Development of MRV Methodology for Effective and Sustainable Use of Forest Biomass

IGES-MRV Workshop 6 March 2012

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Outline

A) REDD-plus mechanism
B) Key decisions on MRV in forest sector
C) Key elements of Monitoring
D) FC team 5 activities on MRV
E) FC Plan on MRV for FY 2012
A) The REDD-plus mechanism

4 pillars of REDD+ negotiation:
• MRV system: to monitor efficiency of REDD+ activity
• Safeguards: to prevent negative impacts
• Deforestation Drivers: to develop effective national strategies
• Finance: D-ed countries support readiness & implementation
B) Key decisions on MRV in forest sector

**UNFCCC Decision 4/CP.15**
- Use the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines
- Use a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches for estimating forest carbon stock change...

**UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 (Cancun Agreements)**
- Develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of [REDD+ activities]
- Five forest-related activities which jointly comprise REDD+ (next slide)
- Develop a system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected...

**Appendix I to UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16**
- 7 areas of safeguards should be promoted & supported (next slide)
### C) Key Elements of Monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is monitored</th>
<th>How to monitor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forest Carbon</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deforestation</td>
<td>• Remote sensing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forest degradation</td>
<td>• Ground-based forest inventory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conservation of forest carbon stocks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sustainable management of forests</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Enhancement of forest carbon stocks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Safeguards</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• National programmes and international conventions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National forest governance structures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous people and local communities</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Participation of indigenous peoples and local communities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conservation of natural forests and biodiversity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The risks of reversals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Displacement of emissions</td>
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</table>
D) FC Objective and Activities in FY 2011

**Objective:**
To review MRV system and methodology and to contribute to capacity development of targeted countries for establishment of robust and compatible national MRV system

**Activities:**
1. Community Carbon Accounting (CCA) Action Research Project
2. IGES Workshop on Forest Sector MRV: From Carbon to Safeguards
3. IGES Workshop on MRV of Carbon Stock Changes and the Role of Communities
4. Developing a draft voluntary quality-of-governance standard in Nepal
5. Training manual for implementing Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
1. Community Carbon Accounting (CCA)  
Action Research Project

Objective:
Develop approaches to engage local communities in monitoring carbon stocks in their forests, including technical issues (e.g. plot design, sampling methods)

Assumptions:
• With training, communities can generate scientifically valid data from forest measurement
• Participation of communities is critical to ensure the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of mitigation action

Method:
Action research

Targeted countries:
Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>DKN, ARuPA</td>
<td>3 villages in Central Java</td>
<td>All 3 villages trained; &gt; 200 PSP in home gardens and woodlots; workshop</td>
<td>Data processing; linking with livelihood options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td>FPCD</td>
<td>5 clans in Madang Province</td>
<td>16 PSPs established; training program tested; data processed; mapping</td>
<td>Further training; Cost-benefit analysis; REDD+ feasibility assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>RECOFTC, WCS, FA</td>
<td>3 Buyong communities, Mondul Kiri</td>
<td>Training conducted; Rectangular and circular plots</td>
<td>REDD+ feasibility assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>NUOL</td>
<td>1 village</td>
<td>Training of research team; selection of site</td>
<td>Training of community teams and measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td></td>
<td>A/R CDM site</td>
<td>Starting from FY2012</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>All</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Launched CCA webpage</td>
<td>Follow-up workshop; Development of CCA Manual; Policy brief; Policy report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tentative findings:**

- With 3 - 5 days training, communities can take accurate measurements for carbon stock monitoring.
- Communities retain the knowledge and skills learnt, but it may be desirable that trained foresters work together with community teams in future monitoring.
Objectives:

- Share approaches and lessons learned and to explore synergies between initiatives on forest sector MRV

Results:

- 17 presentations, 60 participants (Governments, Research institutions, NGOs, Private sector)

Key findings/messages:

- National standards for forest sector MRV are needed
- Potential roles of indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and reporting
Objectives:

- Building a network to share experiences and learning on the role of communities in forest sector MRV to provide inputs for policy formulation in Indonesia.

Results:

- Participants: Central and local governments, donor agencies (UN-REDD, JICA, GIZ), NGOs, research institutes, private sector

Key findings/messages:

- Mainstreaming national MRV standard
- Capacity building and Community readiness for MRV system
Forest governance related initiatives

- **Safeguards** include “Transparent and effective national forest governance structures” (Decision 1/CP.16 Appendix I, 2.(b))

- A dedicated **monitoring** of governance safeguards will require a definition of ‘forest governance’, for REDD+ countries to report on it
  - No definition provided under the UNFCCC process
  - There are **common principles** of governance that can be applied to all countries, and this can be used for the basis of a definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic level (International commitments, national policies)</th>
<th>Carbon (Emissions activities)</th>
<th>Benefits &amp; impacts (Services, Products)</th>
<th>Governance (Safeguards)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operational level (National implementation)</td>
<td>National Forest Inventory</td>
<td>Monitoring for local implementation</td>
<td>Dedicated Governance Monitoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UN-REDD Newsletter 10

- **Joint research** between University of Southern Queensland and IGES

- **Objective:** Create and test a quality-of-governance standard relevant to forest sector (incl.REDD+) projects at national level in a pilot study country

- **Assumption:** Ultimately, any success of an international REDD+/MRV mechanism will depend on **governance arrangements** that are:
  - Broadly representative of interests (i.e. **inclusive**)
  - Verifiably responsible (i.e. **transparent** and **accountable**),
  - **Effective** in terms of decision-making processes
  - **Capable** of implementing programs that deliver emission reductions at scale

- **Methodology:**
  - Analysis based on a normative hierarchical framework of **Principles, Criteria & Indicators (PC&I)** for **quality of governance** (following Cadman 2011)
  - Preliminary online questionnaire survey
  - Key informant interviews
  - National stakeholder forum
### Activities & timeline

| Stage 1 | 07-08. 2011 | • Online questionnaire survey (131 questionnaires completed)  
- Identified cross-sectoral viewpoints in Nepal, and internationally (aid agencies) |
| Stage 2 | 09-11. 2011 | • Key informant interviews (total 55)  
- Identified preliminary verifiers for governance indicators |
| Stage 3 | 12.2011 – 02.2012 | • National stakeholder Forum, Kathmandu, 13-14 Dec., agreed on:  
- Verifiers for governance  
- Creating a steering committee  
• Analysis  
• Report & draft standard completed |
| Follow-up options | | • Dissemination in Nepal & beyond  
• Development of a formal voluntary standard |
5. Training manual on Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)

• What is FPIC?

  – It is the right of local communities and indigenous peoples to give or withdraw their consent on developments (projects) taking place in their territories.

  – In Decision 4/CP15, the UNFCCC called for participatory approaches to ground-based forest monitoring of carbon stock changes.

  – FPIC is an essential first step of engaging communities in MRV

  – FPIC can contribute information relevant to future monitoring & reporting on how social & environmental safeguards of Annex I 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected
• **Objective:**
  – To provide guidance on FPIC to REDD+ project developers

• **Methodology:**
  – Expert workshop held in Bangkok, August 2011
  – Information on training techniques gathered & compiled by consultant

• **Output:**
  – 177-page Manual for 2-6 days training

• **Progress:**
  – Final draft sent to printing
E) FC Plan on MRV for FY 2012

- Developing MRV methodology regarding role and participation of community in forest carbon stock monitoring (Community Carbon Accounting Action Research)
- Present voluntary quality-of-governance standard to international community for review
- Research on process and methodology of project-level REDD+ standards (e.g. VCS standard), including MRV system
Thank you