aspects of REDD+ such as sustainable management of forests, conservation, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. This would assist in the clarity and distinctness of each concept.

- The construction of the reference levels or reference emission levels should take into consideration a reference or base period that incorporates sound and robust historical data and these levels should be provided for at the readiness phase of any REDD+ activity.
 - The base period selected should take into consideration national circumstances.
 - The modalities for construction of the reference (emission) levels should be transparent and subject to international review.
3. Modalities for Measuring, Reporting and Verifying (MRV) Anthropogenic Forest-related Emissions by Sources and Removals by Sinks.
- Any framework and methodology adopted for the MRV must be flexible, robust, transparent, and subject to international review.
 - For any sub national reporting of REDD+ activities, the modalities used for sub national MRV must be compatible with (if not derived from) the national MRV frameworks.
 - The modalities adopted for any developing country parties should be consistent with the MRV as reported for under their nationally appropriate mitigation actions.