



SUBMISSION BY
Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar,
Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam

TO SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVISE (SBSTA) -37

on

Agenda Item 5

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

26 November 2012

The joint submission by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, as members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), address the methodological guidance for activities in paragraph 70 Dec. 1/CP. 16. Another submission on policy approaches and positive incentives for REDD+ has been presented to the AWG-LCA 15 – Agenda Item 3. (b) (iii). The ASEAN member states request the submission be published in Misc. document.

(1) Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected

The Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session (COP-17) provided guidance for a system for providing information on how safeguards under Cancun agreement are addressed and respected, and modalities for development of reference emission level or reference level.

At COP-17 Parties agreed that developing countries undertaking REDD+ should provide a summary of information on how all of the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities. According to decision 12/CP. 17, summary of information on safeguards should be provided periodically and be included in national communications, or communication channels agreed by the COP. COP-17 requested SBSTA at its thirty-sixth session (SBSTA-36) to consider the timing of the first and the frequency of subsequent presentation of the summary of information of safeguards. The COP-17 also requested SBSTA-36 to consider the need for further guidance to ensure transparency, consistency,

comprehensiveness and effectiveness when informing on how all safeguards are addressed and respected and, if appropriate, to consider additional guidance.

ASEAN Member States are of the view that national communications should be the main channel for providing summary of information on safeguards, taking into account national circumstances and capacities. Parties may provide information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected at different phases of REDD+ implementation through their national safeguards information system, subject to the level of support received to develop the safeguards information system.

ASEAN Member States also take the view that further and additional guidance for the information provision on safeguards implementation may be considered after gaining experiences from the development of safeguards information system as mandated by COP at its sixteenth session (COP-16).

(2) Modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels

COP at its seventeenth session agreed to establish a process that enables technical assessment of the proposed forest REL/RL when submitted or updated by Parties in accordance with guidance to be developed by SBSTA-36.

ASEAN Member States take the view that technical assessment of the proposed forest REL/RL should enable REDD+ countries with differing level of readiness and national circumstances to make progress. The technical assessment process should be non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty.

(3) Modalities for national forest monitoring systems and measuring, reporting and verifying

SBSTA at its thirty fifth session agreed to continue its work on modalities for national forest monitoring systems and measuring, reporting and verifying. At its thirty sixth session, SBSTA discussed elements for a possible draft decision on modalities for national forest monitoring systems and measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV).

ASEAN Member States recognized that each country has differing circumstances and arrangements and level of supports received for a national forest monitoring system (NFMS), and therefore, modalities for national forest monitoring system should not be too prescriptive on the details. A national forest monitoring system that is sufficiently rigorous to permit reliable estimates of forest and carbon stocks and change should be acceptable. In relation with REDD+ incentives, it could be on a sliding scale, less for Tier 1 estimates and more for Tier 3 estimates. However, all Tier 1, 2 or 3 estimates should use forest data from the national forest monitoring system.

ASEAN Member States are also of the view that national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) may be part of a broader system of measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV). Nevertheless, a balance must be achieved between requirement for REDD+ actions and the level of support received (financial, capacity building, and technical-methodological supports).

(4) Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

COP at its sixteenth session requested SBSTA to identify LULUCF activities in developing countries especially activities that relate to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, to identify

methodological issues relating to emission and removals and to assess their potential contribution to mitigation. SBSTA at its thirty sixth session initiated consideration of issues relating to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and agreed to continue its work on the issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

ASEAN Member States recognize that drivers of deforestation and forest degradation vary among countries and should be addressed. Some of these drivers may require long-term solutions. However, efforts to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation have to take into account national development priorities, circumstances and capabilities of developing countries. We underscore that discussion on this issue should not be unnecessarily long and complicated so as to avoid any delay in REDD+ implementation.