

6th SIS-SOI WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

I. Time and venue

Ha Noi, Wednesday 11/7/2018.

II. Participants

SIS-SOI working group members at Decision No 246 /QĐ-TCLN-VP dated 10 July 2017 of VNFOREST, representatives of UN-REDD Program Phase 2, UN agencies, State Steering Committee on 886 and REDD+, national and international consultants.

III. Chairman

Vice chairman of SIS-SOI working group, Deputy Chief of State Steering Committee Office – Mdm Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy

VI. Contents

Opening remarks were given by Mme Thuy (Deputy National Program Director, Viet Nam UN-REDD Phase II Programme), noting the purpose of this meeting was to review the beta version of the SIS webpage.

Presentations included the following:

- Hoang Viet Anh (National SIS Consultant) provided an overview of status and progress of work on the SIS phase 1 (v 1.0), including recommendations from the June mission, hosting solutions, roles of various institutions, webpage structure, and progress on populating the SIS. Questions raised for discussion included: how the SIS text should be referenced? And what types of reports could be generated?
- The SIS team also presented the early beta version of the webpage, outlining the platform used (Liferay), structure, how content can be arranged, the content management system, mobile view, and potential links to maps in FORMIS.

V. Conclusion:

Mme Thuy summarised the main points from the meeting:

1. The meeting between the four key partners on data access and technical issues should take place next week, including VNFOREST office (DID), FPD, State Steering Committee and FORMIS project. Contents will be focus on clear and detailed discussion on SIS website, information infrastructure, how to integrate and others technical issues relating to data and maps.

2. DID shall assign staff to come to the State Steering Committee Office and UN-REDD program phase 2 to check the utility of the 2 servers, and should more storage be needed, a request should be sent as soon as possible to UN-REDD program since the program is undergoing the review and adjustment of the plan for the last 6 months 2018.

3. The SIS team are requested to address comments so far and to share the link to the beta website with participants to provide further feedback. Further research is needed to ensure the website is designed beautifully.

4. Dr Dinh Duc Thuan is requested to continue to work with the data systems and sources outside of MARD to assess what is available; a one page report should be prepared on each of these systems. Update and revise reporting template for 12 national information systems.

5. Request the relevant agencies who in charge of SIS operationalization in the long run should consider and discuss on how to operate and maintain the SIS website when all the supporting programs and projects will be closed in 2018.

Prepared by
(signed)

Approved by
(signed)

Lê Hà Phương

Nguyễn Thị Thu Thủy

DISCUSSION

- Dr Nguyen Huu Dung (UN-REDD) asked if the clarification shown in the SIS is the most recent? It is showing the most recent update, the same as in the draft Summary of Information (SOI); it can be easily updated should there be changes during SOI finalisation.
- On whether all the policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) information has been utilised, it has – this information is integrated into the first SOI, and this has been used to populate the SIS, especially the information on ‘addressing’ the safeguards.
- Can there be a catalogue/library, or links to documents/resources for users? Yes, a catalogue can be set up, as well as links to approved/official external sources.
- For some safeguards, e.g. Safeguard E, will it show tables/maps? Can show maps and tables from FORMIS (5-year cycle), using official data. All data used for SIS should be official data. Beta web page is showing JICA map just as an example; however, JICA data is not considered official. This may need further discussion.
- How will data on ‘respecting’ safeguards from provinces be integrated? Information on respecting will come from both national and provincial levels. As it becomes available – e.g. from forest violations database, from M&E – it can be integrated into the system. There is unlikely to be a need for separate collection of data on safeguards at provincial level; this should be integrated into the future REDD+ M&E framework.
- Will there be an export function? Yes, export function can be provided. More discussion on what types of exporting is needed by users is needed. For a text-based website like the Mexico SIS, this is relatively simple. For a more complicated SIS with tables, maps, etc, it may be more complicated.
- Regarding integration with FORMIS, integration should be done while the FORMIS support project is still running. Mr. Thao suggested that a meeting be held as soon as possible involving VNFOREST, Forest Protection Dept (FPD), FORMIS and State Steering Committee Office to discuss the request and new circular on access to the data. Mr. Hai from FPD responsible for the data sharing policy.
- It was suggested to change the identified ‘data owner’ for SIS to the State Steering Committee Office, in the presentation/document.
- The issue of data storage was raised. The FORMIS support project is ending in October this year and storage space is running out. Mme Thuy noted that there

are two unused servers at State Steering Committee Office; DID should come and test the servers to see if they are useful.

- Regarding handover, will this be open or closed code?
Both open and closed code together setting code will be handed over.
- It was emphasised that linking to maps in FORMIS should be done carefully, to make sure the maps displayed are official.
- The approval of the SIS website will require the agreement of all departments under VNFOREST. There will be a Vietnamese version as well.
- Concerns were raised about accomplishing the integration while the FORMIS project is still operating, and about future operation of the SIS. Maintaining a website can be challenging for a govt dept, e.g. FPD website already hard to operate and maintain. In particular, information on SIS website needs to be verified as accurate and approved.
- Dr Thuan noted that mainly safeguards E, F and G will use information from FORMIS, but others will use information from other systems and sources. How can we get clear and consistent inputs from other databases? Different databases and sources are also updated on different cycles, e.g. every 2 years, or 5 years. This also needs to be considered.
- In addition, the SIS website should represent the views of the Viet Nam Government, and some data may be considered sensitive. There should be clear institutional responsibilities for future operation of the SIS.
- Mr Phuong (UN-REDD) noted that Dr Thuan has been investigating other systems and sources of information, and that phase 1 of SIS is focused on FORMIS and some other sources only, such as the first SOI. This will be an official national level report, and FORMIS also has official national data. Also noting that the SIS webpage will not be a separate website but will be part of the existing Viet Nam REDD+ website.
- Mr Thao raised some limitations related to data; e.g. there are two main sources of data, official data and data given with permission from the data owner. There needs to be special permission to show boundaries/borders.
- A question was raised about the ‘data analysis and reporting role’ mentioned in the presentation; this refers to analysing SIS data and preparing reports like the SOI. In addition to using SIS data, there needs to be staff to prepare such reports.
- Mr Steven Swan (UN-REDD Programme) provided some feedback on the SIS development so far: it’s important for the Government to take ownership of the

SIS, ensuring that it is happy with the system, the data, etc; UN Environment is exploring opportunities for support to further SIS development in next two years, but no guarantees; SIS is needed to receive results-based payments, so it is important for Government to operationalise it.

- Mr Baku (JICA) noted that environmental safeguards information will mostly likely come from FRMS, so need to be very sure what is really available (e.g. no layers yet on natural forest change). May need to talk with FIPI and FPD about the maps that are needed.