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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Thirty-fifth session

Durban, 28 November to 3 December 2011

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

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

Views 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

Submissions from Parties

1. At its thirty-fourth session, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraphs 28–30, and requested the secretariat to compile the submissions from Parties into a miscellaneous document for its consideration at its thirty-fifth session.¹
2. The secretariat has received 21 such submissions from Parties.² In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced* in the languages in which they were received and without formal editing.
3. The secretariat also received four submissions from intergovernmental organizations³ and 18 submissions from non-governmental organizations.⁴

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraph 31.

² Also made available at <<http://unfccc.int/5901.php>>.

* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

³ These submissions are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3714.php>>.

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⁴ These submissions are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3689.php>>.

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* This submission is supported by Albania, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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Submission under the Cancun Agreements | September 2011

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+) | SBSTA

I. Overview

This submission contains the views of the Australian Government on methodological issues referred to SBSTA in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16, as invited under FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2.

Australia has previously outlined the importance of including REDD+ in the new international climate change regime. Deforestation accounts for approximately 18 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, with around 13 million hectares of the world's forests being cleared each year. REDD+ can and should make a significant contribution to global mitigation of climate change.

In common with the views previously expressed by many Parties, Australia considers that the development of the following should be a key priority for the SBSTA ahead of the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session:

- characteristics for safeguards information systems, forest reference emission levels/reference levels, and systems for forest monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification;
- information that should be provided through safeguards information systems;
- distinction between forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels;
- distinction between forest monitoring and the measurement, reporting and verification of results; and
- modalities for forest reference emission levels/forest reference levels, forest monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification that can be independently verified by an expert panel.

II. Characteristics for safeguards information systems (SIS), forest reference emission levels/reference levels (RELS/RLs), and systems for forest monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)

The development and implementation of SIS, RELS/RLs, and systems for forest monitoring and MRV should be guided by broad and over-arching characteristics. Well established principles, and definitions for these principles, exist for non-Annex I National Communications (decision 17/CP.8) and IPCC good practice guidance. The principles are: transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness and accuracy. These principles should form the core characteristics for each of the REDD+ elements set out in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16. These include safeguards information systems, RELS/RLs, and systems for forest monitoring and MRV.

III. Guidance for systems providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected

The Cancun Agreements call for REDD+ activities to be carried out in accordance with the guidance and safeguards contained in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16. These safeguards aim to ensure that

implementation of an international REDD+ mechanism does not result in negative, unintended social, economic or environmental impacts. Safeguards promote the sustainability of a REDD+ mechanism by addressing environmental integrity. Safeguards also afford local and indigenous communities with strong ties to the land and the opportunity to apply local knowledge. They help ensure the sustainability of REDD+ activities beyond the initial stages of project development.

The effective implementation of SIS is key to achieving the goals stated above. Development of a SIS should be undertaken at a national scale, drawing on subnational and project information. A SIS should include the institutions, processes and data through which information on safeguards is collected, assessed and reported. The development of a SIS will be an ongoing process, requiring regular review and update of the data and information included, to better assess and monitor the impact of REDD+ programs on safeguards

In addition to the characteristics set out as principles in the IPCC good practice guidance, a SIS should also demonstrate full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders. These characteristics will also enable other Parties and the international community to learn from experience and strive for ongoing improvement. They will also form an important part of building credibility and confidence in national REDD+ systems to attract increased financial support.

The design of a national SIS should be integrated with existing data sets, and monitoring and reporting arrangements, some of which exist outside of UNFCCC processes. This will avoid creating an increased reporting burden for developing country Parties. To achieve this, reporting of information related to the SIS could be undertaken as part of national communications, and biennial update reports to the Conference of the Parties (COP) as provided for in the Cancun Agreements. Notwithstanding the reporting method selected, Parties participating in REDD+ activities should report SIS information every two years at a minimum. This frequency is important to promote confidence and ongoing improvements on safeguards based on lessons learnt. The design of the SIS should also include opportunity for regular reviews to facilitate ongoing improvement. These reviews should provide for the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, and international partners.

The information to be provided through the SIS should include the following:

- Description of the design and structure of the SIS;
- Details on the legislation, policies and governance arrangements in place to support, or that are relevant to safeguards;
- Description of how national circumstances apply to safeguards and processes to better understand these, including but not limited to:
 - Identification of natural forests and other areas important for the conservation of biological diversity and a description of how these areas have been defined, and application of existing international frameworks such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation or the Convention on Biological Diversity
 - Identification of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous and local communities
- Actions taken to address safeguards and future plans for improvement.

The SIS should include an initial assessment drawing on all available data. This initial assessment can then provide the basis for ongoing review and progress.

IV. Modalities for forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels

The credible and robust calculation of RELs/RLs will be critical to the effectiveness of a REDD+ mechanism. The purpose of national RELs/RLs should be to set a realistic scenario for emissions and removals in the absence of future REDD+ interventions. The Cancun Agreements request developing country Parties that are aiming to participate in a REDD+ mechanism to develop a national forest reference emission level and /or forest reference level.¹ However, the distinction between these two terms is currently unclear. Resolving this distinction should be a key priority for SBSTA.

In addition to the characteristics set out as principles in the IPCC good practice guidance, RELs/RLs should strive for environmental integrity by mitigating the potential for creating perverse incentives, including potential for leakage. On this basis, RELs/RLs should be established at a national level, be spatially explicit and cover border to border of a country.

National RELs/RLs should be based on information submitted by developing country Parties and technical assessment by an expert panel. The development of modalities that can be independently verified by an expert panel should be a key priority for the SBSTA ahead of COP17. These modalities should not mandate a specific national formula. Instead modalities should outline minimum requirements to be addressed in REL/RL submissions by host Parties. In this regard, there are valuable lessons that can be learnt from the recent process for submission and review of information on forest management reference levels for Annex I Parties. Notwithstanding, it is recognised that the objectives for the reference levels being considered through that process may be different to REDD+. Nevertheless, modalities for REDD+ RELs/RLs should include:

- factors that may be used to calculate RELs/RLs, this could include historical emissions data, information about pre-existing emission reduction measures, drivers of deforestation, and other relevant national circumstances;
- basic data requirements to support the use of each of the above factors;
- a process for periodic adjustments of RELs/RLs as a result of improved data availability or to take into account verified emissions reductions achieved;
- the role of CDM projects related to REDD+ activities, as appropriate; and
- the role of the UNFCCC Secretariat, expert panels, and the COP in the process of reviewing and establishing RELs/RLs.

Modalities for establishing RELs/RLs should encourage host Parties to present preliminary REL/RL submissions so that they may benefit from technical feedback from experts and peers that can share lessons learnt. The process for the development and review of Readiness Preparation Proposals through the

¹ This provision provides for the development of subnational forest reference emission levels and /or forest reference levels only if appropriate, as an interim measure. It will be important for the robustness and credibility of Parties' REDD+ systems that national levels are established as soon as possible.

World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Readiness Fund provides a practical example of this. Countries that have participated in this process have noted the value of feedback from technical experts in the field. Developing country Parties have also commented on the value of learning from the experience of other countries.

V. Modalities for forest monitoring and for measuring, reporting and verifying emissions

The Cancun Agreements request developing country Parties to develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of activities. The Cancun Agreements also require results-based actions to be fully measured, reported and verified. At present, the distinction between forest monitoring and MRV is unclear. Resolving this distinction should be key priority for SBSTA.

Australia proposes that forest monitoring systems should enable Parties to undertake regular scans to rapidly detect areas of change. Such a system is important to assist Parties to take action as soon as practicable to address drivers of REDD+ activities. An MRV system measures emissions and removals for accounting purposes. Accounting compares these measurements to a pre-determined reference level for the purpose of establishing results. Consequently, the measurement capabilities of a MRV system should be taken into account when developing RELs/RLs. A MRV system also includes reporting and verification of the results and methods for calculating these results.

Credible and robust national MRV systems will be critical to the effectiveness of a REDD+ mechanism. For the same grounds as the characteristics proposed for RELs/RLs, forest monitoring and MRV systems should strive for environmental integrity by mitigating the potential for creating perverse incentives, including the potential for leakage.

Australia recognises the importance of a highly integrated MRV system design that includes remote sensing, ground data and models as emphasised in IPCC good practice guidance. Australia's experience in developing an integrated system, the National Carbon Accounting System has shown that such a model is achievable. This system is one of the few in the world that has been developed with the specific purpose of accounting for greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector.

Robust and transparent MRV should comprise measurements at a national scale, include all carbon pools, and be based on wall-to-wall, spatially explicit time series. Methods for estimation should meet the highest level of IPCC standards possible. MRV systems to enable participation in a REDD+ market-based mechanism should ideally be Tier 3. These elements provide the necessary data to address permanence and leakage. In addition, having clear institutional and governance arrangements in place to promote consistent and reliable operation, will be key to a robust MRV system.

The process for reporting should be through national communications, and biennial update reports to the COP as provided for in the Cancun Agreements. These reports should be provided to the UNFCCC Secretariat and made publicly available. The information reported and methods for measuring results should be independently verified by expert panels. The development of modalities that can be independently verified by an expert panel should be a key priority for the SBSTA ahead of COP17.

Paper no. 2A: Belize, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Togo and Uganda

Submission by

Belize, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, Togo, Uganda

Views on modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16

19 September 2011

1. Paragraph 71 (b) of decision 1/CP.16 requested developing country Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of that decision, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level¹ or, if appropriate, as an interim measure, subnational forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, 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;
2. Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 recognized that in the development of its work programme, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice is requested to:
 - (b) Develop modalities relating to paragraphs 71 (b) for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session.
3. The SBSTA at its 34th session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in paragraphs 28-30 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2². It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.
4. For this purpose the Coalition for Rainforest Nations and a number of like-minded developing countries met in Pretoria, South Africa from 2 to 4 September 2011 to consider issues related to forest reference emission levels (REL) and forest reference levels (RL) of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16. This submission has been prepared in reflection of those discussions, following the general guidance for submissions provided in Annex II to document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2 and incorporates input from many other developing country Parties.

(a) Scope and/or purpose

5. The REL and RL is considered as a benchmark for assessing a country's performance in reducing total emissions and increasing removals associated with REDD+ activities implemented by the Party. The comparison is needed to assess whether and how policies and measures implemented for REDD+ have resulted in quantifiable mitigation actions, and is expected to be used to determine the appropriate REDD+ financing and incentives for a particular Party.

¹ In accordance with national circumstances, national forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels could be a combination of subnational forest reference emissions levels and/or forest reference levels.

² Report of the SBSTA on its thirty-fourth session, held in Bon from 6 to 16 June 2011, document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, 3 August 2011.

6. Modalities for the development by non-Annex I Parties of forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 should be flexible in order to reflect national circumstances and allow widest participation of countries, thus minimizing international displacement, implementing REDD+ activities for mitigating climate change.

(b) Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of appendix I to decision 1/CP.16

7. Therefore, REL and RL should be the expected amount of emissions and removals that would have been occurred if REDD+ activities had not been implemented.

8. For each national or subnational unit as an interim measure for phase 1 and 2, or when totaled in sum reaching a national scale, Parties may set a reference emission levels including emissions from deforestation and/or forest degradation only or may set a reference level including all emissions and removals associated with all REDD+ activities, namely deforestation, forest degradation, forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

9. The REL and RL are valid for the whole duration of REDD+ activities and shall be recalculated periodically as agreed by the Parties, such as every five [5 years].

(c) Modalities for the construction

10. The RL and REL should be characterized by transparency, accuracy and participation.

11. Pursuant to the principle of flexibility and respect for national circumstances, Parties may opt to use a REL or a RL depending on national circumstances.

12. The REL should include emission reduction from deforestation and forest degradation.

13. The REL should be based on historical data only so assuming a constant impact on forest emissions of drivers that cause deforestation and forest degradation and that shall be addressed by the implementing policies and measures for REDD+.

14. Historical data used REL and RL may refer to a period encompassing the most recent years for which data is available, but including at least 1990, 2000 and 2005.

15. The RL should take into account carbon stock losses and gains and other emissions occurring on forest land, including those associated with change of use from forest to any other land use.

16. In particular countries that have maintained high levels of Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) and conservation of their forest stocks will be allowed to adjust their RLs so that these efforts will be adequately recognized.

17. RL, based on historical data, should take into consideration the impact of human induced variables that drive emissions and removals in forest land and their expected change in the period to which the reference level is applied, so that the historical data are adjusted by means of Development Adjustment Factors (DAF) in order to determine the RL.

18. The DAF should be built on national circumstances determined by the use of the most recent relevant information, for example, last years' carbon stock changes and other emissions from the forest sector, per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP), local and international prices of forest and agricultural goods, etc.

19. To avoid inconsistencies in methods, carbon pools and lands reported for setting the REL and RL and those used for accounting during the commitment period, the REL and RL could be subject to technical corrections when and if needed.

20. Setting the REL and RL may start by estimating activity data utilizing the freely available Landsat satellite global data set for 1990, 2000 and 2005, provided by NASA, and estimating carbon stocks changes using IPCC default value tables.

(d) Process for communication:

21. REL and RL should be submitted to the COP, be subject to an independent assessment made by an expert review team equitably composed by Annex I and Non Annex I experts assisted by the UNFCCC secretariat and adopted by the COP.

(e) Other relevant issues.

22. REL and RL could be further modified to take into account the need to ensure that the total amount of net changes in emissions and removals accounted by mitigation activities implemented under the REDD+ mechanism account for a net reduction in emissions or enhancement of removals.

Paper no. 2B: Belize, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Togo and Uganda

Submission by

Belize, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, Togo, Uganda

Views on modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16

19 September 2011

1. Paragraph 71 (c) of decision 1/CP.16 requested developing country Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of that decision, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure, in accordance with national circumstances, and with the provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties.

2. Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 recognized that in the development of its work programme, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice is requested to:

(c) Develop, as necessary, modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, consistent with any guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties agreed by the COP, taking into account methodological guidance in accordance with decision 4/CP.15, for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session.

3. The SBSTA at its 34th session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in paragraphs 28-30 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2¹. It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.

4. For this purpose, the Coalition for Rainforest Nations and a number of like-minded developing countries met in Pretoria, South Africa, from 2 to 4 September 2011 to consider issues related to modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16. This submission has been prepared in reflection of those discussions and incorporates input from many other developing country Parties.

5. Most of the necessary elements regarding MRV for REDD+ have already been agreed by the Parties and discussions under SBSTA should be focused on missing elements only.

¹ Report of the SBSTA on its thirty-fourth session, held in Bon from 6 to 16 June 2011, document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, 3 August 2011.

6. **Monitoring:** Decision 4/CP.15 contains guidance on the National Forest Monitoring Systems which should be based on a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory. Reference materials could also be retrieved from the outcomes of the technical workshops and expert meetings organized by the Secretariat in the previous years. Countries should be allowed to have a “tiered approach” in setting their national forest monitoring system according with the approach used in the IPCC Guidelines and Guidance that Parties agreed to be used, in their most recent version as adopted or encouraged by the COP as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions and removals.
7. **Measuring:** Measurements should be consistent with data requirements for estimating emissions and removals based on IPCC guidance and guidelines as for Decision 4/CP.15. Therefore, collected data should be representative of the whole variability, which is present in the country, of carbon stocks and their dynamic, be free of bias as far as can be judged and ensure spatial and temporal consistency of compiled databases.
8. **Reporting:** in paragraph (c) of Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 the Parties agreed that MRV for REDD+ should remain consistent with any guidance for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) (paragraphs 60 to 64 of decision 1/CP.16). In particular:
- a. *National Communications:* in paragraph 60(b), the Parties agreed to enhance reporting in National Communications, including inventories, with additional flexibility given to least developed country parties and small island developing states;
 - b. *Frequency:* in paragraphs 60 (b) and (c), the Parties agreed that National Communications should be submitted every four years, with biennial update reports submitted consistent with their capabilities and level of support provided for reporting;
 - c. *Content:* in paragraphs 60, 60 (c) and 64, the Parties have agreed to provide national greenhouse gas inventories, including a national inventory report, and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received.
9. Therefore, Parties should set a permanent national system able to ensure continuity in the planning, preparation and management of the information to be reported, including its archiving, quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) and publication.
10. **Verification:** in paragraph 63 of decision 1/CP.16, the Parties agreed to conduct international consultations and analysis of the biennial reports under the SBI, in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive, and respectful of national sovereignty and legislation, with the aim to improve transparency of mitigation actions and their effects, through analysis by technical experts in consultation with the Party concerned and through a facilitative sharing of views that will result in a summary report.
11. The procedures for monitoring, reporting and verification described above should apply to all phases of REDD+; noting that lower tiers for monitoring and reporting being consistent with IPCC Guidance and Guidelines may be implemented while national forest monitoring systems are being implemented, and therefore not fully operational, and that verification shall not include procedures set to ensure full equivalence of Party’s carbon units. Accuracy of monitoring and reporting may improve depending on the support received.
12. Measurement, reporting and verification of the support provided by Annex I Parties to Parties not included in Annex I for activities referred to in paragraph 70 to decision 1/CP.16 should be carried out by an expert review team equitably balanced between members of developed and developing countries selected from the roster of experts of the Convention and supported by the secretariat in consultation with relevant national authorities in accordance with countries different capacity and capabilities.

Paper no. 2C: Belize, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Togo and Uganda

Submission by

Belize, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, Togo, Uganda

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

19 September 2011

1. Paragraph 71 (d) of decision 1/CP.16 requested developing country Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of that decision, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop a system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, while respecting sovereignty.

2. Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 recognized that in the development of its work programme, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice is requested to:

(b) Develop, *inter alia*, guidance relating to paragraph 71 (d) of this decision, for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session;¹

3. For all phases the SBSTA has therefore been requested to develop guidance with the view to assist developing country Parties to develop a system for providing information on how safeguards indicated in Annex I of Decision 1/CP.16 will be addressed and respected throughout implementation.

4. The SBSTA at its 34th session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in paragraphs 28-30 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2². It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.

5. For this purpose, the Coalition for Rainforest Nations and a number of like-minded developing countries met in Pretoria, South Africa, from 2 to 4 September 2011 to consider issues related to the systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected, in particular issues related to guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected. This submission has been prepared to reflect those discussions, following the general guidance for submissions provided in Annex II of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2 and expresses input from many other developing country Parties.

¹ "A system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in annex I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70, while respecting sovereignty", paragraph 71(d) to decision 1/CP.16.

² Report of the SBSTA on its thirty-fourth session, held in Bonn from 6 to 16 June 2011, document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, 3 August 2011.

a) Characteristics

6. Guidance, provided by SBSTA, on the system for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected should be:

- Consistent with the elements identified in paragraph 1 of Annex I to decision 1/CP.16;
- Flexible, including taking into account national circumstances and evolving conditions in the country;
- Nationally led and developed, respect national sovereignty, legislation, diversity and socio-economic conditions;
- Consistent with national development priorities, strategies, institutions, processes, so as to build upon existing infrastructure and national expertise;

7. Furthermore, transparency, regularity, consistency, reliability and broad participation should be guiding principles of the system.

8. Responsibility for the system on informing how safeguards are addressed and respected should remain with the relevant national authorities.

9. Guidance developed by the SBSTA should take into account national circumstances and should not be a prejudice to official national information systems.

b) Design

10. The systems for providing information on how safeguards are respected should be an integral part of REDD+ strategy and therefore should be simultaneously developed and implemented in phases so that the financial sources and levels of complexity supporting the design and development of the system can be identified and dealt with progressively.

11. The collection and type of information provided should be in conformity with relevant decisions by the Parties along with the relevant national regulations, procedures and modalities related to the implementation of safeguards (scope, standard, methods for gathering and processing information, presentation and assessment). Local institutions and existing information systems on forest related activities should be used.

c) Provision of information

12. Information on how the safeguards referred to in Appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are being respected throughout implementation of REDD+ activities should be provided only for supported actions and should be consistent with the level of development of the national REDD+ strategy and its agreed phases.

13. Information on safeguards should be regularly reported by the official authority, the National Focal Point to the UNFCCC, through existing systems such as national communications consistent with country capability and the level of technical and financial support received as part of the whole REDD+ strategy.

d) Potential barriers, including barriers, if any, to providing information on addressing and respecting safeguards

14. Providing and gathering of information and participation of stakeholders should be adjusted to the existing national processes and modalities and the implementation must be progressive and consistent with the financial support provided and in accordance with national circumstances, policies and capabilities.

Paper no. 3: Botswana

Submission by Botswana 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

September 2011

Botswana welcomes the opportunity to share its views on methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD+.

Botswana looks forward to being able to benefit from the UNFCCC REDD+ activities in the future. Relatively, Botswana's forests cover a small land area but are immensely important for the preservation of biological diversity and also in their contribution to carbon dioxide sequestration. It is in this respect, therefore that Botswana looks forward to ensure a meaningful agreement on guidance for the activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

The 15th Conference of Parties of UNFCCC adopted a decision 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". At COP16 in Cancun, Parties agreed to continue their consideration of the draft text for a decision on REDD-plus and the necessary provisions for the implementation of activities relating to REDD-plus.

Definition of the scale of REDD-plus project activities to allow REDD-plus project to be implemented along natural ecosystems:

Botswana believes that reference emission level (REL) and reference level (RL) are cost effective implemented at project level and that the scale of such projects should be allowed to traverse national boundaries and along ecosystems. In this way the REDD-plus activities will also be sensitive to conservation of both flora and fauna species that reside within the project area.

Botswana also believes that allowing the scale to traverse many countries would minimize transaction costs – as resources including institutional capacities, would be shared between countries. In practice, most national borders are along ecosystems and this means a number of countries have forests ecosystems. In reality – some countries end up with smaller forests. Implementation of REDD-plus at the ecosystem / project scale will therefore ensure the ecosystem is considered as a whole and as a result the risk associated with leakage – illegal logging and other will be minimized.

Key principles for RELs and RLs

The COP decisions call on Parties to establish a reference emission level (REL) and reference level (RL). In implementing REDD-plus at an ecosystem scale and therefore beyond national boundaries, Botswana proposes that the development of methodological guidelines for the definition and the assessment of the RELs and RLs could be reached at ecosystem/project level and not just at national and sub-national levels. Botswana believes that key principles of for implementing REDD-plus on *Environmental integrity; Accuracy; Comprehensiveness; Transparency; Comparability; Consistency* and *Feasibility* will be enhanced by implementing REDD-plus using an ecosystem approach and thus allowing REDD-plus projects, where countries wish to.

Botswana believes that in order to participate in and/or implement any future REDD-plus activities, many developing countries will require capacity building, technical assistance and financial support for a number of enabling activities. We recognise and wish to apply the existing framework within the regional economic groups to contribute to a successful implementation of REDD-plus. These include, for example, putting in place, at a regional level, the necessary institutions and strengthening of national monitoring systems to improve their data collection systems, and their estimation and reporting of emissions. In this way the REDD-

plus project activities would also acknowledge the importance of protecting forests and their sustainable use for biodiversity conservation and combating desertification and land degradation.

Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of the effectiveness of REDD-plus project activities:

This approach recognizes that REDD countries should share the costs of their own emission reductions/removals in a manner that is consistent with their respective capabilities and with the national benefits associated with those reductions/removals.

The Marrakech Accords' definition offers flexibility for countries that are designing a monitoring plan because the use of remote sensing data allows the application of different thresholds for minimum tree crown cover and area.

Botswana notes that Parties that wish to participate in REDD must establish a system of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) for Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) emissions, including GHGs from deforestation, sustainable forest management and forest degradation.

Implementation of the REDD-plus project actions at ecosystem level services will enhance a regional and global monitoring programme for deforestation; forest degradation; conservation; sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

To enable Parties to benefit from REDD+ potential, Botswana supports the idea of a common regional framework on how to implement REDD+ on similar forest ecosystems, including those whose distributions straddle political boundaries. This will contribute to strengthening capacities on various aspects including on how to design REDD+ policies and programmes.

Botswana believes that a regional REDD+ programme based on a common framework will enable Parties to address issues of illegal trade in forest products and the major issue of 'leakage' where forest protection or sustainable forest management in one country, in response leads to illegal activity or unsustainable practices exported elsewhere. A regional REDD+ approach also provides an opportunity for countries to work together on Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation of forest stocks.

Botswana calls for the inclusion of a regional dimension in issues related to REDD+, in particular with respect to modalities related to forest reference levels, forest reference emission levels and MRV, and suggests that the issue of REDD+ on a regional level be part of the meeting of technical experts as stated in the L14 document (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L14) to be held before SBSTA 35.

Submission by Brazil
Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected

The Government of Brazil, in response to the invitation to Parties contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on (1) guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected as referred to in appendix II of decision 1/CP.16.

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

Recalling paragraph 71(d) of Decision 1/CP.16 that requests developing countries aiming to undertake REDD+ actions, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, to develop a *system* for providing information on safeguards, Brazil supports the idea that systems to provide information on how the safeguards are treated and respected should be developed nationally, according to the circumstances of each developing country. Rather than having a single system to be implemented by all Parties, each country will develop its own information system, oriented by general guidance to be provided by SBSTA and the COP. Hence, the importance of the COP to agree on clear general principles and workable guidance.

Equally important is to maintain the system for information on safeguards separate from the MRV system.

1. Characteristics and Design

To ensure transparency, national systems should contain publicly accessible data and information that are relevant for indicating how the safeguards are being addressed and respected. Since the data and information on safeguards are expected to originate from several sources, it is important to ensure **consistency** of the information (that is, the information is based on a clear and informed set of assumptions, methodologies, and guidance) and **completeness** in the sense that all the safeguards should be addressed. The type of data and information to be included in the systems of information should be a national decision, guided by the general principles agreed by the COP, and should allow for broad participation and be separate and **independent** from MRV systems.

The purpose of national information systems on safeguards is to provide clear, easily accessible and reliable information on how the safeguards outlined in Appendix 1 to Decision 1/CP.16 are being addressed and respected. The data and information should flow as deemed appropriate by each developing country. To ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness, national information systems should cater information needed in an integrated and coordinated way. This can be achieved by building information systems on

existing data and institutions, so that they complement or are consistent with the objectives of the country's national forest programme and relevant data sets and processes.

The design of national systems should be flexible enough to accommodate for changing needs for information across time, and be adaptable to technical changes, if necessary. It also must allow for full flexibility of design according to national circumstances and challenges.

2. Provision of data and information

The provision of data and information for the system should be flexible; while for some of the safeguards data and information may be more frequently available, for others it may not. The timing for presentation of data and information should be defined domestically and respect national circumstances and challenges.

Brazil has an important experience with a system for providing information on how the official rates of gross deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon are produced. Using the internet as the vehicle of information, all the data, including nearly 240 satellite images, and the results from analysis of satellite imagery at state level is presented, thus allowing any interested person, agency or organization to reproduce the results obtained. Different stakeholders, including NGOs, state environmental agencies and others, can readily and easily access the data used and the information generated, including from previous years. This data will be instrumental for addressing the safeguard about non-conversion of natural forests to implement other REDD+ activities.

3. Potential barriers, including barriers, if any, to providing information, on addressing and respecting safeguards

Potential barriers include lack of data and information, lack of financial resources and capacity to generate information on how the safeguards are being treated and respected, and lack of the institutional arrangements necessary to ensure relevant data and information, including its dissemination to local communities and indigenous peoples.

Submission of the Republic of Colombia on behalf of Colombia and the United States of Mexico

SBSTA work program on methodological issues related to REDD+

September 29, 2011

The Republic of Colombia and the United States of Mexico, welcome the opportunity to provide its views on (1) modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels and (2) guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected; as referred to in appendix II of decision 1/CP.16., in order to contribute to the SBSTA work program on methodological issues related to REDD and look forward to a constructive exchange of views with other Parties leading to a successful outcome by COP17.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight that in our view, decisions on methodological issues should be coherent with decisions on the financial mechanism that will enable the future REDD mechanism.

(1) Modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels

This submission has been prepared in accordance with the general guidance submission outlined in the Annex to document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2

1. Scope: The scope of the process for developing forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels in each participating developing country should be to:

- Develop a national forest reference emission levels (REL) and/or forest reference levels (RL), or if appropriate, as an interim measure, subnational forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels according to CP.16.1 paragraph 71(b)
- Aim to develop Reference Emission Levels and/or Reference Levels of greenhouse gas emissions and removals by sinks associated with deforestation, forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, according to CP.16.1 paragraph 71b of decision, in accordance with national circumstances.
- The RELs or RLs, should be based on national definitions of forests to be submitted by Parties to the UNFCCC Secretariat as agreed by the SBSTA.

2. Purpose of RELs and RLs:

- Establish scientifically sound guidelines for the construction of REL and/or RLs from the forest sector in order to assess the impact of mitigation actions undertaken by developing countries and estimate

emission reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks generated through the implementation of national and subnational policies and measures taking into account the ultimate goal of the convention and REDD+ actions, and in the context of adequate and predictable finance.

3. Characteristics of the guidelines to be designed by the SBSTA for the development of RELs and RLs:

- The guidelines should aim to include emissions and removals associated with deforestation, forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, as deemed appropriate by each Party and in accordance with their respective capabilities and national circumstances.
- Be comprised of national forest REL and/or RL or, if appropriate, as an interim measure, subnational RELs and RLs, to be communicated by parties to secretariat.
- Be scientifically robust and based on transparent, accurate, comparable and consistent information
- Avoid unnecessary barriers for countries to participate in the REDD+ mechanism, including financial and technical burdens of RL and REL requirements
- Allow for the gradual addition of carbon pools to be included in monitoring and setting of REL and/or RL associated with deforestation, forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in line with available data, technical requirements and financing.
- Allow for the periodic review and update of RL and RELs by countries.
- Be consistent with the principle of environmental integrity, including consideration of the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged by the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes

4. Guidance for the construction of RELs and RLs:

- They should consider appropriate historical data to account varying anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes.
- There are several approaches to estimate forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level, which should be considered; i) extrapolation of past trends of deforestation into the future, ii) projected average historical deforestation or iii) deforestation predicted based on modeling and planned activities. Transparency and comparability of RELs and RLs should be ensured in the consideration of potential approaches. All of these should be explored and developed

- Financing for national capacity should be secured for the construction and updating of REL/RLs
- Allow for the review process of RL and RELs by a group of experts, as soon as a financing mechanism for REDD is established.

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

Recalling paragraph 71(d) of the Cancun Agreement that requests developing countries undertaking REDD+ actions to develop a *system* for providing information on the safeguards, we support the idea that the system to provide information on how the safeguards are treated and respected should be developed nationally, respecting the capabilities and circumstances of each developing nation. This means that a specific country will have its own system, oriented by general guidance and principles to be provided by SBSTA and the COP, and not by a **single system** that will be required to be implemented by all countries. Thus, it is of utmost importance that the COP agrees on clear general principles and workable guidance.

Equally important is to maintain the system for information on safeguards distinct from the MRV system to report on emissions and removals for carbon.

1. Characteristics and Design of the information system

The national system should contain publicly available (**transparency**) data and information relevant to indicate how the safeguards are being addressed and respected. Since these data and information are expected to originate from several sources, it is important to ensure **consistency** of the information (that is, the information is based on the same set of assumptions, methodologies, guidance) and **completeness** in the sense that all the safeguards should be addressed. The type of data and information to be included in the system of information should be a national decision, guided by the general principles agreed by the COP, and should not generate unnecessary barriers so as to promote the broad participation of countries in the REDD+ mechanism and should be **distinct** from other systems for REDD+ support (e.g., MRV system).

The purpose of the System should be to inform stakeholders about how the safeguards outlined in Appendix 1 to Decision 1/CP.16 are being addressed and respected, in the sense of minimizing the adverse and negative impacts, potentiate the positive ones, and assist in promoting good practices. All those interested should have access to clear, easily accessible and well structured information. The information should be relevant for local, regional, national and international stakeholders. All the information deemed to be relevant to inform how the safeguards are being treated and respected should be shared openly. The data and information should flow continuously, as deemed appropriate. Each participating country shall inform about the arrangements and responsibilities for the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of the system, as well as organization of the data and information provided. To ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness, the national information system should cater information needed in an integrated and coordinated way. This can be achieved by building the information system on existing data and institutions, so that it complements or is consistent with the objectives of the country's national forest program and relevant data sets and processes.

The system should be designed with a view to accommodate for changing needs for information in the future, and be adaptable to technical changes, if necessary.

2. Provision of data and information

Each participating country shall identify the national agencies and organizations in charge of providing data and information, while ensuring effective stakeholder involvement at all stages of development of the System, from its design to its effective implementation. The provision of data and information for the system should be flexible; while for some of the safeguards data and information may be more frequently available, for others it may not. Data and information addressing all the safeguards should be made available within a timeframe to be defined domestically and respecting national circumstances and capabilities.

3. Potential barriers, including barriers, if any, to providing information, on addressing and respecting safeguards

Potential barriers include lack of data and information, lack of financial resources and capacity to generate information on how the safeguards are being treated and respected, establishment of the institutional arrangements necessary to ensure continuous flow of relevant data and information, including its dissemination to local communities and indigenous.

Government of Costa Rica
Submission of views on “Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected”.

A. Introduction

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) during its 34 session initiated the consideration of methodological guidance for the development of an information system on how to address and respect the safeguards of REDD+. The SBSTA also invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in paragraphs 28-30 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2¹. It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.

Costa Rica has prepared this submission in order to provide elements that facilitate decision making during the next session of the SBSTA and COP in Durban regarding systems for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected.

1. We acknowledge that an information system on the implementation of safeguards for REDD+ can contribute significantly to improve the political and social conditions for the full functioning of the national strategies for REDD + in our developing countries and to strengthen their linkages with other national sustainable development objectives.
2. This submission follows the general guidance for submissions provided in Annex II of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2

a. Scope and Purpose

Overall scope of REDD+ safeguards is contained in the Cancun Decision (1/CP.16) and its Annex I.

b. Characteristics

Decision 1/CP.16 itself defines a number of features that should be an integral part of the safeguards information system for REDD+, including:

- The system for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected is not an independent element, but an integral part of REDD + strategies.

¹ Report of the SBSTA on its thirty-fourth session, held in Bonn from 6 to 16 June 2011, document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, 3 August 2011.

Indeed, this system is the fourth component of REDD + as is clearly set out in subparagraph d) of paragraph 71 of that decision. As a consequence, the safeguards information system should be part of the overall information on the both REDD+ strategy in general and will address information needs for both internal and external legitimate stakeholders.

- The system for providing information on safeguards, similarly to the overall REDD+ strategy implementation, must correspond to the different phases in a progressive manner until reaching the stage of full implementation (result- based).
- Developing Countries that choose to implement REDD+ strategies on a voluntary manner are also assuming a national commitment. That is an official commitment by Governments which in turn implies the obligation to report on the status of the implementation of the strategy. The information to be provided by countries on REDD+ implementation becomes official and therefore must be generated by the official mechanisms established in each country, or that will be required to be created, when they are absent or are inadequate to provide the information that adequately reflects how safeguards are addressed and respected. In other words, not all sources of information will necessarily be valid unless they can be classified as official information by a relevant national authority.
- The system for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected will be fully aligned with the principles and guidance set out in Paragraph 1 of Annex I of the Decision 1/CP16; as well as with any additional guidance derived from such decision and any further elaboration of those provision adopted by the Conference of the Parties in subsequent sessions. It is unnecessary for the SBSTA to spend time and resources to discuss guidelines that are already explicitly contained in these instruments, such as:
 - a. Transparency
 - b. Full and effective participation of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities,
 - c. Consideration of national circumstances and capabilities of developing country Parties and the level of support received;
 - d. Respect for national sovereignty
 - e. Promotion of environmental integrity
 - f. Consistency with national development priorities

B. Design of the system

- The information system must be able to provide accurate, timely, reliable and complete information on the various elements and sub-elements that can be identified in each of safeguards as set out in paragraph 2 of Annex I to Decision 1/CP.16.
- For reasons of efficiency in public investments Parties will use as appropriate and to the extent possible, the existent relevant and official sources and mechanisms of information to generate data on the safeguards.
- Information quality (relevance, consistency, objectivity, comparability in time) and the implementation of the system must be consistent with existing national regulations and procedures relating to official information based on parameters set by the Department of Statistics and Surveys or similar office.
- The system for providing information on safeguards must also be consistent with the system of monitoring, reporting and verification of REDD + and must include an accessible and open space for the participation of stakeholders to submit their complaints if affecting legitimate rights as a result of the implementation of REDD+ measures and activities.
- It should also incorporate information on the number of complaints received and their resolution.
- The final design of such an information system must be legitimized with relevant stakeholders.
- The design of the system will also be consistent of the phase or stage of implementation of the REDD+ strategy and subject to the level of support received.

C. Provision of information

- Information on how safeguards are addressed and respected, should be presented as an integral part of progress reports on the implementation of the overall REDD+ strategy, so that is consistent with the state and the implementation phase of it. Should also allow to meet the information needs of internal stakeholders as well as from legitimate third parties as is the case of donors that provide funds REDD+ in the country, the FCPF or UN-REDD and the UNFCCC.
- Therefore, the periodicity of the provision of information on safeguards should be consistent with the reporting intervals of the REDD+ strategy in general.

The entity responsible for REDD+ will then be responsible for managing the information system. However, in the process of designing and implementing the information system on safeguards and in the provision of information, other authorities or relevant institutions will also be involved in accordance with their legal mandates in areas of implementation of policies related to REDD+, in particular national authorities in the forestry, biodiversity and protected areas fields. The specific roles of these entities or authorities shall be defined accordingly.

- The presentation of information shall be in accordance with the arrangements for reporting the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAS) set out in paragraph 60 of the Cancun Agreements and through national communications.

D. Potential barriers

- In some cases, it is expected that the country does not have mechanisms for gathering information to respond specifically to each of the safeguards and its components and therefore must develop these mechanisms and instruments, in accordance with national regulations. Investments to be made in order to fill these gaps will then need to be financially supported. Some features of safeguards will require significant investments in the design and implementation processes (for example, measuring the social, economic and biodiversity benefits from REDD+) and then becomes more relevant to the principle that this system must be duly accompanied or supported by adequate and sustainable financial resources for start-up and monitoring.
- Therefore, the design and implementation of the system should be progressive and consistent with the provision of financial resources, as set forth in decision 1/CP.16.

Government of Costa Rica
Submission on Guidance relating to forest reference level and forest reference emission level.

Introduction

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its thirty-fourth session, held in Bonn from 6 to June 16, 2011, referring to agenda item 4 published the document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.14, corresponding to the draft conclusions proposed by the Working Group Chair of the SBSTA on REDD, entitled "Methodological guidance for activities related 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".

The SBSTA also invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the Secretariat, by September 19, 2011, their views on the issues identified in these paragraph.

Costa Rica has prepared this proposal in order to provide elements that facilitate decision making during the next session of the SBSTA and COP in Durban.

Background

The crediting of measurable emission reductions and removals under an REDD+ mechanism will depend on the establishment of forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels in order to assess the impact of the measures implemented. As stated in decision 1/CP.16, developing country Parties aiming to participate in an international REDD+ mechanism are encouraged "in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities to develop a "national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level, in accordance with national circumstances, and with provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provision adopted by the Conference of the parties".

Scope and purpose

Scope

- RL/REL will be need developed by those developing countries aiming to undertake REDD+ strategies, according to paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16, as deemed appropriate by each Party and flexible enough to accommodate different capabilities and national circumstances.
- According to national definitions of forests submitted by Parties.

Purpose

Establish a scientifically sound basis for the estimation of emission reductions and enhancements of forest carbon stocks generated by the implementation of national and/or subnational policies and measures taking into account the ultimate goal of the convention and REDD+ activities, in the context of adequate and predictable finance.

Characteristics

- Allow for the periodic review and update of RL and RELs as national circumstances change.
- Be scientifically robust and based on transparent, accurate, complete, comparable and consistent information while maintaining simplicity.
- Be consistent with the objective of environmental.
- It should allow countries to demonstrate early action and that the positive incentives provided have been able to increase forest cover and carbon removals have occurred.
- Avoid unnecessary barriers for countries participating in REDD+, including financial and technical implications of RL and REL requirements.

Guidance for its construction

- Could be a projection based on historical tendency of the carbon stock or calculating the carbon stock at a reference year.
- Allow the construction of an increasingly robust data set supporting the RL and allow starting RLs, as an interim measure, for particular activities or pools.
- Its construction should consider the best historical data available in the country.
- The RLs should be revised periodically using a MRV system.
- Financing for national capacity should be secured for the construction and update of REL/RLs
- Countries will be allowed to use a Development Adjust Factor to reflect national circumstances.

Process for communication

- The REL and RL should be submitted to the COP, be subject to an independent assessment made by an expert review team equitably composed by Annex I and Non Annex I experts assisted by the UNFCCC secretariat and adopted by the COP.
- Further communications will be provided through national communications.

Others relevant issues

It is important to emphasize that it is essential to guarantee the proper levels of financial, technical and technological support for developing countries in order to be able to develop national capacities for REDD+ implementation in general and for the definition of RL/REL in particular.

Propuesta de El Salvador en nombre de Honduras, Panamá y República Dominicana.

Septiembre del 2011

El Salvador en nombre de Honduras, Panamá y República Dominicana, agradece la oportunidad de aportar criterios y propuestas al proceso de negociaciones bajo el AWG-LCA en el tema REDD+, a fin de contribuir al acercamiento de las posiciones divergentes, y facilitar el logro de un acuerdo bajo el Mandato de Bali, durante la COP-17 que tendrá lugar en Durban, Sudáfrica a finales de 2011.

Justificación

Esta propuesta se enmarca dentro del *ITEM IV* relativo a las orientaciones metodológicas para las actividades relacionadas con REDD, contenido en el informe del SBSTA-34 (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2), en lo relativo a la solicitud de opiniones a las partes para dar aportes sobre orientaciones metodológicas para REDD+, en cuanto a los sistemas de dotación de información sobre el abordaje y cumplimiento de las salvaguardas.

Con esta propuesta se pretende contribuir con aportes específicos en lo relativo a la salvaguarda que plantea que REDD+ deberá fortalecer los beneficios sociales y ambientales derivados de los bosques, tomando en consideración la necesidad de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales de tener medios de sobrevivencia sostenibles, y su interdependencia con los bosques en la mayoría de países, reflejado en la Declaración de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos de los pueblos indígenas, así como el Día Internacional de la Madre Tierra“ (FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, pág. 26 del Apéndice I). Lo anterior, a fin de que los aportes sean considerados en el diseño de las estrategias o planes de acción nacionales de REDD+, así como en los elementos, características y procesos del diseño de los sistemas de monitoreo, notificación y verificación de REDD+, así como en las características y fuentes de información del diseño de los sistemas de dotación de información sobre las salvaguardas de REDD+.

Estrategia REDD+ como una alternativa para contribuir a la reducción de la pobreza

Propósito:

La presente propuesta tiene como propósito establecer un enfoque intersectorial y la apertura de canales de participación de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades rurales en programas nacionales de REDD+, conservando, manejando y recuperando los bosques, pero a la vez, contribuyendo a mejorar la calidad de vida de sus habitantes, respetando sus respectivas cosmovisiones y el derecho indígena internacional. Lo anterior propiciará una reducción de la deforestación, un aumento de la cobertura forestal, un incremento de las reservas maderables aprovechables de los bosques comunales e indígenas y de los diversos productos no maderables y servicios provenientes de los ecosistemas forestales, incluyendo la captura o retención de carbono, y todos los beneficios materiales y espirituales derivados del estrecho vínculo ancestral entre los pueblos indígenas y los bosques.

Abordaje metodológico de la estrategia:

En virtud del Acuerdo de Cancún, las estrategias o planes nacionales de REDD+ deberán abordarse en tres fases: (i) iniciando con el desarrollo de estrategias o planes de acción nacionales, políticas, medidas, y desarrollo de capacidades; (ii) seguido de la implementación de políticas, medidas nacionales y de estrategias o planes de acción nacionales, los cuales podrían requerir el desarrollo de capacidades adicionales, desarrollo y transferencia de tecnologías y actividades demostrativas basadas en resultados; y

(iii) evolucionar hacia acciones basadas en resultados que deberán ser completamente mensurables, notificables y verificables (FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1).

La selección de la fase inicial para un país en desarrollo determinado, dependerá de las condiciones nacionales específicas, capacidades y habilidades de cada país y del nivel de apoyo financiero recibido.

Componentes de la propuesta de Estrategia de REDD+ para reducción de la pobreza:

Para poder alcanzar el propósito planteado, la propuesta se sustenta en cuatro componentes principales, que deberán ejecutarse de manera integrada y articulada conforme a las tres fases del Acuerdo de Cancún, mencionado anteriormente. Estos componentes son: 1) línea de referencia y monitoreo, 2) fondos de conservación y producción, 3) proyectos demostrativos, y 4) fortalecimiento institucional para la instrumentación de proyectos.

Línea de referencia nacional y sistema nacional de monitoreo:

El punto de partida para determinar el éxito de una estrategia o plan de acción nacional de REDD es definir una línea de referencia nacional, a fin de evitar las fugas, básicamente definir cuanto bosque hay y de qué tipo, pero además, el sistema nacional de monitoreo deberá incluir un elemento fundamental para poder medir, notificar y verificar la contribución de las estrategias o planes de acción a la reducción de la pobreza, que es un subsistema de suministro de información sobre el abordaje y cumplimiento de las siete salvaguardas contenidas en el Acuerdo de Cancún, las cuales constituirían una garantía de que las actividades de REDD+ considerarían plenamente aspectos fundamentales de tipo ambiental, sociocultural y político. Es a partir de este subsistema que se podría vigilar la medida en que REDD+ contribuiría a la reducción de la pobreza ya que una de las salvaguardas se refiere a su “consistencia con los beneficios sociales, como son los medios de sobrevivencia sostenibles de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales, y su interdependencia con los bosques”.

Incluir en la línea de referencia los aspectos socioeconómico e índices de pobreza; asimismo, se deberá desarrollar indicadores de medición.

Esta propuesta resalta el valor de utilizar metodologías simples y accesibles para estimar, de una manera general, cuanto pueden almacenar los bosques según su tipo y sería suficiente para efectos de línea de referencia. Si esta metodología no fuese elegible bajo un eventual mecanismo de mercado para REDD+ que podría establecerse, sería necesario que los esquemas de REDD+ sean elegibles de financiamiento bajo una ventanilla de REDD+ o de Adaptación (en los casos que la conceptualización así lo amerite) en el Fondo Verde del Clima (FVC), y en ambos casos sin vinculación alguna a modalidades de compensación de las metas cuantificadas de reducción de las emisiones de los países desarrollados.

Esta propuesta plantea que para determinar la línea de referencia, debería enfocarse en la estimación de áreas boscosas. Actualmente existe suficiente tecnología para elaborar mapas de carbono detallados y llevar un control del cambio de uso de la tierra. Es necesario que los países de la región revisen la definición de bosque y establezcan una definición, que sea con criterios técnicos, basado en parámetros mensurables, tales como altura de dosel, número de especies, estratos, densidad arbórea y cobertura de copa.

Cada país establecerá una unidad de sensores remotos para monitorear el cambio de uso de la tierra y habrá una red regional para facilitar la disponibilidad de imágenes para uniformizar criterios de clasificación y cartografía de los bosques. Las unidades técnicas para el monitoreo con sistemas de información geográfico deben ser estables y no influenciada por políticas de gobierno, por lo tanto se sugiere que éstas pertenezcan a universidades o centros especializados de cada país.

Durante la fase I se desarrollará una estrategia o plan de acción nacional para cada país, incluyendo el marco de políticas nacionales y sus instrumentos de ejecución encaminados al logro del propósito y objetivos estratégicos, así como el plan de acción, que en este caso incluye la reducción de la pobreza de las poblaciones indígenas, comunidades rurales y afro descendientes. El marco de políticas de REDD+ deberá enfocarse al logro del objetivo de la Convención Marco, y por ende, a viabilizar la adaptación climática, subordinando la mitigación a los objetivos de la adaptación; y deberá ser congruente y estar articulada con las convenciones multilaterales ambientales y los planes nacionales de reducción de la pobreza.

En esta etapa deberán definirse los pasos para revisar y en lo posible uniformizar, si fuese conveniente, el concepto de bosque para la región y hacer un análisis de las opciones que tienen cada país para establecer o readecuar las unidades de sensores remotos y la capacitación requerida. También se diseñarán las bases para llevar el monitoreo de cada iniciativa de REDD, incluyendo la medición, notificación y verificación de todos los elementos relevantes, incluyendo el cumplimiento de las salvaguardas. La fase II instrumentará la estrategia, para su implementación, incluyendo la puesta en funcionamiento de las unidades de sensores remotos, identificando las necesidades de capacitación y transferencia de tecnologías, desarrollando capacidades nacionales humanas e institucionales, y poniendo en funcionamiento mecanismos de ejecución tipo legal, institucional, científico-técnicos, comunicacionales y de participación social, entre otros. En esta fase deberá abordarse el tema del conocimiento, saberes, tecnologías y prácticas de los pueblos originarios, en lo que respecta a su relación con los bosques, y deberá integrarse de manera apropiada y pertinente en los sistemas de monitoreo forestal, incluyendo la línea de referencia nacional, ya que ambos tipos de conocimientos son equiparables en términos del objetivo buscado.

La experiencia generada con la fase II permitirá entrar en una fase III, posterior, que evalúe el sistema nacional de monitoreo, incluyendo el sistema de sensores remotos y el subsistema de información sobre el cumplimiento de las salvaguardas de REDD+. El componente de línea de referencia será fundamental para orientar las distintas actividades bajo las estrategias o planes de acción nacionales de REDD+.

Fondos de Conservación y Producción Integral:

Se establecerán dos fondos nacionales como mecanismo financiero para la ejecución de las estrategias o planes de acción nacionales de REDD+: a) Un **Fondo de Conservación** y b) un **Fondo de Producción integral**. El diseño y establecimiento de ambos fondos se hará durante la fase I, en donde se establecerán las modalidades y reglas de funcionamiento. En la fase I se establecerá una caracterización del tipo de bosque, dependiendo de sus condiciones ecológicas, de la capacidad productiva de las tierras en donde se encuentre, sus relaciones de uso y las especies predominantes. Si las tierras tienen limitantes biofísicas de uso, deberán ser dedicadas como bosques para conservación; si son bosques en donde es posible el aprovechamiento forestal, serán bosques de producción integral.

Durante esta fase I, los países revisarán sus metodologías oficiales de clasificación de tierras según su aptitud de uso como un paso clave para el ordenamiento territorial ambiental. Dependiendo del alcance de los recursos financieros disponibles, es posible que las metodologías tengan que uniformarse para la región, siempre y cuando las capacidades y condiciones nacionales lo permitan.

La diferencia de los dos fondos, es que en el **Fondo de Conservación**, el pago que se haga a los dueños o poseedores de bosques de protección se establecerá por unidad de área, tomando en cuenta la particularidad de cada país. Para su financiamiento se dispondrá de capital semilla, aportado por los países del Anexo 1 a través del FVC u otro mecanismo financiero multilateral o bilateral. En la fase I, cada país identificará en el marco de la estrategia o plan de acción nacional de REDD, las posibles iniciativas a ser parte de un portafolio de proyectos y generará su cartera de donantes, incluyendo al FVC, en el cual habrían

al menos tres ventanillas para financiar las medidas en materia de mitigación, adaptación y REDD+. Las iniciativas de REDD+ deberían poder acceder a recursos financieros tanto en la ventanilla específica para REDD+, como en la de adaptación, siempre y cuando la conceptualización de la estrategia lo sustente. Esta última opción sería muy conveniente para el caso de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades rurales, a fin de evitar la aplicación de metodologías y reglas complejas para la contabilización del carbono. Otra fuente de recursos financieros para el Fondo de Conservación podría ser un mecanismo nacional de pago por servicios ecosistémicos. Participarán empresas interesadas en la conservación de los bosques para garantizar la vida útil de la infraestructura productiva, embalses, las fuentes de agua y el turismo y los mismos ciudadanos preocupados por el cambio climático y la destrucción de los bosques. Será un pago concertado entre quienes provean el servicio y quienes lo demanden. Con el fin de lograr este aporte de empresas, será necesario promover una fuerte campaña de conciencia ambiental.

El **Fondo de Producción Integral** financiará proyectos forestales productivos/productos no maderables, por lo que el monto será finito y por proyecto, no por área de bosque. Se debe establecer como préstamo subsidiado, para establecer un compromiso de los productores. No se presta a personas individuales, sino a comunidades organizadas en empresas productivas, tales como asociaciones, cooperativas o entidades que expresen las formas de organización propia de los pueblos o comunidades indígenas y afro descendientes. Se dará prioridad a grupos organizados que integren mujeres rurales, comunidades indígenas o afro descendientes en situación de pobreza. Los proyectos se regirán por las leyes forestales y otras disposiciones complementarias que contribuyan a garantizar el manejo sostenible de los bosques.

El monto a financiar deberá comprender, asistencia técnica, capacitación, equipo e infraestructura, transporte y apoyo en la comercialización de productos, sin intermediarios. El modelo de proyecto se fundamenta en el aprovechamiento de madera en productos acabados (muebles, puertas, ventanas, etc.) y en el aprovechamiento de otros productos no maderables del bosque, utilizando medios artesanales. Comprende el establecimiento de centros de acopios de madera y productos acabados, así como productos no maderables locales, el aserrío primario y el secado de la madera, así como el transporte a los puntos de mercado.

Este Fondo de Producción Integral contribuirá con las cinco actividades REDD+ propuesta por los acuerdos: la reducción de las emisiones por deforestación; la reducción de las emisiones por degradación del bosque, la conservación de las reservas de carbono del bosque, el manejo sostenible de los bosques y el incremento de las reservas de carbono de los bosques.(b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;

La fase II pondrá en funcionamiento los dos fondos mediante actividades demostrativas para su experimentación y validación, incluyendo las basadas en resultados, y serán evaluados y puestos en funcionamiento pleno durante la fase III.

Proyectos demostrativos:

Una de las principales limitaciones de las iniciativas de REDD+ está en las débiles capacidades nacionales humanas e institucionales, y en los bajos niveles de organización social de la población, así como en la ausencia de capacidades y recursos técnicos e información básica para el diseño y ejecución de los sistemas nacionales de monitoreo, incluyendo la medición, notificación y la verificación. Es por ello que deberán establecerse proyectos demostrativos por país, de modo que se evalúe su desempeño y paulatinamente se vaya replicando a otras zonas de cada país, pero siempre en el marco estricto de las estrategias o planes de acción nacionales de REDD+, y de las respectivas líneas de referencia nacionales. Los sitios demostrativos serán definidos durante la fase I; deberán contar con aspectos positivos que faciliten la operación del proyecto y el logro del objetivo de reducción de la pobreza, tales como la existencia de organizaciones vinculadas a la producción forestal y la conservación de bosques, la participación de

comunidades de pueblos indígenas o afro descendientes o comunidades rurales en situación de pobreza económica, la integración de mujeres rurales y la vulnerabilidad al cambio climático, a fin de considerar plenamente la sinergia con el objetivo último de la convención, contribuyendo a la adaptación. Durante la fase II se ejecutarán los proyectos demostrativos para la experimentación y validación de los esquemas, incluyendo los sistemas de monitoreo y el cumplimiento de las salvaguardas, a fin de asegurar que las actividades de REDD+ efectivamente contribuyen a la reducción de la pobreza y a la adaptación. Durante la fase III, serían evaluados los resultados de los proyectos demostrativos, a fin de pasar a las acciones de REDD+ basadas en resultados y eventualmente sujetas a medición, notificación y verificación. Considerando el enfoque de esta propuesta, en la fase III se evaluaría la contribución de los proyectos demostrativos a la reducción de la pobreza de los grupos involucrados, así como la efectividad del sistema nacional de monitoreo para generar la información relevante requerida para la verificación del cumplimiento efectivo de las salvaguardas de REDD+.

Los proyectos demostrativos pondrán a prueba los dos fondos, el de Conservación y el de Producción, por lo tanto, dependiendo del tipo de proyecto éstos contribuirán con dos o más de las actividades de REDD+.

Fortalecimiento institucional para la instrumentación de proyectos:

La correcta ejecución de las actividades de REDD+, debe estar sustentada en una estructura institucional, que en la mayoría de los países ya se cuenta, pero que no está preparada para este tipo de iniciativas, por lo que deben fortalecerse y consolidarse. Las entidades o unidades que deben comprender esta estructura son: a) Unidad de sensores remotos que lleve el control de cambio de uso de la tierra. b) Entidad que evalúe y apruebe las actividades de REDD+, en el marco de las estrategias o planes nacionales de REDD+ de cada país, así como la administración de los Fondos de Conservación y de Producción. c) Entidad independiente del gobierno, que lleve un registro y fiscalice el desempeño de los profesionales que asesoren los proyectos, para darle credibilidad a las decisiones técnicas y manejo de los proyectos. d) Entidad de comercialización de productos forestales que controle el precio y garantice la colocación de productos. e) Entidad que capacite a los productores en las labores forestales, corta, extracción, aserrío, secado, artesanía y manejo del bosque; así como en otros aspectos vinculados a los bosques como son las plantas medicinales, manejo de fauna silvestre, el procesamiento de productos alimenticios. Dicha entidad deberá incorporar a expertos de los pueblos originarios a fin de integrarse en los equipos de capacitadores sobre la dinámica, composición y especies de los ecosistemas forestales, entre otros saberes ancestrales y locales. f) Entidad que promueva la creación y funcionamiento de organizaciones locales para administrar los proyectos.

Durante la fase I cada país deberá hacer un diagnóstico institucional tanto gubernamental como no gubernamental, y del ámbito regional, nacional, sectorial y local, para establecer acciones de capacitación y fortalecimiento, las cuales deberán ser objeto de apoyo financiero en la ventanilla de REDD bajo el Fondo Verde del Clima. Incluyendo las formas propias de institucionalidad de los pueblos indígenas y afro descendientes; encaminado a establecer una estructura capaz de concebir, facilitar, financiar, desarrollar, monitorear, verificar, y notificar las estrategias o planes de acción nacionales, así como las iniciativas o actividades específicas de REDD+. Lo anterior, en el marco de los compromisos nacionales ante la Convención Marco de Cambio Climático en materia de Planes de Adaptación Nacionales (PANs) y de las Acciones Nacionales Apropriadas de Mitigación (NAMAs), ya que las estrategias o planes de acción nacionales de REDD+ deberán subordinarse a los PANs a fin de evitar la desadaptación climática, y deberán articularse a los NAMAs a fin de asegurar la integralidad de los inventarios nacionales de gases de efecto invernadero y la articulación de las estrategias y medidas de mitigación nacionales. En esa línea, los NAMAs se conciben en el contexto de las prioridades de desarrollo sostenible de los países, los cuales incluyen estrategias o planes nacionales de reducción de la pobreza.

En la fase II se abordará la operación de las instituciones en sus funciones específicas para los proyectos REDD, debiéndose dar consideración especial a aquellas que tendrían responsabilidades vinculadas a las comunidades indígenas y afro descendientes; y se identificarán necesidades adicionales de capacitación, sobre la base de las barreras y limitaciones que se identifiquen en la fase previa. Una fase III permitirá hacer un análisis de los procesos, de modo que se puedan mejorar.

Reducción de la pobreza y REDD

El grado de éxito de las actividades de REDD+ se medirá desde la óptica global, por su contribución a la mitigación efectiva del cambio climático mundial; y desde la óptica local, por su contribución a la reducción de la pobreza en los grupos rurales vulnerables de las zonas boscosas de los países, específicamente las comunidades rurales, afro descendientes o de los pueblos indígenas. El sistema nacional de monitoreo de REDD+ permitiría medir el grado de éxito desde ambas ópticas, y para tal efecto, deberá por una parte generar la información relevante sobre la efectividad de las estrategias o planes nacionales de REDD+ para frenar la deforestación y degradación de los bosques y aumentar las reservas de carbono forestal; y por otra parte, generar la información sobre el grado de cumplimiento de las salvaguardas, incluyendo aquellas que contribuyen a la reducción de la pobreza.

El resultado de implementar la Estrategia nacional de REDD+ es que los pueblos indígenas y comunidades rurales verán incrementados sus ingresos, así como su calidad de vida, por la conservación del ambiente en donde viven y su situación de precariedad económica se verá reducida.

Paper no. 7B: El Salvador on behalf of Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama

Propuesta de El Salvador en nombre de Honduras, Panamá y República Dominicana.

Orientación sobre los sistemas para proporcionar información sobre el abordaje y respeto de las salvaguardas de REDD.

Septiembre 2011.

El Salvador en nombre de Honduras, Panamá y República Dominicana, agradece la oportunidad de aportar criterios y propuestas al proceso de negociaciones bajo el AWG-LCA en el tema REDD+, a fin de contribuir al acercamiento de las posiciones divergentes, y facilitar el logro de un acuerdo bajo el Mandato de Bali durante la COP-17, que tendrá lugar en Durban, Sudáfrica a finales del 2011.

Justificación: Esta propuesta se enmarca en el informe del SBSTA-34 (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2), (párrafos 28-30) sobre una guía metodológica para las actividades relacionadas con la reducción de emisiones por deforestación y degradación de los bosques y el papel de la conservación, gestión sostenible de los bosques y el aumento de las reservas de carbono en los países en desarrollo, teniendo en cuenta el Apéndice II de la decisión 1/CP.16 y cuestiones pertinentes. En consideración al tema metodológico las partes identificaron una serie de aspectos incluida la guía de orientación para proporcionar información sobre como las salvaguardas mencionadas en el apéndice I de la decisión 1/CP.16 se abordan y respetan.

El párrafo 31 del documento invita a las partes y observadores acreditados a presentar a la Secretaría de la Convención de Cambio Climático, para el 19 de septiembre 2011, sus puntos de vista sobre este tema.

Características de las salvaguardas: El sistema de suministro de información sobre el abordaje y respeto de las salvaguardas de REDD+, debe incorporar indicadores e información que permitan evaluar la contribución de la estrategia o plan nacional de REDD a los objetivos y metas establecidos en las estrategias y Planes Forestales nacionales y regionales, así como la contribución sinérgica al logro de los objetivos de las convenciones de cambio climático, biodiversidad, humedales y de lucha contra la Desertificación y la Sequía. En el caso de la Convención sobre Cambio Climático, deberá evaluarse la contribución de REDD+ a la adaptación ante el cambio climático de los ecosistemas forestales y de los medios de sobrevivencia de las poblaciones indígenas y comunidades forestales vinculadas a dichos ecosistemas. Los conceptos de medición, notificación y verificación deben ser esenciales para el abordaje y respeto de las salvaguardas, dando oportunidad de darles el seguimiento debido con transparencia por parte de entes o comisiones de expertos especializados en verificar el respeto y abordaje de cada una de las salvaguardas.

Las estrategias y proyectos REDD+ deben contribuir a reducir la pobreza, mediante una distribución equitativa de los beneficios derivados de la implementación de las presentes Salvaguardas.

Dotación de información y principales barreras para la implementación de las Salvaguardas REDD+.

Salvaguarda	Tipo de información	Fuente de Información	Entidad responsable	Barreras para su implementación.	
1	<p>REDD es consistente o complementa los planes forestales nacionales y las convenciones internacionales relevantes</p>	<p>Área total bajo actividades REDD+, que permiten recuperar o protegen las tierras contra la desertificación. Por ejemplo, la conservación de bosques en sistemas agroforestales.</p> <p>Actividades REDD+ que contribuyen a:</p> <p>a) la adaptación de los ecosistemas forestales, con niveles nacionales de emisiones forestales de referencia y factores de emisión por UTCUTS.</p> <p>b) mantener índices altos de biodiversidad o incrementan dichos índices. Por ejemplo, las actividades de conservación de bosques naturales, incluyendo manglares.</p> <p>c) Interconexión y establecimiento de corredores ecológicos, entre áreas protegidas con proyectos REDD+</p>	<p>Informe Nacional bianual sobre la implementación de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha Contra la Desertificación y Sequía (CNULCD).</p> <p>Inventarios nacionales de GEI (sector UTCUTS) con periodicidad de cada 2 años</p> <p>Informe bianual sobre la implementación de la Convención sobre Diversidad Biológica (CDB)</p> <p>Ejercicios de Monitoreo de la Efectividad de Manejo de las Áreas Protegidas, a desarrollarse cada dos años.</p> <p>Informes técnicos de proyectos binacionales y multinacionales, como herramientas para la cooperación entre países.</p>	<p>Comités Técnicos nacionales de la CNULCD</p> <p>Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.</p> <p>Secretarías/Ministerios del ambiente. Servicio forestal</p> <p>Administradores de áreas protegidas y recursos costeros con proyectos REDD+</p> <p>Programa de Monitoreo de la Biodiversidad (PROMEBIO), para los países del SICA.</p>	<p>Ausencia de planes financieros para la implementación de los compromisos globales, dificulta el desarrollo de los informes nacionales.</p> <p>Los Inventarios Nacionales, Informes Nacionales y Reportes de Proyectos, deben formar parte de la legislación nacional.</p> <p>La información generada, se encuentra centralizada.</p> <p>Escasa o inexistente comunicación/cordinación entre los puntos focales de las convenciones internacionales.</p>

		Servicios ecosistémicos identificados en las áreas de los Proyectos REDD+.	Informes de implementación de las Estrategias Nacionales sobre Servicios Ambientales. Informes de las metas 2020 Aichi Nagoya.	Servicio forestal. Comité Técnico de Biodiversidad y Puntos Focales CDB.	Se carece de capacidades institucionales para la valoración económica puntual de los servicios ecosistémicos
		Área del bosque de mangle bajo conservación.	Informes de los sitios RAMSAR en los países.	Punto focal RAMSAR.	Escasa representación del ecosistema de mangle, en los sistemas de áreas protegidas.
Salvaguarda		Tipo de información	Fuente de Información	Entidad responsable	Barreras para su implementación.
2	Estructuras de gobernanza forestal nacional efectivas y transparentes, y respeto a la legislación y soberanía nacionales	Instancias de representación de las localidades con proyectos de REDD+ que cuentan con una personería jurídica, brindada por el Estado, y apoyan la ejecución de la actividad gubernamental (eficacia).	Registro nacional de asociaciones, cooperativas y fundaciones locales.	Secretarías/Ministerios de Gobernación /Interior de los países.	Escasa capacidad organizativa de las comunidades locales y poblaciones indígenas, más acostumbradas a relaciones de confianza que de selección de representantes.
		Número de organizaciones no gubernamentales presentes en los Proyectos REDD+, que avalan las actividades ejecutadas por los actores, rindiendo cuentas sobre la implementación de la salvaguarda.	Informes de las entidades responsables de la ejecución de los Proyectos REDD+	Organismos de financiamiento.	Pocas organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG) cuentan con experiencia en procesos REDD+.
		Cantidad de recursos financieros entregados a representantes locales para el Monitoreo, Reporte y Verificación de los Proyectos REDD+, potencia la estabilidad política y la resolución de conflictos en las localidades donde se asigna.	Informes financieros de Finanzas/Hacienda de los países.	Banco Central/Comisión Bancaria de los países	Se requiere de criterios de financiamiento estandarizados, basados en capacidades adquiridas y no en garantías bancarias.

		Área bajo contratos, convenios y concesiones forestales que brindan seguridad jurídica para las acciones REDD+ que se planifican.	Contratos, convenios y concesiones de manejo forestal sostenible, suscritos.	Servicio forestal. Gobiernos locales.	La tenencia de la tierra y el usufructo de la misma no se encuentran armonizados.
		Montos entregados para la compensación por servicios ecosistémicos en áreas bajo proyectos de REDD+, que generan confianza que los recursos financieros están siendo canalizados de forma transparente.	Informes financieros de Finanzas/Hacienda de los países.	Banco Central/Comisión Bancaria de los países	Se carece de entidades que regulen las relaciones de pago entre los que mantienen los servicios ecosistémicos y quienes los demandan.
		Número de instituciones y organizaciones que conocen y entienden las regulaciones técnicas de los procesos REDD+	Ayudas memorias de eventos de socialización de los proyectos REDD+.	Proponentes y financistas de Proyectos REDD+	Se necesita contar con un concepto claro sobre Salvaguardas REDD+, con Calidad de la regulación y control de la corrupción. Hace falta desarrollar sistemas nacionales de información, con indicadores verificables.
	Salvaguarda	Tipo de información	Fuente de Información	Entidad responsable	Barreras para su implementación.
3	Respeto del conocimiento y derecho indígena, bajo consideración de las obligaciones internacionales en el tema	Convenios internacionales ratificados por los países, relativos al derecho indígena: (a) Declaración de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas –UNDRIP-, (b) Convenio 169 de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo –OIT-, (c) Artículo 8-j de la CDB	Congresos y cámaras legislativas	Comisionado nacional de derechos humanos. Secretarías/ministerios del trabajo, ambiente Gobernación/Interior	Los países que no han ratificado estos convenios, siguen participando en las instancias de donde se derivan.
		Número de proyectos REDD+ que cuentan con la aprobación expresa de pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales, como resultado de una	Informes anuales de los Proyectos REDD+, en ejecución.	Organismos de financiamiento	Las organizaciones de Naciones Unidas (FAO, PNUD, PNUMA), no han adoptado las Salvaguardas

	participación libre, previa e informada sobre los beneficios e impactos derivados de su ejecución.			REDD+.
	Cantidad de prácticas ancestrales de caza, pesca, agricultura y extracción de recursos naturales (plantas medicinales, fibras naturales, alimentos) que se encuentran registrados en la oficina de patentes/derechos de propiedad de los países.	Libro de patentes del país. Decretos nacionales sobre derechos intelectuales.	Oficina de patentes de los países. Secretarías/ministerios de industria y comercio.	La presión comercial sobre conocimiento tradicional, sobrepasa la capacidad de aplicación de las normas legales relacionadas con el respeto al territorio indígena.
	Cantidad de dinero dedicado a reconocer la contribución de las prácticas de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales en los procesos REDD+.	Informes financieros de los Fondos de conservación y de Producción, vinculados con la segunda fase de proyectos REDD+	Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.	Muchas comunidades carecen de incentivos fiscales y logísticos para comercializar los productos sostenibles de los bosques (maderables y no maderables).
	Territorio indígena bajo un régimen legal estable que garantiza relaciones integrales de seguridad para el acceso, uso, usufructo y tenencia de la tierra y sus recursos, sin perjuicio de la modalidad de propiedad.	Informes anuales de labores de las Secretarías/ ministerios de justicia. Informes anuales del Comisionado nacional de derechos humanos.	Institutos de la propiedad en los países.	Se minimizan los impactos financieros positivos de las prácticas de adaptación de las comunidades locales y los pueblos indígenas.
	Recursos financieros dirigidos a la investigación y sistematización de los conocimientos ancestrales de los pueblos indígenas, sobre todo en técnicas de adaptación al cambio climático.	Informes financieros de proyectos y programas de investigación sobre contribución de los pueblos indígenas a la adaptación al cambio climático.	Universidades y centros de investigación.	Los países deberán de incentivar el intercambio de información generada en las universidades.
Salv guarda	Tipo de información	Fuente de Información	Entidad responsable	Barreras.

4	Participación plena y efectiva de todos los actores relevantes, principalmente indígenas y comunidades locales.	Cantidad de mesas de dialogo intersectorial sobre REDD+ donde participan indígenas y comunidades locales.	Ayudas memorias y publicaciones sobre los resultados de las mesas de trabajo sobre REDD+.	Secretarías de Gobernación/ interior de los países.	Los canales de comunicación están mayormente politizados.
		Cantidad de idiomas, incluyendo el español, a los que se traducen los documentos elaborados en las fases de preparación de las estrategias nacionales REDD y los Proyectos REDD+.	Visitas a bibliotecas locales, indígenas o de los Gobiernos Locales	Secretarias/ministerios de educación pública	Escaso manejo de lenguas y dialectos propios de los pueblos indígenas por parte de los técnicos encargados de consultar y socializar el tema de REDD.
		Cantidad de información de campo verificada para el funcionamiento de los sistemas de información geográfica y los sensores remotos de REDD+	Bases de datos de los SIG institucionales	Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.	Los SIG institucionales están dispersos e incompletos, en muchos casos con información poco compatibles.
		Cantidad de profesionales universitarios y técnicos, indígenas y afro descendientes, capacitados para el monitoreo de REDD+	Ayudas memorias de los cursos impartidos.	Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.	Falta de material técnico escrito en lenguas y dialectos propios de los pueblos indígenas y afro-descendientes.
		Cantidad de buenas prácticas de manejo forestal registradas por comunidad y pueblos indígenas que ejecuten proyectos REDD+.	Inventarios Forestales anuales Informes de planes de manejo forestal y de finca	Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.	Las buenas prácticas requieren de recursos financieros para su sistematización, completa y oportuna.
		Cantidad de personas consultadas sobre la implementación de los proyectos REDD+, respetando el consentimiento libre, previo e informado de los pueblos indígenas	Ayudas memorias de las reuniones realizadas	Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.	Escasos recursos para desplazarse a las localidades, para obtener consentimiento libre, previo e informado.
		Cantidad de representantes de las comunidades locales y los pueblos indígenas en los procesos de	Listados de asistencia de las instancias de la CMNUCC.	Secretaría de la Convención.	Gobierno debe invertir recursos en generar confianza de los

		negociación de las CoP de Cambio Climático, incluyendo foros intermedios sobre REDD+.			representantes locales.
		Nivel de participación de las comunidades locales y pueblos indígenas y afro-descendientes en las actividades de verificación de los Proyectos REDD+	Reportes de verificación	Oficina de monitoreo forestal independiente en los países.	Pocos países consideran aprobar oficialmente a los entes de monitoreo forestal independiente.
Salvaguarda		Tipo de información	Fuente de Información	Entidad responsable	Barreras para su implementación.
5	REDD es consistente e incentiva la conservación de bosques naturales, biodiversidad, servicios ecosistémicos y beneficios sociales y ambientales.	Cantidad de planes de manejo forestal que incorporan actividades de REDD+ en la conservación de bosques naturales.	Anuarios estadísticos forestales	Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.	Es necesario que los países conceptualicen “bosque” para procesos REDD+
		Cantidad de recursos financieros destinados a la conservación de la biodiversidad en áreas protegidas, corredores biológicos y otros ecosistemas forestales relevantes, con proyectos REDD+.	Informes financieros anuales de fondos de conservación de la biodiversidad en los países. Informe Metas 2020 Aichi Nagoya.	Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.	Se desconocen las zonas de importancia para la biodiversidad (hot spots) que pueden ser objeto de actividades REDD+.
		Cantidad de servicios ecosistémicos que están siendo compensados nacionalmente, en proyectos piloto REDD+ que se ejecuten, posteriormente a procesos ampliamente consensuados.	Informes financieros anuales de los mecanismos de pago por servicios ecosistémicos, implementándose.	Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.	La mayoría de los países carecen de una política de pago por servicios ecosistémicos.
		Número de proyectos piloto REDD+, desarrollándose en comunidades locales y pueblos indígenas pobres.	Informes anuales de implementación de las Estrategias Nacionales de Reducción de la Pobreza.	Gobiernos locales. Organismos financieros.	La mayoría de las estrategias de reducción de la pobreza carecen de recursos financieros.
		Cuantificación del tipo (incluyendo manglares) y la cantidad de bosque disponible para proyectos REDD+.	Anuario forestal estadístico de los países. Informes de Metas 2020 Aichi Nagoya (CDB).	Servicio forestal y Puntos Focales CDB en los países.	Se requieren recursos financieros adicionales para uniformizar y actualizar los inventarios

				forestales nacionales.
	Buenas prácticas del IPCC en UTCUTS, transferidas en los programas nacionales de conservación de bosques naturales, biodiversidad, servicios ecosistémicos y proyectos de reducción de la pobreza.	Comunicaciones Nacionales de Cambio Climático cada cuatro años.	Punto focal de la CMNUCC	Las personas pobres tienen una escasa capacidad de adaptación, presionando sobre los bosques.
	Cantidad de países que han definido un sistema de sensores remotos para el monitoreo de los bosques dedicados a la conservación, la producción y la provisión de servicios ecosistémicos.	Informes anuales de avance en la implementación de sensores remotos, incluyendo actividades de conservación de la biodiversidad.	Punto Focal de Monitoreo REDD+ en los países.	Los Puntos focales de Monitoreo REDD+ deben contar con recursos financieros adicionales para la capacitación y equipamiento.
	Número de universidades en los países que están vinculadas con la alimentación de los nodos de información sobre la línea base REDD+.	Informes de trabajo de los Sistemas Nacionales de Información Geo-referenciada.	Universidades afines a REDD+	El personal de las universidades requiere de capacitación continua.

Salvaguarda		Tipo de información	Fuente de Información	Entidad responsable	Barreras para su implementación.
6	REDD incluye acciones para abordar los riesgos de reversión de las actividades de REDD+.	Número de Planes de Ordenamiento Territorial (OT), implementándose en los países, principalmente en proyectos piloto REDD+.	Informes anuales de implementación de Proyectos REDD+. Incluye Metas 2020 Aichi Nagoya.	Gobiernos locales. Secretarías/ministerios de planificación.	Los planes nacionales de desarrollo deben considerar la adaptación al cambio climático en los procesos de OT.
		Cantidad de títulos de propiedad y comodatos entregados a pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales bajo proyectos REDD+. Área bajo contratos, convenios y concesiones forestales que brindan seguridad jurídica para las comunidades locales e indígenas bajo Programa Nacional REDD+.	Informes anuales de implementación de Proyectos REDD+.	Institutos de la propiedad en los países. Punto Focal REDD+ en los países	Antes de iniciar procesos REDD+ se deben sanear las propiedades donde serán ejecutados.
		Cantidad de comités locales instalados para resolver conflictos derivados de la implementación de Proyectos REDD+.	Informes anuales de implementación de Proyectos REDD+	Gobiernos locales. Organismos financieros	Se requiere del acompañamiento de instituciones mediadoras (acreditadas) para la capacitación sobre resolución de conflictos.

Salvaguarda	Tipo de información	Fuente de Información	Entidad responsable	Barreras para su implementación.	Salvaguarda
7	REDD incluye acciones para reducir el desplazamiento de emisiones (fugas).	Sistemas de Monitoreo nacional implementándose para estimar las emisiones por fuente y la absorción por sumideros de los GEI relacionadas con los bosques.	Anuario forestal estadístico en los países.	Servicio forestal.	Los países aún no definen los mecanismos de contabilidad del carbono.
		Cantidad de países que han concluido con el levantamiento de la línea de referencia nacional (línea base).	Informes de Monitoreo Forestal Independiente (MFI).	Punto Focal REDD+ en los países.	Se desconoce quién será responsable del Monitoreo Forestal Independiente.
		Cantidad de países que han establecido convenios binacionales o multinacionales para implementar buenas prácticas en UTCUTS en áreas compartidas.	Informes anuales de implementación de los convenios suscritos	Puntos focales de cambio climático de ambos países.	Se deben establecer convenios vinculantes intra gobiernos.
		Área de interconexión entre áreas protegidas bajo el proceso de REDD+ con prácticas para la reducción de las emisiones debidas a la deforestación; la reducción de las emisiones debidas a la degradación forestal; la conservación de las reservas forestales de carbono; la gestión sostenible de los bosques y el incremento de las reservas forestales de carbono; principalmente, en los bosques naturales en todo el territorio; según se establece en los Acuerdos de Cancún.	Informes anuales de proyectos REDD+	Punto Focal REDD+ en los países.	Se carece de recursos financieros suficientes para sistemas de monitoreo binacionales.
		Cantidad de instituciones vinculadas con la implementación de buenas prácticas para la prevención de fugas	Anuario forestal estadístico	Servicio Forestal.	Los Servicios Forestales deben ser alimentados

		del IPCC, en el marco de proyectos REDD+			con recursos financieros para la promoción de procesos REDD+
		Dotación del equipo necesario para el Monitoreo Forestal Independiente y las actividades de MRV en el ámbito nacional, ejecutado por los Puntos Focales de Monitoreo REDD+ en los países.	<p>Informes anuales de Monitoreo Forestal Independiente.</p> <p>Informes anuales del Punto Focal de Monitoreo REDD+.</p>	<p>Servicio Forestal.</p> <p>Instancia de MFI.</p>	Es necesario tener estructuras operando en los países, para que ayuden a entregar la tecnología en el terreno, respondiendo a las políticas nacionales y a las políticas locales.

Otros temas relevantes

Los esfuerzos por armonizar las políticas nacionales en instancias de cooperación binacional y multinacional (lideradas por las secretarías/ministerios de Ambiente de los países, como puntos focales de la Convención de Cambio Climático) permiten que se fortalezcan las plataformas de información para todos estos países; se generan documentos compartidos que permitirán el cumplimiento de las siete Salvaguardas del proceso REDD+. Este cometido podrá ser financiado con recursos ya existentes, en los proyectos nacionales, binacionales y multinacionales que se desarrollan en materia de conservación de la biodiversidad, manejo sostenible del bosque y la cuantificación de las reservas forestales de carbono.

La inyección de recursos frescos para el cumplimiento de las Salvaguardas descritas en esta Submission, deberán incorporarse a los procesos de elaboración de las Estrategias Nacionales de REDD+ y de los Planes Nacionales de Adaptación (NAPs) y de las Acciones Adecuadas Nacionales de Mitigación (NAMAs), en el marco de las políticas prioritarias de los países. Asimismo, las NAMAs y NAPs deberán incorporar acciones de conservación y respeto de las Salvaguardas REDD+, con el aporte consecuente de los puntos focales de las convenciones hermanas, para el cumplimiento de los compromisos ambientales globales.

Propuesta de El Salvador en nombre de Honduras, Panamá y República Dominicana.

Orientaciones sobre las modalidades para la medición, notificación y verificación de las emisiones antropogénicas relacionadas a los bosques por fuentes y absorciones por sumideros (MRV)

Septiembre de 2011

El Salvador en nombre de Honduras, Panamá y República Dominicana, agradece la oportunidad de aportar criterios y propuestas al proceso de negociaciones bajo el AWG-LCA en el tema REDD+, a fin de contribuir al acercamiento de las posiciones divergentes, y facilitar el logro de un acuerdo bajo el Mandato de Bali durante la COP-17 que tendrá lugar en Durban, Sudáfrica a finales de 2011.

Justificación: esta propuesta se enmarca en el contexto del ITEM IV relativo a las orientaciones metodológicas para las actividades relacionadas con REDD, contenido en el informe del SBSTA-34 FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, en lo relativo a la solicitud de opiniones a las partes para dar aportes sobre orientaciones metodológicas para REDD+, en cuanto al diseño de los sistemas de monitoreo, notificación y verificación (MRV) de REDD+.

Antecedentes:

FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.14, 16 de Junio de 2011

El Órgano Subsidiario de Asesoramiento Científico y Tecnológico (SBSTA) consideró puntos de vista sobre las guías de orientación metodológicas para actividades relacionadas con la reducción de las emisiones de la deforestación y la degradación de los bosques y el papel de la conservación, la gestión sostenible de los bosques y el aumento de las reservas forestales de carbono en los países en desarrollo, teniendo en cuenta las cuestiones identificadas en el Apéndice II de la decisión 1/CP.16 y las cuestiones pertinentes.

FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1 15 de Marzo de 2011.

Párrafo 61 , Decide también que las medidas de mitigación que reciban apoyo internacional se medirán, notificarán y verificarán a nivel nacional, y serán objeto de medición, notificación y verificación a nivel internacional de conformidad con las directrices que se elaboren en el marco de la Convención.

Párrafo 70 Alienta a las Partes que son países en desarrollo a contribuir a la labor de mitigación en el sector forestal adoptando las siguientes medidas, a su discreción y con arreglo a sus capacidades respectivas y sus circunstancias nacionales:

- a) La reducción de las emisiones debidas a la deforestación
- b) La reducción de las emisiones debidas a la degradación forestal
- c) La conservación de las reservas forestales de carbono
- d) La gestión sostenible de los bosques
- e) El incremento de las reservas forestales de carbono.

Párrafo 71. Pide a las Partes que son países en desarrollo que se propongan adoptar las medidas mencionadas en el párrafo 70 supra, en el contexto de un suministro de apoyo adecuado y previsible, que incluya recursos financieros y apoyo técnico y tecnológico a esas Partes, y en función de sus circunstancias nacionales y sus capacidades respectivas, que elaboren lo siguiente:

- a) Un plan de acción o estrategia nacional.
- b) Un nivel nacional de referencia de las emisiones forestales y/o un nivel nacional de referencia forestal, o, si procede, como medida provisional, niveles subnacionales de referencia de las emisiones forestales y/o niveles subnacionales de referencia forestal, de conformidad con las circunstancias nacionales y con lo dispuesto en la decisión 4/CP.15 y en toda nueva disposición al respecto que acuerde la Conferencia de las Partes.
- c) Un sistema nacional de vigilancia forestal robusto y transparente para la vigilancia y notificación respecto de las medidas mencionadas en el párrafo 70 supra, con la opción, si procede, de establecer provisionalmente un sistema subnacional de vigilancia y notificación, de conformidad con las circunstancias nacionales y con lo dispuesto en la decisión 4/CP.15 y en toda nueva disposición al respecto que acuerde la Conferencia de las Partes.
- d) Un sistema para proporcionar información sobre la forma en que se estén abordando y respetando las salvaguardias que se señalan en el apéndice I de la presente decisión en todo el proceso de aplicación de las medidas mencionadas en el párrafo 70 supra, al tiempo que se respeta la soberanía.

Propuesta de orientaciones sobre las modalidades para la medición, notificación y verificación de las emisiones antropogénicas relacionadas a los bosques por fuentes y absorciones por sumideros (MRV)

Aspectos generales sobre el sistema de MRV para REDD+:

Proponer el concepto, naturaleza y alcance de un sistema de medición, notificación y verificación de las acciones de REDD+ basadas en resultados del nivel nacional (el nivel subnacional solamente puede ser usado de manera temporal, a fin de evitar al máximo las fugas) en virtud del Acuerdo de Cancún, el cual sea robusto y transparente.

El sistema nacional de MRV deberá incorporar un subsistema de información sobre el abordaje y cumplimiento de las siete salvaguardas adoptadas por la COP.16, a fin de asegurar la contribución de las estrategias o planes de acción nacionales de REDD+ al desarrollo sostenible y reducción de la pobreza.

El diseño del sistema deberá incorporar al menos los 3 aspectos: Características, elementos y procesos de informe, en virtud de lo acordado por la COP-16

Características

El sistema de MRV de las acciones de REDD+ deberá incorporar en su diseño mecanismos para poder medir, notificar y verificar si las acciones de REDD+ están contribuyendo al objetivo último de la CMNUCC. Dicho sistema se incorporará y se adoptará recopilando la información existente planteada en los inventarios nacionales forestales y haciendo ajustes para la incorporación de nuevos parámetros de medición como biomasa, carbono forestal y biodiversidad; entre otros. Ya que a través del bosque y especialmente en la región Centroamérica y República Dominicana se puede lograr un gran aporte para la reducción de emisiones por deforestación y degradación tomando en cuenta la vocación eminentemente forestal que presenta toda la región.

El mismo se está concibiendo desde iniciativas nacionales como los inventarios forestales y los recientes estudios de línea base que se están desarrollando en la región con el apoyo de la cooperación internacional.

El sistema de MRV propuesto toma como punto de partida las múltiples funciones de los bosques y ecosistemas considerando las experiencias previas de compensación ambiental locales, mezclándolos con el uso de la tecnología (sensores remotos y SIG) y para lograr una consistencia con la integridad ambiental, además se debe complementar con el levantamiento de información en campo.

REDD+, más que un mecanismo de compensación de emisiones se está abordando como una iniciativa para frenar y evitar la deforestación y degradación de los bosques, en armonización con prioridades nacionales en aspectos ambientales, forestales y socioculturales y económicos, teniendo presente que para lograr los objetivos trazados en las estrategias o planes de acción nacionales de REDD+ en cada país se requiere un componente fuerte y robusto de desarrollo de capacidades a todo nivel tomando en cuenta el respeto a la soberanía y saberes de las comunidades y la población en la toma de decisiones al respecto.

El sistema MRV en el futuro permitirá la medición, notificación y verificación de las acciones de REDD+ a los países de la región siempre y cuando se haga en el marco de un proceso de consulta previa, libre e informada al desarrollo de mecanismos de compensación de emisiones, y finalmente a un sistema de monitoreo a nivel nacional tomando en cuenta el desarrollo de experiencias piloto a nivel nacional tanto de línea base como en la implementación de acciones REDD+ para lograr una retribución a las comunidades o a los conservadores o restauradores del bosque.

El sistema de MRV contribuirá con las necesidades nacionales de adaptación de los países, debiendo suministrar información a los Planes de Adaptación Nacionales (PANs) para fines de seguimiento al cumplimiento de la salvaguarda relativa a que las actividades de REDD+ deberán ser consistentes con el objetivo último de la Convención Marco de Cambio Climático, y por ende, no deberán provocar mayores vulnerabilidad ni desadaptación climática. Lo anterior, ligado especialmente a regiones forestales evitando la degradación y el avance de la frontera agrícola, pero al mismo tiempo, garantizando los medios de sobrevivencia rurales y los derechos indígenas sobre la tierra y sus recursos. Dicho sistema deberá incluir el escenario del estado actual en el manejo de la agricultura y otros usos de la tierra en los países de la región para poder delimitar acciones tempranas que permitan frenar los impactos por la degradación de

bosques haciendo uso de análisis multi-temporal en zonas ganaderas y en zonas de conflictos de uso con un escenario de referencia identificado en cada país, e identificando los territorios de los pueblos o comunidades indígenas y afrodescendientes, incluyendo el estatus legal.

Para el Desarrollo del sistema MRV se hace necesario dotar de apoyo financiero adicional y tecnológico, adecuado y predecible, incluyendo apoyo a la formación de capacidades. Se empieza a experimentar cierto avance especialmente con el desarrollo de propuestas regionales que garanticen la homologación en la generación de la información a nivel regional, sin embargo apenas inicia el proceso experimentando bastante carencia de recursos nacionales para el desarrollo del mismo. Asimismo, existen diferencias considerables entre los países en términos de las capacidades humanas, institucionales y técnicas para el abordaje y ejecución de las acciones de REDD+, incluyendo el funcionamiento del sistema nacional de MRV y el suministro de información sobre el cumplimiento de las salvaguardas de REDD+.

Con los primeros pasos en el desarrollo del sistema de MRV se pretende lograr la promoción de la gestión sostenible de los bosques permitiendo el aprovechamiento de los bienes no maderables en cada zona. Asimismo, el sistema deberá notificar sobre el cumplimiento de la salvaguarda relativa a la consistencia entre las actividades de REDD+ y la conservación de los bosques naturales, biodiversidad y servicios ecosistémicos, de tal manera que se evite la conversión de bosques naturales hacia plantaciones forestales, principalmente grandes monocultivos, incluyendo la agricultura de granos, para biocombustibles, otros cultivos y ganadería.

Elementos:

Los elementos básicos que el sistema MRV debe incluir son:

- Una evaluación de las tasas históricas de deforestación y una evaluación forestal actualizada y transparente donde se incluya la medición de parámetros como biomasa, carbono forestal y biodiversidad.
- Determinación del nivel nacional de emisiones forestales de referencia y/o nivel nacional forestal de referencia, incluyendo por ejemplo, una evaluación de las tasas históricas de deforestación y una evaluación forestal actualizada. El nivel subnacional de emisiones forestales de referencia y/o nivel subnacional forestal de referencia puede adoptarse de manera temporal.
- Una línea de referencia REDD+ nacional generada de forma participativa, incluyendo a los pueblos y comunidades indígenas y afrodescendientes, que permita conocer las zonas históricas de deforestación y al mismo tiempo poder proyectar las tasas futuras de deforestación en dichas zonas, dicha línea base debe ser ajustada en función del análisis de disponibilidad de información y de acuerdo al alcance de cada país, esta línea base deberá estar abierta a un sistema de verificación independiente asegurando que siga la misma metodología propuesta para poder comparar ambos resultados.
- Un subsistema de información sobre el abordaje y respeto de las siete salvaguardas de tipo ambiental y social acordadas por la COP.16, que sea parte integrante del sistema nacional MRV. El subsistema de información de las salvaguardas incluye aspectos ambientales y sociopolíticos, tales como biodiversidad, gobernanza, reducción de la pobreza, medios de sobrevivencia rurales, e incluye el respeto al derecho indígena internacional, un proceso amplio de consulta previa, libre e informada, así como la identificación de las barreras para el cumplimiento de dichas salvaguardas.

- Una evaluación que determine los factores directos e indirectos que provocan las emisiones por deforestación y degradación de los bosques, y las propuestas de medidas para erradicarlos, tales como el comercio ilegal regional o internacional de madera, la expansión de las corporaciones multinacionales de la industria maderera, la corrupción de las entidades con mandatos gubernamentales, etc.

Proceso de informe

Para el proceso de informe que brindará la aplicación del sistema MRV se propone adoptar los estándares más apropiados existentes, los cuales exijan una participación plena y efectiva de los actores relevantes, particularmente de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales (consentimiento libre, previo e informado), en todas las fases del sistema de medición, notificación y verificación de REDD+.

Debiendo utilizar la orientación y directrices de las guías metodológicas del IPCC más recientes y aprobadas por la COP, para estimar las emisiones antropogénicas por las fuentes y la absorción antropogénica por los sumideros de gases de efecto invernadero relacionadas con los bosques, las reservas forestales de carbono y los cambios en las zonas forestales.

El alcance de cada país en el desarrollo del sistema MRV va de acuerdo a las circunstancias y capacidades nacionales, sistemas de vigilancia de los bosques nacionales, adecuándolos para que sean robustos y transparentes; y cuando sea el caso sistemas subnacionales en el marco de los sistemas de vigilancia nacionales los cuales:

- Utilicen una combinación de métodos de levantamiento de inventarios del carbono forestal basados en sensores remotos, SIG y en mediciones en tierra para estimar, según proceda, las emisiones antropogénicas por las fuentes y la absorción antropogénica por los sumideros de gases de efecto invernadero relacionadas con los bosques, las reservas forestales de carbono y los cambios en las zonas forestales.
- Proporcionen estimaciones transparentes, coherentes, en lo posible exactas y que reduzcan las incertidumbres, teniendo en cuenta que los medios y las capacidades nacionales sean transparentes y sus resultados estén disponibles y puedan ser examinados por la COP sí así cada país lo decida.
- Sean transparentes y sus resultados estén disponibles y puedan ser examinados por la COP sí cada país así lo decida.
- Debiendo según corresponda, elaborar guías de orientación para lograr la participación efectiva de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales en la vigilancia y el informe de las acciones REDD+.
- Debiendo fortalecer las capacidades nacionales para recopilar, obtener, analizar e interpretar datos, con el fin de elaborar estimaciones; y para el uso adecuado de la orientación y directrices del IPCC en la materia.

Otros temas relevantes.

Se considera que las Directrices de Buenas Prácticas del IPCC sobre Uso de la tierra, Cambio de uso de la Tierra y Silvicultura (UTCUTS) proporcionan los métodos adecuados y procedimientos para calcular e informar sobre los cambios en las existencias de carbono causados por la deforestación, la degradación forestal, conservación de los bosques, la reforestación y forestación. Todas las estimaciones deben seguir los cinco principios básicos emitidos por el IPCC, como ser: robustez, transparencia, comparabilidad, coherencia y precisión. Además, en la medida de lo posible, se debe reducir la incertidumbre, en cuanto a las capacidades nacionales y los sistemas de control y los resultados deben ser sujetos a revisión independiente, según lo acordado por la Conferencia de las Partes siguiendo el acuerdo de la COP 16 donde se indica que los inventarios nacionales de GEI que incluya el sector UTCUTS deberán ser sujetos cada 2 años a una consulta y evaluación Internacional, contando con los recursos financieros necesarios establecidos en los acuerdos de Cancún.

En los sistemas de MRV se deberán incluir la definición de objetivos a largo plazo, congruentes con el objetivo último de la Convención Marco, y la especificación de las prioridades a corto plazo, preservando la integridad ambiental de la mitigación, mediante medidas adicionales, mensurables, verificables, sin fugas y reconociendo su naturaleza temporal. Por ejemplo, en el caso de monitoreo nacional, no es práctico medir cada tonelada de carbono o un árbol de forma individual sobre una base regular. Sin embargo, es posible y eficaz para alcanzar un cierto nivel de control nacional con más detalle y certeza en las zonas espacialmente limitadas a "acciones REDD" que comprobaría el efecto positivo de las políticas y su contribución a la mitigación del cambio climático mundial.

Se deben generar capacidades que incluyan la revalorización y el rescate de las prácticas ancestrales de vigilancia y conservación de los bosques aplicando sus conocimientos y acciones efectivas para realizar acciones de monitoreo constante en los bosques, apoyándose de herramientas como teledetección y SIG. De igual manera, crear capacidad e implementar un sistemática de medición nacional de carbono de los bosques a través de parcelas permanentes de muestreo. De igual manera, capacitar en la elaboración de los informes (IPCC, UTCUTS), a los países. Financiamiento para la elaboración de estos informes, será requerido.

Paper no. 8: Poland and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States

SUBMISSION BY POLAND AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Albania, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Warsaw, 20th September 2011

Subject: views on the 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

General remarks

The EU seeks to mobilise sources to support the full implementation of results-based REDD+ actions, with the aim of halting global forest loss by 2030 at the latest, and reducing gross tropical deforestation by at least 50% of the current level by 2020. This can only be achieved on the basis of sound methodologies and by ensuring broad participation of developing countries. The EU notes that a successful agreement on REDD+ would contribute to achieving the Aichi targets for biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Decision 1/CP.16 sets out clear priorities for a substantive decision on these methodologies to be adopted at COP17. This submission follows the general guidance on the issue set out in the SBSTA 34 conclusions and sets out a vision for a decision on REDD+ at COP17.

Given the importance of rural development, food security, mitigation and adaptation in the agricultural sector and agriculture expansion as a driver of deforestation, the EU looks forward to consider the implications of REDD+ in broader landscapes as part of the work towards COP 18 in relation to paragraph (a) of Annex II to decision 1/CP 16.

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

The purposes of systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected are to build confidence and transparency that countries can assess social and environmental effects of REDD+ actions and to facilitate dialogue among national and international actors.

Characteristics

Systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected should be consistent with Annex 1 of Decision 1/CP.16. In addition, broader MRV principles that are relevant include: transparency, consistency over time, accuracy, international comparability, complete coverage in addressing each of the seven safeguards as described in paragraph 2 of Appendix I to Decision 1/CP.16. Further characteristics include the involvement of stakeholders, reliability of information, regularity, and reflection of national circumstances as well as existing national arrangements and institutions. Also, consistency with the provision of related information to relevant international agreements needs to be ensured. The system should be simple and not over-burdensome, and aim for continuous improvement.

Design

A *system* implies a structure of institutions and processes to enable regular provision of information (i.e. a concept similar to the national inventory system). Whilst the system should conform to broad guidelines agreed by the COP, it should not be imposed from the outside. Rather, it should be in the context of national legislation and policies, including national REDD+ strategies, broader development and adaptation strategies and biodiversity strategies and action plans.

National information systems need to satisfy two distinct purposes: (i) supporting national REDD+ strategies/action plans in defining expected outcomes and showing and helping to verify how they are being delivered, and (ii) satisfying the accountability needs of donors on the use of finance.

Guidance for national information systems should address what information is needed, how it is collected, processed, made available and published. The guidance should strike a balance between: (i) the required flexibility to prioritise country-specific issues and use existing national arrangements as a basis, and (ii) the comparability of information provided by various countries, required for transparency at international level and for maintaining the credibility and legitimacy of a REDD+ mechanism.

The system should build on existing institutions, processes and mechanisms where possible, including those under relevant agreements and processes, and where available existing sources of information should be integrated into the system.

Developing countries should develop and apply national indicators, quantified where possible, for the different safeguards to operationalize the provision of information on the safeguards. International processes and existing monitoring schemes for biodiversity could provide useful lessons and experiences. A core set of information requirements should be agreed to ensure international comparability. An EU proposal for this is included at the end of this submission in the Appendix III.

Developing countries should ensure the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders in the design of their national information system. Independent monitoring including broad stakeholder consultation has proved to be an effective tool in providing reliable information in the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) program and it should be part of the information systems.

Provision of information

A summary of the information should be submitted as supplementary information to National Communications and biennial update reports.

Results-based payments require a system with independent review of core information to ensure compliance with the agreed requirements.

Potential barriers

Potential implementation barriers may relate to:

- the extent of legal or other provisions in place to deliver safeguards *in principle*,
- the extent to which these provisions are implemented in practice,
- the information systems in place to show how the provisions are working,
- the extent to which the populations affected by REDD+ activities can access relevant information and recourse mechanisms,
- the challenge of developing indicators for all seven safeguards and implementing and maintaining information systems.

Parties should describe the relevant barriers for the application of safeguards and the steps undertaken to overcome those barriers.

Guidance for modalities relating to forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels

Scope and purpose

The purpose of forest reference emission level and forest reference level is to measure the effects of the implementation of REDD+ strategies and activities by estimating changes in anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals compared to business-as-usual (BAU) scenarios. Emission reductions shall be assessed by subtracting the forest reference levels from the actual anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by

sinks. Forest reference levels do not establish a basis for the provision of positive incentives per se and Parties may wish to establish separate levels for this purpose.

Broad participation of developing countries is required to reduce global gross tropical deforestation by at least 50% of the current level by 2020 and achieve deep emission cuts at the global level, consistent with the 2°C target and Aichi biodiversity targets.

The wording “*national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level*” in paragraph 71(b) of Decision 1/CP.16 implies that the scope covers all REDD+ activities listed in paragraph 70 undertaken by a Party. This should be captured in a single aggregate emission and removals reference level¹ that encompasses the relevant IPCC reporting categories. The EU believes that a Party should at least include activity 70 a. Where significant emissions are anticipated, other activities identified in paragraph 70 should also be included.

Characteristics

- **Accurate:** Reference levels should rely on sound science and be neither an over or under estimate so far as can be judged. They should be based on historical data and reflect to national circumstances.
- **Comprehensive:** All REDD+ activities undertaken by a Party should be reflected in an aggregate reference level. Subcomponents should however allow for a disaggregation so to distinguish emissions from gross deforestation or from forest degradation.
- **Simple and Inclusive:** To enable the broadest possible participation of countries. Data and formal requirements should be limited to those necessary to ensure the integrity of reference levels.
- **Consistent:** Consistency between monitoring and reporting approaches and reference levels in terms of scope, pool coverage and methodologies, is essential and should be maintained.
- **Continuously improving:** national reference levels should be regularly revised every 5 years to reflect new scientific knowledge, new trends and any modification of the scope and methodologies.

Guidance for the construction

Aggregate reference levels should be based on historical data, taking into account causal factors which influence the rate of deforestation or forest degradation. Deforestation and degradation rates can be understood causally in terms of geographical and socioeconomic factors, direct and indirect, (e.g. commodity prices, demographic changes, use and tenure rights, forest related policies, law enforcement, governance). Therefore, a national aggregate reference level being simply set equal to the historical rate may not be appropriate.

Reference levels should be agreed for a period of at least 5 years, to help smooth out the effects of statistical fluctuations originating from extraordinary disturbances causing deforestation and forest degradation and associated emission rates and to allow MRV systems to pick up meaningful changes in deforestation and degradation trends.

National reference levels may be elaborated on the basis of a complete set of various province-based, biome-based and/or activity-based levels, as may be necessary for methodological purposes, data availability or for the devolution of positive incentives to subnational jurisdictions. The EU understands that the “*interim measure*” (paragraph 71 (c) of Decision 1/CP.16) means that where the reference level is not a national reference level, it should be seen as a step towards one in maximum 5 up to 10 years.

Process for communication

Developing country Parties could voluntarily propose country-specific national reference levels. Country-specific national reference levels could be proposed progressively as they become ready to do so, rather than all at the same time, recognising that the choice of starting phase of REDD+ will depend on specific national circumstances. The proposed national reference levels should be independently reviewed following a procedure inspired by the review process of forest management reference levels of Annex I countries. Following the review, the country-specific reference levels could be forwarded to the COP for adoption.

¹ Throughout the document, a term “reference level” refers to the provided definition of a Party national forest reference level.

National reference levels should be agreed for a period long enough to detect any significant changes in the loss and degradation of forest, yet short enough to capture new knowledge and new trends. In the EU's view, a period of 5 years is an appropriate default timeframe for revising national reference levels. There should be provisions for technical recalculations if needed in between revisions of reference levels.

Guidance on modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying, as referred to in appendix II to decision 1/CP.16

Characteristics

Appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16 notes that the modalities for MRV of performance of anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, forest carbon stock and forest area changes resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities should be consistent with MRV modalities for nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries (NAMAs). They should follow the guidelines for national communications and biennial update reports. Key characteristics should be consistent with the general MRV principles, which are: transparency, accuracy, consistency, comparability, and completeness. MRV systems should be efficient and build on existing arrangements where possible in order to support the cost-effectiveness. Where possible they should build on existing forest monitoring systems and aim to allow for other biomes / activities / carbon pools being added over time.

Elements

The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance and guidelines, as adopted and encouraged by the COP should be used as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes.

To estimate changes in forest carbon stocks, the EU notes that, although the IPCC's guidance provides default values for undisturbed forest, additional work including ground based observations will be necessary to establish carbon densities where deforestation is taking place on forests that have already been subject to human activity, and that ground based measurements are also likely to be necessary where default values are not appropriate to particular ecosystem types, or where countries wish to depart from default values and use higher Tier methods.

The IPCC 2006 Guidelines contain useful additional scientific information and should be available for use in applying the currently agreed Guidelines.

Further SBSTA work may be needed to specify possible simplified reporting requirements that could be used, in earlier phases, in combination with conservative estimates of emission reductions before results-based actions are fully MRV'd (e.g., using proxies in combination with land conversion matrices, allowing tier 1 approaches and default carbon density values, excluding certain carbon pools and non-CO₂ greenhouse gas, addressing the subnational jurisdictions or biomes).

REDD+ activities should be independently reviewed as a part of national communications and biannual update reports. This review should address changes to GHG emissions and removals due to REDD+ activities and additional core information in relation to safeguards.

Process for reporting

The emissions and removals from REDD+ activities should be reported in National Communications and biennial update reports. The modalities for international assessment and review for NAMAs should apply timing to start the reporting and frequency of REDD+ reporting activities.

Other issues

The IPCC TFI should be invited to prepare supplementary documentation to consolidate and facilitate the use of existing guidance and guidelines for REDD+ including existing guidance and guidelines on the use of remote sensing to collect more reliable and comparable information.

Guidance on national forest monitoring system

The combination of Decision 4/CP.15, Decision 1/CP.16 and IPCC inventory guidelines and methodological guidance provide essential elements to guide the development of national forest monitoring systems. National forest monitoring systems need to be capable of providing estimates of anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes.

National forest monitoring systems should provide results that are transparent, documented, consistent over time, complete, comparable, assessed for uncertainties, subject to quality control and assurance and suitable for review. The national forest monitoring systems should be forward compatible with regard to possible future expansion of the scope of monitoring. The systems should be efficient in the use of resources and so it may be efficient to combine the national forest monitoring system with the system to provide information on how safeguards are addressed and respected.

Proposal for draft COP decision

The EU seeks a decision by the COP at its 17th session in relation to methodological guidance for REDD+ activities. The EU is pleased to submit textual proposals for the consideration of Parties on such a decision.

The Conference of Parties:

Recalling the provisions of Decisions 1/CP.13, 2/CP.13/, 4/CP.15, and 1/CP.16 including Appendices I and II thereto,

Reaffirming that, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support to developing country Parties, Parties should collectively aim to slow, halt and reverse forest cover and carbon loss, in accordance with national circumstances, consistent with the ultimate objective of the Convention, as stated in Article 2,

Noting decision X/2 (Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020) of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Pursuant to the need for modalities and guidance related to paragraph 71 of Decision 1/CP.16,

(Modalities for reference levels)

1. *Notes* that developing country Parties aiming to undertake mitigation actions in the forest sector should prepare a forest national reference level,
2. *Agrees* that national reference levels should be proposed on a voluntary basis by developing country Parties, independently reviewed in accordance with the guidance set out in appendix I to this decision, and agreed by the Conference of Parties,
3. *Acknowledges* that proposed forest reference levels should encompass emissions from gross deforestation and proposed forest reference emission levels should cover other activities listed in §70 of Decision 1/CP.16, where significant emissions are anticipated,
4. *Agrees* that the purpose of a reference level is to estimate the effect of activities undertaken by a Party in accordance with §70 of Decision 1/CP.16, and that these emission reductions shall be assessed by subtracting the reference level from the actual net anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks,

5. *Decides* that reference levels shall be established on the basis of anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks as shown in greenhouse gas inventories and relevant historical data, estimated using the most recent guidance and guidelines developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as adopted or encouraged by the COP, be linked to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and take into account geographical and socioeconomic factors affecting anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks in a business as usual scenario;
6. *Stresses* the need to maintain consistency between reporting approaches and reference levels in relation to scope and methodologies;
7. *Acknowledges* that a national reference level may be elaborated as an aggregate of subnational reference levels and that, over an interim period of 5 to 10 years, the reference level of a Party may cover less than its entire national territory;
8. *Decides* that, after approval of its reference level, a developing country Party shall propose a revised reference level for review and agreement within no more than 5 years, taking into account new knowledge, new trends and any modification of scope and methodologies. Upon agreement by the COP, the revised reference level supersedes the previous one;
9. *Further decides* that the COP shall be guided by the principle that application of all approved reference levels should collectively lead to an aggregate reduction compared to historic rates of forest-related emissions in developing countries;
10. *Requests* the Secretariat to publish information on reference levels on the UNFCCC REDD web platform, including submissions with proposed reference levels and the final review report;

(Modalities for national forest monitoring system)

11. *Reiterates* relevant provisions of Decisions 4/CP.15 and 1/CP.16,
12. *Invites* the IPCC to update and consolidate documentation to facilitate the use of existing guidelines and guidance in relation to the requirements of relevant sections of §1 of Decision 4/CP.15,
13. *Requests* the SBSTA to develop simplified monitoring and reporting requirements that could be combined with conservative estimates of emission reductions as a step towards fully measured, reported and verified results-based actions, and to make recommendations on this matter to the COP at its 18th session,
14. *Encourages* Parties, when designing their national forest monitoring systems, to consider the need for forward compatibility with regard to any future expansion of the scope of monitoring;

(Guidance on information systems for safeguards)

15. *Notes* that information systems on safeguards aim to support national strategies/action plans in defining and delivering expected outcomes,
16. *Agrees* that the development of systems referred to in §71d of Decision 1/CP.16 should be based on the following principles: transparency, consistency over time, international comparability, complete coverage of the safeguards, and accuracy. Further characteristics include: participatory, reliability of information, regularity, tailored to national circumstances and existing national arrangements and institutions,
17. *Decides* that a Party aiming to undertake activities in accordance with §70 of Decision 1/CP.16 shall submit a summary of the information related to application of safeguards as supplementary information to its National Communications and biannual update reports, in accordance with appendix III,

18. *Requests* the SBSTA, at its 36th session, to consider how this summary should be presented, with a view to recommending a decision on the matter for adoption by the COP at its 18th session,
19. *Requests* the Secretariat to consult with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and explore options to streamline the information requirements in relation to § 2 of the Appendix I to Decision 1/CP.16 with the reporting requirements of other relevant international agreements and processes,
20. *Recalls* that Parties, when designing their national forest monitoring systems in accordance with the provisions of §1d of Decision 4/CP.15, and § 2e of appendix 2 of Decision CP 16, should do so in a way that enables a separate estimation of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals concerning the conversion of natural forests,
21. *Encourages* regional processes to contribute to promoting sharing of experience on the application of safeguards, and to developing further guidance as may be appropriate in the regional context;

(Modalities for monitoring, reporting and verification of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals)

22. *Adopts* the modalities for monitoring, reporting and verification of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals as contained in Appendix II to this decision,
23. *Urges* Parties to aim for consistency with the monitoring and reporting of other types of nationally appropriate mitigation actions.

Appendix I: Guidelines for submissions and review of reference levels

1. Each developing country Party aiming to undertake mitigation actions in the forest sector shall include in its submission transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate information required under Part I of these guidelines, for the purpose of allowing a technical assessment, as specified in Part II, of the data, methodologies and procedures used in the construction of reference levels as specified above to facilitate the consideration on the reference level.

Part I: Guidelines for submissions of information on reference levels

Objectives

2. The objectives of the submissions are:

(a) To provide information consistent with the general reporting principles set out by the UNFCCC and elaborated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on how the elements contained in paragraph 5 of this decision were taken into account by Parties in the construction of reference levels, and to provide any additional relevant information,

(b) To document the information that was used by Parties in constructing reference levels in a comprehensive and transparent way,

(c) To provide transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate methodological information used at the time of construction of reference levels.

3. Parties shall provide submissions in accordance with the following guidelines:

General description

4. Provide a general description of the construction of the reference levels consistent with paragraph 5 of this decision,

5. Provide a description on how each element contained in paragraph 5 of this decision was taken into account in the construction of the reference level.

Pools, gases and activities

6. Identify pools, gases and activities listed in paragraph 70 of Decision 1/CP.16 which have been included in the reference levels and explain the reasons for omitting a pool and/or activity from the reference levels construction.

7. Explain how consistency was ensure between the pools included in the reference level.

Approaches, methods and models used

8. Provide a description of approaches, methods and models, including assumptions used in the construction of the reference levels.

Description of construction of reference levels

9. Provide description, where relevant, of how each of the following elements were considered or treated in the construction of the reference levels, in particular of:

- (a) Areas under consideration,
- (b) Corresponding emissions and removals,
- (c) Forest characteristics,
- (d) Historical and assumed deforestation and harvesting rates,
- (f) Natural disturbances.

10. Provide description of any other relevant elements considered or treated in the construction of the reference levels, including any additional information related to paragraph 5 of this decision.

Policies included

11. Provide description of the domestic policies adopted, implemented and planned and explain how these policies have been considered in the construction of the reference levels.

Part II: Guidelines for review of submissions of information on reference levels

Objectives of review

12. The objectives of the review are:

- (a) To assess whether Parties have provided transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate information on how the elements contained paragraph 5 of this decision were taken into account in the construction of reference levels,
- (b) To ascertain whether the construction of the reference level is consistent with the information and descriptions used by the Party,

- (c) To provide, as appropriate, to the developing country Party, technical recommendations,
- (d) To provide a technical assessment to support consideration by the COP at its subsequent session of the reference levels to be used,
- (e) To assess whether Parties have provided transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate methodological information to facilitate reviews of methodological consistency.

Scope of the review

13. A technical assessment of the data, methodologies, assumptions and procedures used in the construction of the reference levels of developing country Parties to determine whether they are consistent with the guidelines in part I of this appendix.

14. The review team will assess the following issues:

- (a) Whether the Party has identified pools, gases and activities included in the reference level and explained the reasons for omitting a pool, a gas or an activity from the reference level and whether the coverage of pools in the reference levels is consistent,
- (b) The description of approaches, methods and models used in the construction of reference levels,
- (c) How each element in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Part I is considered, including justification for why any particular element was not considered,
- (d) Whether the reference levels value is consistent with the information and descriptions provided by the Party,
- (e) Whether the information was provided by the Party in a transparent manner,
- (f) Whether a description is provided of domestic policies included in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 11 above that were used in the construction of the reference levels and how these policies were used in the construction of the reference levels,
- (g) Whether confirmation has been provided that the construction of the reference levels does not include assumptions about changes to domestic policies according to paragraph 12 above.

15. As part of the technical assessment, the review process may provide technical recommendations to the developing country Party on the construction of its reference levels. This may include the recommendation to make a technical revision to elements used in its construction.

16. Review teams shall refrain from making any judgment on domestic policies taken into account in the construction of the reference levels.

Review procedures

General procedures

- 17. Each submission will be assigned to a review team responsible for performing the technical assessment in accordance with procedures and timeframes established in these guidelines.
- 18. Each review team will provide a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the reference levels submission and will under its collective responsibility prepare a report.

19. The review process will be coordinated by the Secretariat. Review teams will be composed of LULUCF review experts selected from the roster of experts. Participating experts will serve in their personal capacity and will be neither nationals of the Party under review, nor funded by that Party.

Composition of the review teams

20. Review teams should be made up of at least three LULUCF experts. The Secretariat shall ensure that in any review team one co-lead reviewer shall be from an Annex I Party and one co-lead reviewer shall be from a non-Annex I Party. The Secretariat will select the members of the review team with a view to achieving balance between experts from Annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties.

Timing

21. In order to facilitate the Secretariat's work, each Party should confirm to the Secretariat, their active experts on the LULUCF roster of experts who will be able to participate in the review of reference levels.

22. The Secretariat should forward all relevant information to the review teams in good time before the start of the review.

23. Prior to the review, the review teams should identify any preliminary questions requiring clarifications from the Party, as appropriate.

24. The review should take place within 12 weeks after the submission by the Party has been received and be conducted according to the indicative timings set out in paragraphs 28 to 32 below. The Party being reviewed may interact with the review team during the review of their submission to respond to questions and provide additional information as requested by the review teams.

25. The review teams may seek any additional clarification from the Party no later than one week following the review. This may include technical recommendations to the Party on the construction of its reference level. The Party is to provide any required clarifications to the review team no later than five weeks following the request and may also submit a revised reference level in response to the technical recommendations of the review team.

26. The review team will prepare a draft report and make it available to the Party no later than eight weeks following the review. The report should include a short summary.

27. The Party will have three weeks to respond to the draft report of the review team.

28. If the Party does not agree with the findings in the draft report, in responding to the Party's comments, the review team will seek advice from a small group of experienced reviewers to be convened by the Secretariat, which will consider comparability across Parties.

29. The review team will prepare a final report within three weeks following the Party's response and the report will be sent to the Secretariat for publication on the UNFCCC website. The final report contains the technical assessment, technical recommendations, if appropriate, and the responses by the Parties and where provided, the advice of the small group of experienced reviewers convened by the Secretariat.

30. The Secretariat will prepare a synthesis report of key conclusions of the reference level review process, including comments by Parties for consideration at the subsequent COP. The synthesis report will be made publicly available and be published on the UNFCCC REDD web platform.

Appendix II: Modalities for monitoring, reporting and verification of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals

1. A Party aiming to undertake activities in accordance with paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 shall submit inventories of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals supplementary information to its National Communications and biennial update reports.
2. This information shall be reviewed by expert review teams coordinated by the UNFCCC Secretariat and composed of experts selected from those nominated by Parties to the Convention and, as appropriate, by intergovernmental organizations.
3. The review process shall provide a thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of all aspects of the implementation of actions relevant to paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16. The expert review teams shall prepare a report to the COP, assessing the implementation of these actions and identifying any potential problems in, and factors influencing, the fulfilment of objectives. Such reports shall be made public by the Secretariat on the UNFCCC REDD web platform.
4. The Secretariat shall list those questions of implementation indicated in such reports for further consideration by the COP.
5. The COP shall, with the assistance of the SBI, consider the information submitted by Parties, the reports of the expert reviews thereon and the questions of implementation listed by the Secretariat, as well as any questions raised by Parties.

Appendix III Core information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected

<i>Safeguards as contained in paragraph 2 of Appendix I to decision 1/CP.16</i>	<i>Information requirements</i>
(a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;	Contribution of REDD+ actions to achieving objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international agreements and processes;
(b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;	Description of policy, legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks, including on law enforcement;
(c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;	Identification of different right holders and their rights and description how those rights are respected;
(d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;	Description of participatory process for the design and implementation of a national REDD+ strategy or action plan and how this process was applied, including a description of systems to disseminate and receive information;
(e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;	Identification of the positive and negative impacts of a national REDD+ strategy or action plan on biodiversity and ecosystem services and identification and monitoring of natural forest;
(f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;	Description of the actions and liabilities;
(g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions;	Description of the actions and identification of significant sources, and the collection of data on, the displacement of emissions.

Submission from Government of INDIA 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

1. The draft conclusions proposed by the Chair of SBSTA in its thirty fourth session (SBSTA 34) invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the draft conclusions (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.14).
2. **Systemic approach leading to operationalization of REDD-plus:**
3. During the negotiations leading to COP decision on REDD-plus, the need for a systemic approach which in due course of time could lead to actual operationalization of REDD-plus mitigation actions and activities in forest sector were flagged. Elements of systemic approach include technical, social and governance issues, which are described in paragraphs 70, and 71 of COP decision 1/CP.16. All these issues are interconnected, and are covered in SBSTA conclusions of 16 June 2011 (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.14).
4. SBSTA in brief has asked for submissions on
 - i) Issues identified in appendix II to COP decision 1/CP.16. In nutshell, these issues are
 - a. Identification of land use, land-use change and forestry activities in developing countries including the associated methodological issues to estimate emissions and removals resulting from these activities, and assess the potential contribution of these activities to the mitigation of climate change,
 - b. Development of modalities relating to a national forest reference level {paragraph 71(b)} and a robust transparent national forest monitoring system {paragraph 71 (c)},
 - c. Development of modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the mitigation activities in the forest sector {paragraph 70}
 - ii) Issues identified in appendix I to COP decision 1/CP.16, which require Development of guidance related to a system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are being addressed and respected {paragraph 71 (d)}.

5. Government of India submissions on

i) Issues identified in appendix II to COP decision 1/CP.16.

a. Identification of land use, land-use change and forestry activities in developing countries including the associated methodological issues to estimate emissions and removals resulting from these activities, and assess the potential contribution of these activities to the mitigation of climate change

i) **REDD-plus activities:**

India intends to select 'plus' activities of REDD-plus, viz, conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks as part of its national strategy. Strategy proposed to realize enhanced potential of forestry sector in mitigation of climate change is two pronged- first to focus on actions that promote removals and reduce emissions, and second the actions that improve and enhance ecosystem goods and services. In real practical sense, both actions are closely interrelated. Mitigation strategy aims to i) expand and improve the present forest and tree cover, and ii) to promote more efficient use of fuelwood and replacement of energy intensive metal and plastic products with wood substitutes from sustainable sources in building sector. Constant monitoring and estimation with respect to quantity and quality of forest and tree cover are basic prerequisites of a sound carbon accounting system at the national level.

ii) **Methodological issues:**

To facilitate compilation of accounting of forest carbon stocks at national level, India intends to devolve more and more responsibility on the State Forest Departments (SFDs) to carry out the assessment and estimation of forest carbon stocks (FCS) in conjunction with the biennial exercise of assessment of forest and tree cover (FTC). This is considered essential to improve the precision level for estimation of FCS as the State Governments can cover more number of sample points, than that being covered by the FSI at present due to constraints of time, finances and in adequate number of technical experts. In future, the SFDs can take the responsibility of carrying out the inventories for FTC and FCS by more effectively utilizing the services of their Remote Sensing Centres/Space Application Centres. FSI at that time can act as the source for providing classified forest cover maps required by the States for the purpose.

iii) **Methodological issue of precision in estimates**

On the question of limits of error that will be acceptable for FCS estimation, especially in view of the continuous refinement of technology, it is intended that at the national level, the biennial assessment may conform to $\pm 5\%$ precision (confidence limits), and at the State level it may be $\pm 20\%$, which may be reduced to $\pm 10\%$ by the year 2017 (third biennial assessment beyond 2011). Same precision as at State level may also be maintained at the district level. The aforesaid is summed up as under:

For estimation of forest carbon stocks (FCS)

Precision level at national level $\pm 5\%$

Precision level at state/district level $\pm 10\%$

As regards frequency of compiling and submitting national FCS accounts, India believes that it should coincide with the FSI's biennial State of Forest Report (SFR) and, therefore, should be in multiple of 2 or 4 years.

iv) Mitigation potential of REDD-plus activities and financial requirement:

In tune with the nation's forest policy, the national strategy aims at enhancing and improving the forest and tree cover along with the biodiversity, of the country thereby enhancing the quantum of forest ecosystem services that flow to the local communities. The services, inter alia, include fuelwood, timber, fodder, NTFP, biodiversity, hydrological services and also carbon sequestration. It is underlined that in the Indian context, carbon service from forest and plantations is one of the co-benefits and not the main or the sole benefit. Present initiatives like National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the MoEF, together with programmes in sectors like agriculture and rural development are on an average adding or improving 1 million ha (mha) of forest and tree cover annually in our country. This annually adds about 1 million tonne of carbon incrementally, and combined with the accretion of biomass in our managed forests, protected areas, and in tree cover outside the government forests, the total carbon service at present is estimated at 138 mt CO₂eq every year (Kishwan et al. 2009). The cost of the BAU reforestation and afforestation activities contributing in mitigation and adaptation is estimated at USD 1 billion annually. Based on integration of the proposed National Mission for A Green India or Green India Mission (GIM) which is being finalized with the BAU, the carbon service will get enhanced by 50 to 60 mt CO₂eq every year by 2020 and onwards. The GIM is estimated to cost USD 10 billion in 10 years @ USD 1 billion a year. GIM is intended to run over a period of 10 years beginning 2012-13. GIM aims at increasing the quantity and quality of 10 million hectares of forest and tree cover.

To sum it up, implementation of the existing activities and GIM would require a financial investment of USD 2 billion every year. India expects sizable part of additional cost of GIM being met from the REDD-plus financial support.

b. Development of modalities relating to a national forest reference level {paragraph 71(b)} and a robust transparent national forest monitoring system {paragraph 71 (c)}

i) National forest reference level

India gives highest priority to fixing of the reference level for carbon stocks in its forest and tree cover with a view to making assessment, monitoring, verification and reporting of

- i) baseline forest carbon stocks, and
- ii) incremental forest carbon stocks

India considers that the reference level (RL) in essence will be a business as usual (BAU) forest carbon stocks position based on the historical trend of conservation, and removals with the projected trends of i) population growth, ii) GDP growth, iii) energy requirement, and iv) any other relevant parameter, duly factored in preparation of the BAU. The RL will need to be fixed with consensus amongst intra-country stakeholders which would include the Central Government, State Governments, forest experts and scientists, local community and civil society.

ii) Institutional mechanism for REDD+ at national level

National accounting of Forest Carbon Stocks will be based on assessment of i) Biomass Carbon, and ii) Soil Organic Carbon (SOC). The assessment of carbon stocks can be made at an agreed interval with respect to the RL. The Government of India has established a REDD+ Cell in the Ministry of Environment and Forests having the task of coordinating and guiding REDD plus related actions at the national level, and to discharge the role of guiding, and collaborating with the State Forest Departments (SFDs) to collect, process and manage all relevant information and data relating to forest carbon accounting. National REDD+ Cell would also guide formulation, development, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ activities in the States. The Cell will assist the Ministry of Environment & Forests and its appropriate agencies in developing and implementing appropriate policies relating to REDD+ implementation in the country.

- c. Development of modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the mitigation activities in the forest sector {paragraph 70}

i) Institutionalization of national level forest carbon stocks accounting

In so far as national forest carbon stocks accounting is concerned, the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has adequate capability in this field. Backed by its expertise in estimation of forest and tree cover, and biomass thereof in the country, the FSI is capable of handling this national responsibility. The FSI will act as the Lead Institution for the country and will have a networking approach involving Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and any other organization that FSI deems fit to co-opt.

India intends to further work on i) technological and methodological issues, and ii) policy and definitional issues to be able to contribute proactively in the future deliberations of the UNFCCC on REDD-plus. Review and fine-tuning of technological, methodological and connected infrastructural capabilities are considered to be essential for operationalizing the national level forest carbon stocks accounting.

- ii) Issues identified in appendix I to COP decision 1/CP.16, which require Development of guidance related to a system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are being addressed and respected {paragraph 71 (d)}

The information furnished should contain the following

- (i) Forest carbon stock accounts at the national level
- (ii) Period of report
- (iii) During report period
 - a. Area brought under
 - i. Reforestation (ha)
 - ii. Improvement in forest cover/natural regeneration (ha)
 - iii. Agroforestry/tree cover on non-forest lands/afforestation (ha)

- b. Initiatives to reduce use of fuelwood
 - i. Number of improved wood-burning cookstoves distributed
 - ii. CNG units distributed
- c. Forest and wooded area conserved
 - i. Soil and water conservation measures (ha)
 - ii. Fire protection measures (ha)
 - iii. Cases of illegal felling (no)
- d. Area of forest diverted for developmental works
 - i. Extent and brief description of forest land diverted (ha)
 - ii. Compensatory mitigation measures planned/taken with description (ha)
 - iii. Policies, laws, guidelines, rules, etc. regulating/restraining diversion of forest land
- (iv) Certificate that activities, actions and initiatives described in (iii) above are in consonance with national forest policy/programmes, national REDD-plus framework and strategies, and are not detrimental to the quality and extent of the natural forests
- (v) Number of panchayats, gram sabhas, local communities, Joint Forest management Committees, Eco-development Committees, Forest Protection Committees with due representation of women participating in the REDD-plus activities
- (vi) Number and description of capacity building initiatives for stakeholders undertaken
- (vii) Relevant new laws, policies, guidelines, protocols, government orders, executive instructions implemented during the report period

**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 access 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.

Paper no. 11: Indonesia on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

SUBMISSION

by

**Indonesia on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
(ASEAN MEMBER STATES)**

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

BACKGROUND

ASEAN countries own approximately 216 million ha of forests (50% of land areas). These forests are the home of about 20% of world's plants and animals and play a vital role in providing ecosystem services. The region (together with South Asia) is also the home of about 6 million ha of mangrove forests (35 % of world mangrove forests)¹ which are known to play a central role in climate change adaptation and disaster prevention such as tsunami. ASEAN countries also the home of 25 million ha of peatland (about 6 % of global peatland)² which is known to have both very high carbon stocks and high potential as source of emissions. Forests in this region play important role in generating income and employment opportunity, also as a natural resource where 60-70 million local communities & indigenous people depend for provision of fuel wood and other essential goods to meet basic needs.

BASIS FOR SUBMISSION

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

VIEWS OF ASEAN MEMBER STATES

According to decision 1/CP. 16 paragraph 73, REDD+ be implemented in phases starting with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or 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, under paragraph 74 of the decision 1/CP.

¹ Source : FAO 2010 (Forest Resource Assessment)

² Source : Hooijer et al. (2006) in CCROM-SEAP (2010) and International Peat Society (2008)

16, 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.

ASEAN member states are in 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 take into consideration paragraph 73 and 74 of the decision 1/CP. 16.

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

The guidance should allow REDD+ countries to develop the most appropriate system for providing information on how safeguards as agreed in COP-16 are addressed and respected, within their national circumstances and phases of implementation they are in.

The safeguards as referred to in Appendix I to decision 1/CP. 16 have different levels (policy and technical) and scales (national and sub-national) in the implementation. And so, the system should reflect the different levels and scales in the implementation of the safeguards, and allow access, based on national policy and circumstances, to information on how safeguards are addressed and respected.

Development and operationalization of the system should be transparent and should encourage broad participation.

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

Modalities should cover all phases of REDD+ implementation and allow flexibility for countries who select to implement REDD+ with national-sub national approaches. This is in line with decision 1/CP. 16 paragraphs 73-74 on REDD+ phases and paragraph 71 on the development of national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (REL/RL). Under paragraph 71, national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (REL/RL) could be a combination of sub-national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (REL/RL).

Phase I and phase II should be considered as learning by doing processes, and so, REDD+ countries could select approaches for establishing forest REL and/or RL according to their national circumstances, capacities, capabilities, and financial support, for example, to start with sub national REL/RL. National forest REL and/or RL should only be required during full implementation. REL/RL should be considered as a benchmark to assess progress for phase I and phase II, while for the full implementation REL/RL is the baseline to measure performance from REDD+ actions, accordingly, as the basis to determine incentives for result-based actions.

Decision 4/CP. 15 guided the establishment of forest REL and RL to be done transparently, taking into account historical data and adjust for national circumstances in accordance with relevant COP decisions. The modalities should enable REDD+ countries to undertake adjustment of REL/RL to their national circumstances, including national development needs and goals.

Construction of forest REL/RL should include elements and process as follows, with more flexibility of approaches for phase I and phase II :

- a. Definitions of relevant terminology, pools and GHGs to be included.
- b. Historical data (whenever possible starting from 1990) on forest cover and forest cover changes, forest carbon stocks and its associated changes.
- c. Future scenario relating to national development needs and goals.
- d. For phase I and phase II forest REL and/or RL establishment could start with sub national level, taking into account national circumstances and capacities,
- e. Phase I and phase II should be used to improve data as needed,
- f. For full implementation, national forest REL and/or RL should be established.
- g. Effective engagement of relevant stakeholders at all levels and phases of REDD+ implementation.

REDD+ countries should develop national process for communicating REL/RL as part of MRV system. As the benchmarks to assess progress of REDD+ actions in phase I and phase II, review of forest REL/RL (whenever necessary) should aim at drawing lessons from the REDD+ implementation in these two phases to anticipate full implementation. As a basis to determine incentives during full implementation, national review of forest REL/RL should be done to accommodate any changes including national development needs and priorities, data improvement along with the improvement of capacities and technology development and access.

C. Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying as referred to in Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16.

Decision 4/CP. 15 and decision 1/CP. 16 stated the need to develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system. Both decisions also allowed sub-national monitoring systems as part of national forest monitoring systems.

Modalities on MRV development should cover both technical and institutional aspects, taking into account phases in REDD+ implementation, national circumstances, capacities and capabilities. MRV should be able to assess REDD+ contribution to the achievement of the objective of the Convention. The modalities should be simple, allow broad participation, and minimize transaction costs.

MRV system should include following elements, with more flexibility of approaches for phase I and phase II :

- a. Definitions of relevant terminology, pools and GHGs to be included.
- b. Measures to address national-sub national issues, including : monitoring and reporting of emissions displacement at the national level, reporting on how displacement of emissions is being addressed, and the means to integrate sub-national monitoring systems into a national monitoring system.
- c. Institutional arrangement and mechanism for reporting and verification.
- d. Guidelines for measuring forest cover and forest cover changes, forest carbon stocks and its associated changes.

e. Effective engagement of relevant stakeholders at all levels and phases of REDD+ implementation.

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, where REDD+ countries may start developing MRV at the sub-national level. For full implementation, national MRV system should be developed.

The modalities should allow REDD+ countries to develop their own reporting mechanism, for example, 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 (whenever appropriate).

Other relevant issues :

The needs for capacity building, access to data and technology. Methodological guidance for REDD+ implementation (decision 4/CP. 15 and decision 1/CP. 16) required appropriate level of capacity, availability of data and technology, in which many developing countries have not reached that stage. Substantial international and national resources will be required for capacity building, technology and knowledge transfer, and capability to implement REDD+, as well as access and analysis of data especially remote sensing data. Capacity building, transfer of technology and knowledge, access to data should be seen as a continuous process irrespective of the phases of implementation with more resources for these purposes should be available during phase I and phase II.

JAPAN

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”

In order to make a framework on 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 (REDD-plus) an effective measure to reduce emissions in the forest sector, it is essential to develop robust and practical methodologies and MRV systems and to develop and strengthen domestic systems to implement REDD-plus activities. In this regard, it is important that the SBSTA steadily progresses its scientific and technological work, especially the work identified in paragraph 75 of Decision 1/CP.16. In addition, the progress of the SBSTA’s work is important to move forward policy consideration under the AWG-LCA. Therefore, Japan welcomes this opportunity to submit its views on methodological matters on REDD-plus, in line with paragraph 4 in FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.14 and its Annex.

In order to progress our work efficiently, it is important to prioritize the work to the issues identified in Appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16. The issue identified paragraph (a) in Appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16, however, will be reported to the COP 18 while the issues identified paragraphs (b) and (c) in Appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16 will be considered at COP 17. Therefore, some flexibility is required so that findings and outcomes related to paragraph (a) in Appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16 will be reflected to modalities referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) in the Appendix.

While it is important to initiate REDD-plus activities, including demonstration activities, to promote actions to avoid deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, it should be noted that establishment of framework on REDD-plus is learning-by-doing process with some flexibility. Currently many activities, including activities supported bilaterally and multilaterally, are being implemented, and useful experiences and knowledge will be gained from them. These should be appropriately reflected when the framework is established and/or improved.

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

(a) Characteristics

One role of “systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected” is to enhance transparency, including maintain accessibility, of activities on safeguards referred in paragraph 2 in Appendix I to Decision 1/CP.16 and to improve and promote activities on safeguards. Also information provided through the systems could be used to identify capacity building needs on safeguards.

(b) Design

When designing systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected, following elements should be taken into consideration:

- All safeguards referred in paragraph 2 of Appendix I to Decision 1/CP.16 should be treated in the systems, taking into account national circumstances and phases;
- Accountable criteria and/or indicators on safeguards should be set by using quantitative and qualitative methods, taking into account of national circumstances, according to available guidance and relevant international conventions and agreements. These may include not only outcome based indicators but also qualitative ones, such as policy measures and degree of their implementation;

- Access to the information should be maintained, including access by relevant stakeholders;
- It is efficient to use information under the existing international framework including UNFF, FAO, ITTO and CBD, existing national systems for collecting and reporting the information, and national forest monitoring system referred in paragraph 71(c) of Decision 1/CP.16. On this point, the systems would contain or relate with several elements, not only safeguards but also other elements including forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, estimation of emissions and removals; and
- The information should be continuously provided and updated, and the quality should be improved.

(c) Provision of information

It is necessary to report progress of development of the systems and information on safeguards regularly through the National Communication, and for the report to be reviewed and assessed by experts, with assistance from the relevant organizations as necessary, taking into account of consideration of MRV of developing countries. While the information is provided internationally, it is also important to domestically publish the information to promote safeguards at all levels.

(d) Potential barriers, including barriers, if any, to providing information, on addressing and respecting safeguards

When information is provided, following issues should be taking into account:

- As information gained could be different among ground levels, local levels and national level, criteria and/or indicators should be set at each level so that safeguard measures will be implementable;
- The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders should be encouraged to set criteria and/or indicators and to collect and accumulate information on safeguards;
- It is necessary to strengthen capacity, including capacity for information collection, maintenance and improvement of the systems, and governance to maintain the systems; and
- When the systems are designed, it should be taken into account not only construction costs but also operational costs to maintain the systems.

(e) Other relevant issues

It is necessary that bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies examine the provided information and results of international review as mentioned in (c) above and support required safeguard related activities when they consider investing in and supporting REDD-plus activities.

It is important to design framework on REDD-plus to co-benefit both to reducing emission by REDD-plus activities and to safeguards. To this end, the framework should have some flexibility to gradually enhance activities on safeguards, taking into account national circumstances and phases.

It is expected that REDD+ activities will become more effective by ensuring the information being comparable and the best practice being shared among countries through a common platform which allows information submitted by the countries in a common reporting format to be viewed in a consistent manner.

2. Guidance for modalities relating to forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels

(a) Scope and/or purpose

Japan thinks that forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels (hereafter refer as “reference levels”) are established as reference to appropriately evaluate fully measured, reported and verified “results”

quantitatively, in comparison with real emissions and/or removals by implementing REDD-plus activities referred to in paragraph 70 of Decision 1/CP.16.

(b) Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of appendix I to decision 1/CP.16

In order that reference levels are reliable, they should have following characteristics:

- Transparency: Methodology for their establishment is transparent, including securing accessibility to the data used for their establishment;
- Scientifically verifiable: Reference levels are established scientifically, and be verifiable in scientific manner,;
- Consistency: Methodology to establish subnational reference levels are consistent with that to establish national reference levels. And consistency over the years needs to be maintained; and
- Accuracy: In order to improve accuracy, uncertainty of reference levels are estimated quantitatively and are reduced to minimum level as possible.

(c) Guidance for the construction

Following elements should be taken into account in the guidance:

- While reference levels are established transparently taking into account historic data according to paragraph 7 of Decision 4/CP.15, data used for their establishment should be continuously monitorable. On this point, establishment of reference levels should be done together with development of forest monitoring system. In addition, methodology of data collection and accuracy should be consistent over the years, and relationship between historical data used for establishment and relevant data reported in the National Communication and forest related report by FAO should be accountable. On the other hand, it should be noted that availability of historical data and accuracy are different country by country. Taking into account such circumstances, some flexibility is also required;
- As far as environmental integrity is secured, methodology of establishing reference levels should be simple and effective;
- As data used for establishing reference levels would have uncertainty as mentioned above, national system for quality assurance and quality control should be established together with MRV system;
- Reference levels should be periodically reviewed, in accordance with evolving experiences and knowledge on methodologies and data accuracy, national circumstances and phase; and
- Experiences and knowledge gained from demonstration activities and consideration of paragraph (a) of Appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16 should be taken into account.

(d) Process for communication

Developing countries should internationally report relevant information, including methodology for establishing reference levels, data used, progress on the establishment of a system for quality assurance and quality control, challenges faced, and efforts for capacity building. To this end, possible reporting system includes (1) biennial report, (2) existing national communications, and (3) supplemental report on REDD-plus in accordance with existing UNFCCC's reporting and review system. It is important that the report is reviewed by experts as high expertise is required to establish reference levels.

To reduce burden for reporting, taking account of discussion on MRV for developing countries, the report on reference levels should be made in conjunction, and consistent, with report under the UNFCCC and other relevant report on REDD-plus in the efficient manner.

(e) Other relevant issues

As establishment of framework on REDD-plus is evolving process according to each country's capacity and phase, it is important to reduce uncertainty through assessing and reflecting experiences and knowledge gained from demonstration activities to reference levels and to re-evaluate reference levels. Although it is important that pools, which would be significant sources by key sources analysis, are included when establishing reference levels, treatment of pools needs to be considered, taking into account of national circumstances and phases.

3. Guidance on modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying, as referred to in appendix II to decision 1/CP.16

(a) Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of appendix I to decision 1/CP.16

Measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, forest carbon stock and forest area changes resulting from the implementation of activities referred to in paragraph 70 of Decision 1/CP.16 is important process to provide reliable estimate and assessment, to detect the changes over the years, and to consider and implement further mitigation actions by identifying drivers of deforestation.

In order to enable to review and assess implementation of REDD-plus activities, it is necessary for developing countries to provide transparent, consistent, comparable, accurate and complete information and to continuously improve them, in accordance with capacity and phases.

Verification plays important role to develop more robust MRV system. Measured anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, forest carbon stock and forest area changes resulting from the implementation of activities referred to in paragraph 70 of Decision 1/CP.16 and domestic MRV system, in accordance with phases referred in paragraph 73 of Decision 1/CP.16 and national capacity, should be assessed, and the results should be used to improve MRV and system for quality assurance and quality control.

It should be noted that elements listed in paragraph 1 of Appendix I to Decision 1/CP.16 seem to be qualitative.

(b) Elements

Information should be reported scientifically by using the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines. And methodology, data and emission factors used should be kept consistent over the years and between other land use categories. Following information is important to be reported:

- Methodology, emission factor, activity data;
- Assumption adopted for estimation;
- Uncertainty;
- Quality assurance and quality control;
- Forest monitoring system (e.g. forest inventory, relevant institution, organization, budget, human resources etc.);
- Implementation of REDD-plus activities and their effects;
- National system; and
- Change in methodology and national system

(c) Process for reporting

It is important that minimum requirement of MRV should be secured to perform REDD-plus. For example, following process would be assumed as reporting process: (1) a developing country regularly submits report based on common templates which assist to compare and assess, (2) the UNFCCC secretariat checks the report to see if it includes all elements to be reported, (3) the secretariat publishes the report on the website, and (4) the secretariat (or entrusted experts) reviews results of REDD-plus activities at regular intervals and reports it to the COP.

In the case that gases and pools are added or accuracy improvement is possible by improving inventory data and methodology, it is necessary to secure process to maintain consistency with reference levels without preventing efforts for improving inventory

As referred in paragraph (c) in Appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16, process should be consistent with guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country.

(d) Other relevant issues

Following issues should be taken into account:

- Idea of phased approach is useful in the establishment of the MRV system.
- It is important to effectively use existing data collection frameworks and forest monitoring system;
- It would be effective to make common reporting formats to promote reporting by developing countries;
- It is important to share information on MRV to know other countries' MRV related activities;
- It is also important to share developed countries' relevant experiences and knowledge including using relevant decisions, guidance and guidelines as developed countries have experiences on MRV including in the forest sector;
- MRV process should minimize costs and losses as possible; and
- It should be noted that assessing deforestation and forest degradation at the same timing is difficult, taking into account of current technological progresses.

NORWAY

September 2011

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

The Cancun Decision 1/CP.16 was a milestone on the way to an operative and comprehensive REDD+ agreement under the UNFCCC. Achieving further, substantive progress on this pathway at COP 17 is a priority issue for Norway. A successful outcome on REDD+ in Durban will heavily depend on progress in SBSTA on the work programme defined in appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16.

In this respect Norway welcomes the conclusions from SBSTA 34 inviting for submission of views on a range of methodological issues related 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. These include guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected, modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels, and modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying as referred to in appendix II to Decision 1/CP.16.

This submission contains views from Norway related to (a) guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected and (b) guidance on modalities relating to forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels.

A. Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected

1. It is Norway's opinion that a COP decision on this matter is necessary to operationalise the full implementation of REDD+ as agreed in the Cancun Decision. As Parties have been progressing on REDD+ preparation and implementation; social, environmental and governance safeguards are increasingly seen as sustainability elements contributing to successful REDD+ outcomes. Norway believes that the ability to provide information on safeguard processes and outcomes will be critical if REDD+ is to succeed and the capital needed to run a global incentive structure for REDD+ as agreed in the full implementation phase is to be raised.
2. Robust and informative guidance developed by SBSTA should be valuable and useful to REDD+ countries in developing national systems to provide information on safeguards. The guidance should also provide for transparency and predictability to domestic as well as

international communities on what information to expect regarding how safeguards are addressed and respected in a country undertaking REDD+ activities. The guidance may also contribute to fruitful cooperation between REDD+ countries. In addition, the development of a solid and unambiguous understanding of safeguards within the UNFCCC might facilitate the work on safeguards related to other bodies and organisations.

3. Norway's position is based on what we believe is necessary to construct a robust system that will succeed in delivering REDD+ results, contributing to the ultimate objective of the Convention and respecting the needs of cross-cutting and adjacent policy objectives.

Characteristics

4. Broader principles that are relevant for the development of a system for information, and the provision on information, on how safeguards are addressed and respected include: transparency, involvement of stakeholders, reliability of information, regularity, consistency over time, accuracy, international comparability, and complete coverage in addressing each of the seven safeguards as described in paragraph 2 of Appendix I to Decision 1/CP.16. In addition, alignment with the provision of related information to other relevant international agreements needs to be ensured.
5. Paragraph 71 (d) of the Cancun Agreements requests Parties aiming to undertake REDD+ activities to develop a system for providing information on how safeguards referred to in annex 1 to this decision are addressed and respected throughout the implementation of these activities, while respecting sovereignty. The terms «addressed» and «respected» are key terms here. Norway's understanding of these terms and the implication of the matter at hand is as follows: The term «addressed» relates to policy measures which are planned, implemented, or has been implemented relating to the safeguards; that is action that is intended, is taking place or has taken place. The term thus implies descriptions of policy. The term «respected» implies the achievement of a certain result. This is because when it may be concluded that the safeguards are «respected», the outcome of any actions is known. The term “respected” therefore mandates a description of the situation in relation to each safeguard. It is Norway's understanding that both these terms are equally important, though both might not be equally relevant to the information provided on all safeguards.
6. A system to provide information, as well as the provision of information, serves at least two purposes: a) to inform and strengthen the policy work and implementation of REDD+ policies, and b) to satisfy the needs of financial contributors on the use of finance and implications of policies and activities. Results-based payments require a system with independent review of information to ensure fulfilment of safeguards.

Design

7. Norway understands the task set upon SBSTA to be along two main lines: Firstly; to develop guidance on what a system for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected may look like. SBSTA should describe its main features, whilst keeping flexibility for the adjustment to national circumstances. Secondly; SBSTA is to develop guidance as to what information may be relevant to provide for the safeguards as identified in Annex I of the Cancun Agreements, whilst respecting the different circumstances in which the safeguards are to be applied.
8. Norway believes each Party should develop a system that fits its national circumstances. Nonetheless, Norway would see merit in each Party, when providing information on how the safeguards are addressed and respected, also providing information on how the system is built up and functions. That is, the system should provide meta-information: on how the information on the safeguards has been collected, ie a description of the methodologies applied; how participation of indigenous peoples and other relevant groups in the collection of the information has been catered for; what sort of quality assurance system has been applied to the information once collected; and when and where the information is from. The relationship to subnational systems should be elaborated when applicable. It is Norway's understanding that the participation of relevant stakeholders as described in the Cancun Agreement Annex I also covers the participation in the gathering of information for the safeguards information system.
9. Norway recognises the importance of adjusting to existing national institutions and using existing systems when possible and practicable. The safeguards information system should be developed in the context of national legislation and policies.
10. Norway would be happy to engage with other Parties as well as representatives of civil society to discuss what may be useful guidance to provide for the various safeguards as identified in Annex 1 of the Cancun Agreements. A core set of information requirements would be recommendable to ensure international comparability. This would also facilitate exchange of lessons learnt.
11. One example, based on Annex 1 para 2 (a), could be for SBSTA to indicate what international conventions and agreements the Parties may consider it relevant to provide information on. This would provide unambiguous guidance to the Parties, hopefully being helpful as to what considerations may be useful in their work on REDD+.

Provision of information

12. The information should be provided to the UNFCCC Secretariat through the channel deemed most appropriate, such as the biennial update reports. Norway is of the opinion that the Cancun decision mandates the provision of information at regular intervals. This is related to the use of the term «throughout» in para 71 (d), implying that the information must be provided at set times, with a set period of time between each provision of information. The information should be provided in one of the UN languages and should be made publicly available.
13. Norway also sees merit in creating space for Partner countries to share experiences and lessons learnt, and would be in favour of discussing the possibilities for dialogue between Parties on the basis of the information provided. SBSTA may be an appropriate body to consider this.

B. Guidance for modalities relating to forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels

Introduction

14. The term “modalities” is understood by Norway to specify a set of requirements adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Hence, the task upon SBSTA is to prepare a set of requirements for Forest Reference Emissions Levels (RELs) and Forest Reference Levels (RLs) for REDD+. Norway strongly supports the adoption of a set of modalities for RELs and RLs at COP-17 in Durban that provide clarity on the data needs and processes.
15. The terms “Reference Levels”, “Forest Reference Emissions Levels” and “Forest Reference Levels” are not used consistently in the literature. In this document the terms RELs and RLs are used as these correspond to the terms used in paragraph 71 (b) of Decision 1/CP.16. For further information, see “**Definitions**” below.
16. Norway also recognizes the valuable input to the current discussions from several actors and fora. This submission draws on, among others, the report “Modalities for REDD+ Reference Levels: Technical and Procedural Issues” released by Meridian Institute (2011). The report is available from http://redd-oar.org/links/RL_report.pdf.

Principles

17. The following principles should form the basis for the development of REL/RL modalities:

- **Environmental integrity:** The modalities should reflect the agreed outcome of a REDD+ mechanism to slow, halt and reverse the loss of forest cover and carbon stocks, taking into account the ultimate goal of the convention to reduce GHG emissions and avoid dangerous climate change.
- **Access:** The modalities should create incentives for developing country Parties undertaking REDD+ actions to participate in and benefit from an international REDD+ mechanism, taking into account their respective capabilities and national circumstances.
- **Simplicity:** The modalities should establish a clear and straightforward process. They should limit data and formal requirements to those necessary to ensure the integrity of RELs and RLs.

Purpose

18. RELs and RLs will serve as business as usual-baselines (BAU) for emissions and removals from forests in developing countries. Hence, RELs and RLs will serve as a baseline to measure the effects of new policies and measures on emissions and removals.

19. RELs and RLs will form an important basis for the establishment of compensation baselines (CBs). The CB is the quantity of emissions below which a country qualifies for international support in a greenhouse gas based REDD+ system. While CBs will most likely be formed in relation to BAU-baselines, they are not necessarily the same, and it is therefore important to stress that this document concerns mainly RELs and RLs, *not* CBs. Setting CBs should ensure environmental integrity and be adjusted according to unilateral REDD+ actions, and they therefore involve nation-specific aspects of both environmental, political, and socioeconomic nature in the broader sense. The discussion of these should therefore be kept separate from the current REL/RL discussion.

Scope

20. Through the Cancun-decision paragraph 70, countries are encouraged to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking action within the five agreed activities.

21. The RELs/RLs shall correspond to the combined outcomes of the chosen activities, not separate RELs/RLs per activity. In Norway's view, all parties should at least include activity 70 (a) and 70 (b) (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation), but all possibilities for reducing total emissions are encouraged.
22. Particular attention is needed with regards to forested peatlands, as these contain very significant amounts of carbon, and because drained peatlands continue to emit carbon for many years after disturbance. However, also non-forested peatlands are important in this regard, and Norway therefore welcomes Appendix II (a) of Decision 1/CP16 and the related discussions on implications of REDD+ in a broader land use context. Norway would welcome further discussion of peatlands as soon as possible.

Definitions

23. The following definitions should be understood as *Norway's* current understanding of these terms:
 - **Forest Reference Emissions Level (REL)** is the amount of gross *emissions* from a geographical area estimated within a reference time period (REDD).
 - **Forest Reference Level (RL)** is the amount of net *emissions/removals* from a geographical area estimated within a reference time period (REDD+). I.e. we do not understand the term as referring to *an area of forest*, but to forest related *emissions/removals* from an area. The net value is calculated using estimated values for gross deforestation and degradation, and removals through sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks.
24. In other words, RELs and RLs differ in their scope. While RELs only cover emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (DD), RLs also cover removals through sustainable forest management and/or enhancement of forest carbon stocks. However, it must be stressed that even though we propose to use anticipated net values of emissions/removals, it is important that data reported can be disaggregated in order to see how big a role the different mitigation actions are expected to play. Estimates of historic emissions should be based on activity data following IPCC Approach 3 (geographically explicit data) and tier 2 or better for emission factors. With regards to conservation of carbon stocks, the incorporation of this into the calculations is challenging, and Norway would welcome further discussions in SBSTA on how to address this.

25. In Norway's view, the different natures of RELs and RLs implies an option for countries to choose whether they aim to seek results based payments only based on emission reductions from deforestation and forest degradation or if they also wish to seek payments based on carbon removals by their forests. Any country may start with a focus on emissions and broaden its efforts to cover carbon removals at a later stage.
26. A concern in relation to carbon enhancement raised by several actors in previous discussions regarding REDD+, is cases where deforestation of areas are not sanctioned, but reward is given for subsequent "enhancement of carbon stocks" in the same areas. While a comprehensive and well functioning REDD+-mechanism would capture these challenges, it is important that these issues are taken into consideration, especially in an interim phase. Norway would welcome further discussions in SBSTA on how to deal with challenges like these. One possible solution to this that may be considered could be a time limit for when a deforested area is eligible for inclusion in the REDD+ calculations.
27. RELs and RLs are to be developed based on historic data and *adjusted for national circumstances* to constitute business-as-usual baselines for forest related emissions and removals. In relation to RELs and RLs, Norway understands national circumstances to refer to forestry scientific circumstances. The term should be understood somewhat differently when **Compensation Baselines** (CBs) are discussed. Setting CBs needs to ensure environmental integrity, and could also be part of a country's unsupported domestic actions. They therefore involve nation-specific circumstances of environmental, political, and socioeconomic nature in the broader sense. The RELs and RLs, however, should be predictions of forest related emissions and removals in a BAU-scenario, and should be based on the best available, objective scientific knowledge.

Area based vs. carbon based RELs and RLs

28. In Norway's view, RELs and RLs for results based compensation (phase 3) must be based on estimates of carbon emitted or removed.
29. Area-changes are only relevant for emissions from deforestation and removals through afforestation or reforestation. Emissions caused by forest degradation or removals through carbon stock enhancement or the sustainable management of forests, will not be covered through an area based approach to RELs and RLs.
30. However, in an interim phase, area based RELs and RLs could be used based largely on area change data. This will allow parties to start activities using interim/proxy values for emission estimations, which can be substituted by a full scale system when data coverage and capacities are sufficiently developed.

Process

31. As developing country parties will have very different preconditions for setting a national REL/RL, the reference levels could be submitted progressively as the parties become ready to do so.
32. Norway recognizes that the establishment of carbon based RELs and RLs represents a significant challenge, inter alia in terms of the availability of historic data in many countries. We therefore suggest a stepwise approach to the setting of RELs and RLs, allowing for gradual improvements in their accuracy.
33. In accordance with paragraph 73 of the Cancun agreements, we suggest that the collection of the necessary data to estimate historic forest related GHG emissions and removals is conducted through the first two phases, allowing for results based demonstration activities based on “interim REL/RLs” and “interim CBs” in the second phase. Interim REL/RLs and CBs may be based on data on area change, combined with conservative emission factors. By using conservative emission factors, the system not only recognizes that further knowledge is needed; it also provides parties with a strong incentive to expand and improve their research and MRV-activities. Other incentives for entering phase three should also be explored.
34. It must be stressed that all parties involved in mechanisms that deliver payments based on interim RELs/RLs and CBs must accept that levels are re-negotiated and verified at regular time intervals to ensure that the levels are in accordance with the latest knowledge.”Interim RELs/RLs and CBs” should therefore be understood as RELs/RLs and CBs that are to be revised and re-negotiated at a later stage. In countries where subnational approaches are used in an interim phase, the goal should always be to reach a national REL/RL within specific timeframes and as soon as possible. A condition for entering into results-based compensation schemes should be the existence of agreed national CBs, based on RELs/RLs covering the same geographical area.
35. It is imperative that the RELs/RLs submitted by the parties are subject to thorough, independent and transparent review. The review process could follow a procedure inspired by the process currently being used to review forest management reference levels for Annex I countries. The RELs/RLs should also be revised at regular time intervals to adopt the best knowledge available. The time intervals should be long enough to ensure predictability for developing countries and to capture dynamics of forest carbon fluctuations, and at the same

time be short enough to ensure that they are in harmony with the latest knowledge. A revision of the RELs/RLs every five years could be suitable.

36. The following principles should form the basis of RELs/RLs submitted by the parties:

- **Objectivity:** The submissions should rely on sound science and limit the room for bias. Relevant guidelines from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) should be taken into account concerning inclusion of GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks.
- **Empirical basis:** RELs/RLs should be based on historic emissions and removals, adjusted to national circumstances as required to improve accuracy.
- **Transparency:** Party submissions and the data they contain should be public. Entities approving RELs/RLs should publish the rationale for their decisions. Stakeholders should be consulted and their comments taken into account prior to submission.
- **Independence:** Conflicts of interest among those developing, reviewing, and approving RELs/RLs should be identified and avoided.

37. Norway also recognizes the need for a deeper discussion regarding compensation baselines. The complex nature of CBs, combined with the current progress on RELs/RLs, calls for increased attention to these issues.

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.

Submission of Switzerland
REDD+ information systems on safeguards, forest reference levels, and MRV
September 19, 2011

Switzerland is pleased to submit this contribution to the guidance requested by the SBSTA at its 34th session for REDD+. Submissions were invited in FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.14 for **views on the 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:

- **guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected,**
- **guidance for modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels,**
- **guidance on modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying.**

Specifically for safeguards, Cancun decision 1/CP.16 (paragraph 71(d)) requests developing countries undertaking REDD+ actions to develop a system for providing information on the safeguards as identified in Appendix I paragraph 2. (a)-(g) of Decision 1/CP.16. Further, Para. 71d states that the information provided on this system must demonstrate how the safeguards are being **addressed and respected** throughout implementation of REDD+. Switzerland considers this system to be a requirement for success.

Further, developing modalities for forest reference levels and making progress on modalities to measure, report, and verify REDD+ impact, as requested in the L.14 document, are for Switzerland immediate priorities. Methodological guidance is needed immediately to contribute to ongoing REDD+ efforts. Therefore, we take advantage of this submission to urge Parties toward completion of this phase of work by the SBSTA at its 35th session en route for development of REDD+ draft text for Durban, eventually contributing to the success of COP17.

1. Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected:

Switzerland's general view on information systems for safeguards is that they must provide a reliable and comparable basis on which both national and international assessment of the social and environmental benefits as well as governance aspects of REDD+ actions can be made. This information system must be integrated into other monitoring and reporting efforts that simultaneously cover emission reductions, management of forests, and national reporting. Ensuring the participation in, quality, and on-going improvement of information systems for safeguards is essential to providing constant feedback and continued finance of REDD+ programs and will ultimately consolidate their credibility.

(a) Characteristics

- be based on transparent, accurate and reliable sources (accountability) and methods of social, environmental and governance information;

- should prioritize strengthening and build on existing national and international systems, institutions and methodologies for monitoring and reporting on environmental, social and governance issues;
- information and reports should be publicly available and readily accessible.

(b) Design

- draw upon existing data sets, analysis, systems, guidance and frameworks for information provision on social, environmental and governance issues;
- information on and analysis of the respect for safeguards should be incorporated into national strategies and action plans;
- need international guidelines or general principles that each country can adapt to its respective capacity and circumstances;
- combine on-the-ground information collection, including local recollection and analysis of information with institutional (top-down) perspectives and analytic tools, and may:
 - embody and reinforce the guidance and rules of existing environmental and human rights treaties, particularly UNDRIP and FLEGT, when relevant;
 - draw upon and complement relevant standards, for instance those of the voluntary forest carbon market;
 - use experience and analysis from multiple-benefit forest carbon and other land-use projects (i.e. REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards developed by Brazil and other individual countries, Social Impact Analysis, Development Indicators, etc.).

(c) Provision of information

- information systems for safeguards should be contributed to by multiple sources, including relevant stakeholders, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities;
- at the national level, developing countries should make the information publicly available, with particular attention to making the information available in affected communities. Information must be regularly updated and presented in a way that makes it useful and is easily accessible to stakeholders in-country.
- at the international level, the information from each national system should be provided through a common international structure, linked to and part of the broader system under the UNFCCC.

(d) Potential barriers, including barriers, if any, to providing information, on addressing and respecting safeguards

- governance: the strengthening of governance and monitoring structures, particularly local and national forest governance programs will be required;
- national legislation and its enforcement, particularly concerning land tenure and the governance of natural resources must evolve to more effectively address REDD+ safeguards;
- support must be provided for capacity building and through funding. More resources should be prioritized for LDCs than other countries with more resources;
- effectively complying in addressing and respecting safeguards should be expected to vary according to national capacity and circumstances, but improvement should be required.

(e) Other relevant issues

Safeguards are not an additionality, rather a requirement for REDD+ success.

2. Guidance for modalities relating to forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels:

Forest reference levels should be established transparently, taking into account historic data, and adjusted for national circumstances (Paragraph 7 of Decision 4/CP.15). This reference level is then compared to the actual level of emissions or removals as well as of carbon stocks to measure the impact of REDD+.

Paragraph 71b of 1/CP.16 mentions two different kinds of reference levels:

- A **forest reference level** to measure forest area change combined with the change in carbon stocks and corresponding change in emissions or removals;
- A **forest reference emission level** to measure the emissions and removals from forests being deforested, degraded, managed or enhanced;

Switzerland favors using just the term **forest reference level** because it encompasses and is more comprehensive than a forest reference emission level.

(a) Scope and/or purpose

- a **forest reference level** encompasses a system that will measure deforestation, forest degradation, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks by accounting for:
 - forest area change, distinguishing between natural forests and plantations;
 - carbon stock changes and the emissions or removals from the forests being deforested, degraded, managed or enhanced;
- drained peat is a special case as very significant emissions are ongoing until the area is rewetted or all the peat is depleted;
- forest reference levels must be established at the national level;
- if sub-national forest reference levels are set, this is an interim measure and these should eventually aggregate toward one national level as soon as capacity and respective capability allow.

(b) Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of appendix I to decision 1/CP.16

Reference levels are established according to country-specific technical and policy factors. In assessing the environmental integrity of the levels these differences must be taken into consideration:

- in developing countries with high deforestation rates, reference levels should reflect an intent to reduce emissions, conserve and sustainably manage forests, tackle drivers of deforestation, and improve the livelihood of forest-dependent peoples;
- in the particular case of developing countries that have high forest cover and low deforestation, baselines might be constructed to reward maintenance of carbon stocks;
- other factors that indirectly put pressure on forests should also be taken into account, such as population growth, increases and changes in food consumption patterns, changes in food production patterns, changes in energy demand and supply, etc.

(c) Guidance for the construction;

- The construction of forest reference levels in developing countries should follow a process through which:
 - the modalities for establishing them should respond directly to their ecological circumstances and sustainable management policy;
 - be transparently constructed and communicated;
 - be independently reviewed and updated periodically;
 - be approved by the COP.
- A forest reference level should be based on:
 - historical emissions and removals,
 - the state of forests, i.e. forest cover (high or low), forest carbon stocks relative to carbon carrying capacity,
 - usage patterns (high or low deforestation) and rate of loss of forest carbon and their causes/drivers.
 - future projected use of forests and development plans;
- short and long-term climate, social and national forest management goals should influence the setting of baselines to create positive incentives that will orient them ambitiously;
- baselines should ensure that all Parties collectively are meeting the objective of the REDD+ mechanism to slow, halt and reverse forest cover and carbon loss.

(d) Process for communication;

- forest reference levels should be independently reviewed and updated periodically, as is the case for Annex I;
- involve the participation of relevant stakeholders.

(e) Other relevant issues.

- support for developing countries to develop reference levels is required in the form of developed country finance (common but differentiated responsibility) as is provision of capacity building, sharing experience, IPCC methodological guidance, south-south cooperation and other forms of practical support;
- definitions for degradation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks need to be developed.

3. Guidance on modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying, as referred to in appendix II to decision 1/CP.16:

(a) Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of appendix I to decision 1/CP.16;

- the emissions reductions achieved through REDD+ activities must be measured through transparent, consistent, and accurate monitoring of anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;
- modalities for the reporting of the non-carbon impact of REDD+, i.e. respect for the safeguards, should be compatible with and complementary to the enhanced reporting guidelines;
- full and effective participation of stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages of MRV

- developing country national forest monitoring systems, which combine remote sensing and ground-based inventory, are in differing states of capacity and capability, however national forest monitoring systems should be transparent and robust;
- taking into account the limited financial and logistical capacity of many developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDs, simplified reporting requirements should be considered;
- particularly in the first phases of REDD+, temporary simplification might include:
 - interim sub-national monitoring,
 - when full MRV is not possible, the use of conservative estimations of emission reductions: (use of tier 1 approach, use of default emission factors),
- monitoring and reporting at the sub-national level is permitted as an interim measure. In this case the system should provide information on how sub-national information is integrated into national reporting and under which circumstances interim monitoring should be permitted;
- measuring, reporting and verifying REDD+ activities should be entirely compatible with MRV of other sectors under the UNFCCC, i.e. NAMAs.
- guidance should be developed including on data sources and using methodologies that are transparent, clearly defined and easy to verify objectively;

(b) Elements

- IPCC guidance: the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines adopted or encouraged by the COP should be used to estimate emissions and removals from forests, changes in forest carbon stocks, and forest area changes, as specified in decision 4/CP.15;
- the COP should encourage the use of the latest version of the IPCC guidelines as adopted by the IPCC (currently the 2006 IPCC guidelines);
- with regards to estimating emissions from peatlands, it should be noted that credible estimates can only be derived from the revisions to the 2006 guidelines that are currently in progress;
- simplified reporting requirements will in some cases be necessary and appropriate modalities need to be developed, i.e:
 - tier 1 accounting for certain pools (default values, emission factors),
 - sub-national reporting as an interim measure
- recognition of the beneficial contribution that could be made to MRV by indigenous peoples and local communities;
- FAO categorisation of forests as currently used for reporting on forests should be integrated and used to distinguish between categories of forest and associated activities such as plantation conversion and forest degradation in support of more precise reporting under the UNFCCC.

(c) Process for reporting

- MRV of REDD+ should be integrated into national reporting efforts and published in National Communications. How this information will be integrated in biennial reports is still to be determined;
- the modalities for NAMA reporting and International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) should apply to REDD+ reporting;
- REDD+ reporting must be linked to financial reporting of both fast start funds and the Green Climate Fund.

(d) Other relevant issues.

At SBSTA 32 guidance was provided to “increase the number of experts trained in the use of the IPCC guidance and guidelines, by organizing and facilitating activities such as training of trainers workshops, and to work with the IPCC on promoting the use of the IPCC Emission Factor Database, and report on its progress to the SBSTA at its thirty-fourth session”.

Submission of the United States of America

SBSTA work program for REDD+ (Appendix II of 1.CP/16 and Annex II of FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.14)

September 26, 2011

At the Cancun COP in December 2010, the Parties agreed to a COP decision that included an ambitious multi-part agenda for the path forward on REDD+ under SBSTA. As outlined in Appendix II of decision 1/CP.16, the five components of the REDD+ SBSTA work program are land use, land use change and forestry activities; reference levels and reference emission levels; forest monitoring; measuring, reporting and verifying; and information systems for safeguards.

At SBSTA 34 in Bonn, the parties called for submissions on all components of Appendix II, and provided guidance for the submissions on reference levels, MRV, and safeguards systems.

In this submission the United States shares its views on outcomes for the 17th session of the COP in Durban, and on the components of Appendix II of 1.CP/16.



The United States recalls that the Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties in Cancun affirmed Parties should collectively aim to slow, halt and reverse forest cover and carbon loss, and encouraged developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities, as deemed appropriate by each Party and in accordance with their respective capabilities and national circumstances:

- (a) Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- (b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- (c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- (d) Sustainable management of forests;
- (e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;

So that REDD+ is contributing positively to the global efforts to address climate change, while recognizing that consistency with other elements of the negotiations ongoing under the UNFCCC, we consider the following to be achievable, and would support their inclusion in a decision at the 17th session of the COP in Durban:

On systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected: Parties should agree to guidance on systems for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in

Appendix I of 1.CP/16 are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of the same Decision, including characteristics, design, and provision of information.

On modalities relating to forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels: Parties could identify the scope and purpose of forest reference levels and forest reference emissions levels, and provide guidance on the characteristics, construction, and communication on the same.

On modalities for measuring, reporting, and verifying: The United States would see reporting on MRV for REDD+ to be part of Parties' broader reporting requirements. Biennial reports will include information on mitigation actions for all countries. To the extent a country includes REDD+ in their mitigation actions, those activities should be reported, consistent with biennial reporting guidelines, and any further specific guidance that may be developed for REDD+. Reflecting this, we would want to see an outcome noting that Parties should report on national REDD+ actions and associated emissions reductions, and methodologies and assumptions used in national-level measurement as an inherent part of reporting on mitigation actions through national communications and biennial update reports.

On modalities for forest monitoring systems: We note that the forest monitoring systems modalities identified in decision 4/CP.15 are sufficient to provide a basis for Parties to move forward on other elements of the workplan at this point; this decision should be reaffirmed by the Parties in Durban.

On land use, land-use change and forestry activities in developing countries as referenced in Para (a) of Appendix II of 1/CP.16: The United States recognizes that understanding and addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including agriculture, are extremely important in the context of REDD+. We support the development of a workplan leading up to an agreement at COP 18 on this issue, potentially including studies or expert meetings on key drivers and potential solutions; potential contributions of improved land use to mitigation; and applying IPCC guidance to address methodological issues to estimate emissions and removals resulting from these activities.

General guidance for submissions and future work regarding: guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected; modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels; and modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying, as referred to in appendix II to decision 1/CP.16

1. Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected:

(a) Characteristics;

- Coverage of all the safeguards as listed in Appendix 1 of Decision 1 of COP16, summarized here as:
 - Complementarity or consistency with objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
 - Transparent and effective national forest governance structures;
 - Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities;
 - Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities;
 - Actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity;
 - Actions to address the risks of reversals;
 - Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.
- Recognition that different processes or systems may be required to collect data on different safeguards.
- Empirical data based – the system should use process and outcome indicators where those make sense.
- Quality of information – robust methods, QA/QC documented, metadata on how data were collected.
- Ongoing information collection and provision – systems and capacities maintained or improved over time.
- Efficiency and simplicity so that information collection and sharing fits, to the extent possible, in existing institutions and processes.
- Transparency of data collection, sharing of information, and opportunities for stakeholder review – this will increase credibility and accuracy.
- Participatory in nature – involving affected stakeholders and local experts in design and implementation of the system.
- We expect that Parties will further elaborate their requirements in the context of their broader REDD+ frameworks.

(b) Design;

- We see the phrase “system for providing information” as referring to national systems that should reflect countries’ specific circumstances.
- In addition to the characteristics listed above, we believe a “system for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected” should include the full and effective participation of stakeholders, in a manner consistent with national sovereignty.

(c) Provision of information;

- We feel information on how safeguards are addressed and respected should be reported on in the context of broader reporting on REDD+. The U.S. would consider that Parties undertaking activities pursuant to paragraph 70 of the decision should include this information in their

biennial update reports referred to in paragraph 60(d) of decision 1/CP.16, as with other aspects of their activities under this section of the Cancun agreement.

- In their reporting, each Party should provide information on the manner in which each of the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 of 1/CP.16 is being addressed and respected. We would not consider it sufficient for Parties to pick and choose the elements identified in paragraph 2. Information on how the full and effective participation of stakeholders has been addressed should be included in the reporting.
- Qualitative and, where appropriate, quantitative information showing that safeguards are being addressed and respected should be provided to the Parties in sufficient detail for other Parties to have confidence that safeguards are being adequately addressed and respected.

(d) **Potential barriers, including barriers, if any, to providing information, on addressing and respecting safeguards;**

- We recommend that countries be requested to report transparently on any barriers to addressing/respecting safeguards.

(e) **Other relevant issues.**

n/a

2. Guidance for modalities relating to forest reference levels and forest reference emission levels:

(a) **Scope and/or purpose;**

- For the purpose of this submission document the terms “reference emissions levels” and “reference levels,” or REL/RLs, have been used interchangeably. This does not imply a judgment on the definition or use of these terms on the part of the United States.
- REL/RLs provide **benchmarks for estimating changes in net anthropogenic emissions/removals** resulting from REDD+ implementation.
- Should a pay-for performance system emerge, countries that wish to obtain results-based payments may also need to create a type of “incentives baseline,” for example adjusted for national circumstances and capabilities, and/or other factors. These baselines may differ from the REL/RLs.
- “Incentives baselines” should be designed so that REDD+ contributes to a real and significant **global net reduction in carbon loss** from deforestation and degradation, **and maintenance or increase in forest cover**.
- Guidelines and definitions for eventual “incentives baselines” should be developed in such a way as **to encourage maximum participation and guard against international leakage**.

(b) **Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of appendix I to decision 1/CP.16;**

- The REL/RLs represent a benchmark to measure net anthropogenic emission reductions, and should be **based on historical emissions data adjusted for national circumstances**.
- Major sources and sinks should be included in the REL/RL. We note that some countries may need to address this in stages, perhaps beginning with default data.
- High quality data¹ are essential to ensuring that REL/RLs reflect reality and encourage reductions.

¹ We recognize that data quality may differ for the varying scopes (perhaps good for RED but not for degradation, for example). Data quality may also vary among provinces/states.

(c) Guidance for the construction;

REL/RLs

- As noted above, the best starting point for creating REL/RLs is the use of historical data. Adjustments could then be made for national circumstances if justified. Deforestation is highly complex - drivers vary significantly by region and are subject to a range of unpredictable variables. Degradation is even more complex. Therefore it is extremely difficult to accurately predict long-term future deforestation and degradation rates.
- An **appropriate time period** for estimating historical emissions would need to be established.
- We note the value of **taking relevant guidelines from the IPCC** into account concerning inclusion of GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks, and the inclusion of all key sources.
- REL/RLs should represent net emissions/removals associated with forests at an IPCC land use category level, applying the IPCC guidance on consistent representation of lands. This type of land-based accounting is a robust and efficient approach to constructing REL/RLs.
- REL/RLs should be constructed in a manner that is **transparent and replicable**.
- The methodology, data and assumptions used for REL/RL construction, particularly if adjustments have been made for national circumstances, should be made publicly available, so that these results can be reviewed and independently replicated.
- For market-based financing in particular, a **minimum level of data quality** will need to be developed for REL/RLs. This could be organized according to: 1) data on changes in forest area, and 2) data to estimate changes in forest carbon stocks.
- A country might start with **subnational REL/RLs** for those sub-national areas with high capacity and high-quality data, scaling up eventually to a national REL/RL. Additional guidance should be considered for subnational REL/RLs.
- Guidelines on REL/RL construction should combine environmental effectiveness with procedural efficiency and establish a clear and straightforward process.
- REL/RLs Levels should be **updated at regular intervals**, based on clear guidance. These updates might take into account improvements in data availability, national circumstances, or broad trends that impact the analysis of the “business as usual” context.
- “Incentives baselines” should also be updated at regular intervals, guided by a long-term goal that identifies an emissions/removals pathway and results in a sustainable level of standing carbon stock within a reasonable time period.

(d) Process for communication;

- Communication on REL/RLs should be consistent with the guidelines to be developed under the Convention, including transparent reporting in biennial update reports and national communications every 4 years, which would be subject to international consultations and analysis.

(e) Other relevant issues.

- It would be useful to provide official guidance on the differences in the respective definitions of “national forest reference emission level” and “national forest reference level,” found in para. 71(b) of FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, as there has been confusion on this point in a number of fora.

3. Guidance on modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying, as referred to in

Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16:

(a) Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of appendix I to decision 1/CP.16

- Because REDD+ is a sectoral mitigation approach, guidelines for measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) should be part of, and **consistent with, the larger MRV framework as developed by the AWG-LCA**. As for actions taken in other sectors, this would include both a national system in place to monitor, report on and verify emissions from REDD+-related activities, and to the extent that such activities receive international support, international MRV of supported actions. This MRV system, as applied to REDD+, should **account for leakage** within the country, should a displacement of activities cause emissions from deforestation or forest carbon stock loss in another part of the country, or cause emissions in another land cover such as grasslands or wetlands.
- It should also **measure and report on reversals**. Reversals in stocks need to be tracked over time, whether they are temporary or permanent.²
- Countries should **measure and report on all significant emissions and removals from forest-related categories and relevant pools**, for example including organic soils such as peat, where significant.
- Consistent with the larger MRV system, a MRV system as applied to REDD+, should be adequately robust/comprehensive to detect the carbon stock changes from conversion of high carbon natural forests to plantations. (We note that the safeguards included in Appendix 1 of Decision 1 of COP16 “ensur[es] that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests”.)
- As noted earlier, we recommend that a MRV system should be based on **land-based accounting with consistent representation of lands**.

(b) Elements;

- MRV of national-level emissions reductions **should be based on a national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory**. The national GHG inventory is ideal for this purpose because it is based on IPCC methods, it is comprehensive in terms of emissions sources and sinks, and it is built on consistent representation of lands. This means it should account for leakage of emissions within a country, either to other forested areas, or to other land uses. As a result it will have a higher level of environmental integrity than other approaches
- Beyond the national greenhouse gas inventory, additional MRV might be required at the smaller scale, particularly when REDD+ projects and/or sub-national activities are nested within that national framework, which may be the case for some countries.
- All net emissions reductions claimed under REDD+ should be subject to international **consultations and analysis** as provided for in Paragraphs 62, 63, and 64 of decision 1/CP.16
- Consistent with paragraph 61 of decision 1/CP.16, emission reductions under REDD+ that are internationally supported would also be subject to **international MRV** according to guidelines to be developed under the UNFCCC.
- There are at least two features of REDD+ reporting that may require additional development in a REDD+-specific context: reporting on safeguards, and reporting on methodologies and assumptions related to RELs/RLs. Reporting on these issues should still be consistent with the overall MRV framework.

² For example, sustainable forest management activities may result in short term emissions that are later recaptured in tree growth. Other times, a regrowing forest may be claimed as enhanced stock, but if it is burned in a fire, the stored carbon is released and can no longer be counted as net emissions reductions. An MRV system needs to accurately measure these dynamic stock changes.

(c) Process for reporting;

- Any REDD+ reporting processes should be **consistent** with the overall international MRV and ICA framework, including **transparent reporting** in biennial update reports and national communications every 4 years, as well as **international consultations and analysis** of those reports.
- In addition, consistent with paragraph 61 of decision 1.CP/16, emission reductions under REDD+ that are internationally supported shall be subject to both **domestic MRV**, and **international MRV** according to guidelines to be developed under the Convention.

(d) Other relevant issues.

- Developing and implementing methodologies to measure degradation and related emissions will need additional attention, as this is especially complex.
- We note the other aspects of REDD+ -- conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, will also need to be addressed under MRV systems where appropriate.

4. Guidance on modalities for a robust national forest monitoring system, as referred to in Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16:

(a) Characteristics of national forest monitoring systems

- Systems should conform to already-agreed standards and characteristics as agreed in decision 4/CP.15.
- Systems should be based on a **consistent approach to analyzing and detecting land-cover change**. We recommend a consistent national-level approach, based on a combination of spatial analysis and field sampling. We recognize that a staged approach may be necessary to achieve this end.
- **Lands may be sub-classified within the IPCC categories** in accordance with IPCC guidance. This would allow a more explicit tracking of conversion from high-carbon stock forests to lower carbon –stock plantations or other forest types.
- Standardized carbon stock monitoring should be carried out based on **statistically representative sampling**, based on IPCC guidance.
- National forest monitoring systems should be linked to and supporting national MRV systems.
- For eventual market-based approaches, **higher tier/ certainty estimates** may be required.

(b) Elements of national forest monitoring systems

- Long-term monitoring systems should include **both remote sensing and field measurements**, ideally based on national forest inventories³. Remote sensing provides information on forest area and changes in forest area. Ground plots provide information on forest dynamics, are

³ The “best” approach to use for developing a forest monitoring and inventory system depends on individual country circumstances and reporting and accounting requirements. The credibility of the system will come from the appropriateness of its design and implementation, good data, transparency and Quality Assurance/Quality Control procedures. Good data management and long-term institutional commitment by the host country are essential for maintaining the quality of the monitoring system. While a national forest inventory is costly, it offers many benefits beyond the monitoring of carbon.

needed at intensive sites for standardized estimates of carbon stocks and validation, and are also a key component of estimating forest degradation.

- Neither remote sensing nor *in situ* measurements alone can provide all of the necessary information. However, when properly integrated, they can provide the geospatial and statistical basis for understanding carbon distribution and flux on the landscape
- **Modeling and analysis** are necessary for estimating and reporting carbon stocks for both biomass, dead wood, litter and soils, based on the data provided by the remote sensing and ground plots.
- **Measurements of carbon** and the development of algorithms are needed to estimate the carbon content of different forest types, biomass, and other land classifications. This data informs the national GHG inventory and provides the basis for more clearly estimating carbon emissions reductions. National forest inventories, even existing ones, should incorporate this information.
- Estimates of forest carbon should also include some **measure of the uncertainties** associated with those estimates.
- Reducing emissions effectively may also benefit from the ability to regularly observe areas under higher threat through **real-time tracking** of emissions “hot-spots,” to take note of on-going activities including unplanned deforestation and degradation. This targeted observation will allow land and forest managers to respond quickly to threats as they occur. Such targeted monitoring data can also potentially be used to improve the certainty of the overall inventory estimates.
- Sufficient technical and institutional capacity with regards to national forest inventories, both at the subnational and national levels, is key.

5. Identify land use, land-use change and forestry activities in developing countries, in particular those that are linked to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, to identify the associated methodological issues to estimate emissions and removals resulting from these activities, and to assess their potential contribution to the mitigation of climate change.

- The United States recognizes the importance of understanding more fully the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including agriculture, and enhancing emissions removals by forests. We recognize that reducing emissions from forests is inextricably linked to other land uses that increase or reduce pressures on forests. These land uses themselves also contribute to GHG emissions and removals. Additional work is needed to more fully analyze land use, in particular drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and the policies and approaches to address them.
- As such, we recommend a workplan for the coming year that includes studies or expert workshops focused on the following topics:
 - Key drivers of deforestation and degradation, and potential solutions;
 - Potential contributions of improved land use to climate change mitigation;
 - Applying IPCC guidance to address methodological challenges, including leakage and permanence, to estimate emissions and removals resulting from these activities.