

UNFCCC Overview of NFMS and MRV for REDD-plus

Livingstone, Zambia, February 2014



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Outline of Presentation

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Introduction: The road to Warsaw

- The COP adopted 6 decisions on REDD-plus between 2007 and 2012 (basis for REDD-plus readiness activities)
- Important milestones for REDD-plus in Bali (COP 13, decision 2/CP.13) and Cancun (COP 16, decision 1/CP.16)
- At COP 19, **7 decisions** adopted as the **Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus**



The Guardian 30 Oct: Forest breakthrough is key to 2015 global climate deal



- **BBC 24 Nov: 'Signature' achievement on forests at UN climate talks**

The Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus

Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus

- **9/CP.19** Work programme on results-based finance to progress the full implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70
- **10/CP.19** Coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangements
- **11/CP.19** Modalities for national forest monitoring systems
- **12/CP.19** The timing and frequency of presentations of the summary of information on how all the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected
- **13/CP.19** Guidelines and procedures for the technical assessment of submissions from Parties on proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels
- **14/CP.19** Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying
- **15/CP.19** Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation



REDD-plus basic information

“REDD-plus”

- The COP encouraged developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities (decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70):
 - 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
- The COP recognized that implementation of these activities depends on the specific national circumstances, capacities and capabilities of each developing country Party and the level of support received



Implementation in phases

The implementation in phases has been decided in paragraph 73 of decision 1/CP.16. The decision describes a gradient transition between phases. Conceptually, this covers:

- Early phases: development and implementation of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities
- Full implementation phase: results-based actions that are fully measured, reported and verified



Support for REDD-plus

COP 16 in 2010 has urged Parties, in particular developed country Parties, to support through multilateral and bilateral channels the early phases of REDD-plus, in particular:

- The development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures and capacity-building
- 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
- Consideration of the safeguards referred to in paragraph II of appendix I of decision 1/CP.16

COP 16 also invited relevant international organizations and stakeholders to contribute to REDD-plus activities



Coordination of support

- Decision 4/CP.15 urged international organizations, NGOs and stakeholders to integrate and coordinate their efforts to avoid duplication and enhance synergy
 - Decision 1/CP.16 requested Parties to ensure coordination of REDD-plus activities, including of the related support, particularly at the national level
 - Decision 10/CP.19 invites interested Parties to designate a national entity or focal point to serve as liaison with the secretariat and bodies under the Convention, on coordination of support, and may also be nominated to receive and obtain results-based payments
 - The decision further encourages national entities/focal points, Parties and relevant entities financing REDD-plus to meet, on a voluntary basis, to discuss needs and functions identified in order to address issues relating to coordination of support
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Guidance to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)

By decision 9/CP.19, the COP requests the SCF:

- To consider the issue of financing for forests in its work on coherence and coordination
- To focus its soonest possible forum on issues related to financing for forests, including REDD-plus
- To invite experts on REDD-plus to its forum on forest financing issues



Results-based finance for REDD-plus (Decision 9/CP.19)

- The COP reaffirmed that results-based finance may come from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources
- The COP encourages financing entities, including GCF in a key role, to channel adequate and predictable results-based finance in a fair and balanced manner, and to work with a view to increasing the number of countries that are in a position to obtain and receive payments for results-based actions
- The COP decided to establish an information hub on the REDD Web Platform, to publish information on the results and corresponding results-based payments



Information Hub

- By decision 9/CP.19, the COP decided to establish an information hub on the REDD Web Platform to publish information on REDD-plus results and corresponding results-based payments, with the aim to increase transparency
- Once established, the information hub will contain:
 - REDD-plus results and a link to the technical report on their analysis, including the quantity of results for which payments were received (expressed in tonnes CO₂ eq)
 - Assessed REDD-plus reference levels and a link to the final report
 - The summary of information on how all safeguards are being addressed and respected
 - A link to the national strategy or action plan, as appropriate
 - Information on the national forest monitoring system



Elements that need to be in place to obtain and receive results-based finance (decisions 1/CP.16 and 9/CP.19)

The COP requested developing country Parties aiming to undertake REDD-plus activities, 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 the following elements:

- a) National strategy or action plan
- b) National forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level
- c) Robust and transparent national forest monitoring system
- d) System for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected



a) National strategy or action plan

- Decision 1/CP.16 requested developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issue, gender considerations and safeguards, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia indigenous peoples and local communities
- Decision 15/CP.19 encourages all Parties, relevant organizations, and the private sector and other stakeholders, to continue their work to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and to share the results of their work on this matter, including via the REDD Web Platform



b) National forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level - 1 of 3 (Decision 12/CP.17)

- The COP agreed that REDD-plus reference levels expressed in tonnes CO₂ eq per year are benchmarks for assessing each country's performance in implementing REDD-plus activities
- The COP agreed that a step-wise approach to national reference levels may be useful, enabling Parties to improve the reference level by incorporating better data, improved methodologies and additional pools, noting the importance of adequate and predictable support
- The COP agreed that a developing country should update a reference level periodically as appropriate, taking into account new knowledge, new trends and any modification of scope and methodologies



b) National forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level - 2 of 3 (Annex to Decision 12/CP.17)

Guidelines for submissions of information on reference levels

The information should be guided by the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines, as adopted and encouraged by the COP, as appropriate, and include:

- a) Information that was used by the Party in constructing the reference level, including historical data, in a comprehensive and transparent way
- b) Transparent, complete, consistent and accurate information, including methodological information and, as appropriate, a description of data sets, approaches, methods, models, if applicable and assumptions used, descriptions of relevant policies and plans and of changes from previously submitted information
- c) Pools and gases and REDD-plus activities included in the RL (significant pools and/or activities should not be excluded)
- d) The definition of forest used



b) National forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level - 3 of 3 (Decision 13/CP.19)

- Each submission of information on reference levels shall be subject to a technical assessment (submission is on a voluntary basis)
- Objective is to assess the degree to which the information provided is in accordance with the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 12/CP.17
- Offers a facilitative, non-intrusive, technical exchange of information on construction of reference levels
- The decision also invites Parties and relevant international organizations to support capacity-building for development and assessment of reference levels



c) Robust and transparent national forest monitoring system (NFMS) – 1 of 2 (Decision 4/CP.15)

- Should use a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest inventory approaches for estimating anthropogenic forest-related GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes
- Should provide estimates that are transparent, consistent, as far as possible accurate, and that reduce uncertainties, taking into account national capabilities and capacities
- Should be transparent and results are available and suitable for review as agreed by the COP



c) Robust and transparent national forest monitoring system (NFMS) – 2 of 2 (Decision 11/CP.19)

- NFMS are developed in the context of adequate and predictable support and should be guided by the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines, as adopted and encouraged by the COP, as appropriate
- NFMS should:
 - Provide data and information that are transparent, consistent over time, and suitable for MRV
 - Build upon existing systems, as appropriate
 - Enable the assessment of different types of forest in the country, including natural forest, as defined by the Party
 - Be flexible and allow for improvement
 - Reflect, as appropriate, the phased approach
 - May provide, as appropriate, relevant information for systems for the provision of information on how the safeguards are addressed and respected



d) System for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected – 1 of 2

- Safeguards are listed in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 (about ½ page)
- According to decision 12/CP.17, the system should:
 - a) Be consistent with the guidance identified in decision 1/CP.16
 - b) Provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis
 - c) Be transparent and flexible to allow for improvements over time
 - d) Provide information on how all of the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are being addressed and respected
 - e) Be country-driven and implemented at the national level
 - f) Build upon existing systems, as appropriate



d) System for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected – 2 of 2 (Decision 12/CP.19)

- Reiterated that developing country Parties undertaking REDD-plus activities should provide a summary of information on how all of the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities
- The summary of information should be provided periodically and be included in national communications, or could also be provided via the REDD Web Platform
- Timing: after start of implementation of REDD-plus activities
- Frequency: in line with national communications (and voluntarily via the REDD Web Platform)
- Decision 9/CP.19 agreed that developing countries should provide the most recent summary before they can receive results-based payments



Results-based actions should also be fully measured, reported and verified (Decision 14/CP.19)

- According to decision 9/CP.19, results-based REDD-plus actions should also be fully measured, reported and verified
- MRV of emissions and removals, forest carbon stock and forest area changes resulting from REDD-plus should be consistent with UNFCCC methodological guidance, data & information transparent and consistent over time, and with established reference level
- Results to be expressed in tonnes CO₂ eq per year and provided via biennial update reports (BUR) in a technical annex (voluntarily and in the context of results-based payments)



Ongoing work and outlook for 2014

Parties will consider:

- At SBSTA 40 in June: non-market-based approaches (including submissions by Parties and admitted observer organizations and an in-session workshop)
- At SBSTA 40 in June: non-carbon benefits (including submissions by Parties and admitted observer organizations)
- Between sessions: expert meeting on information hub
- At SBSTA 41 in December: development of systems for providing information on how all the safeguards are being addressed and respected (including submissions by Parties and admitted observer organizations)
- At SBI 41 in December: outcome of the expert meeting on the information hub



Ongoing work and outlook for 2014: REDD Web Platform

- Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders have been invited to share lessons learned and experiences gained on REDD-plus activities by submitting information to the secretariat for posting on the REDD Web Platform
- Provided information that has to be published on the REDD Web Platform:
 - a) Submissions with proposed reference levels
 - b) Final report on the technical assessment of REDD-plus reference levels
 - c) Technical report on the analysis of REDD-plus results
 - d) Summary of information on how all of the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities
 - e) Results of addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation



Summary (1 of 2)

- New guidance on NFMS, SGs, Drivers, TA of RLs and MRV provides clarity
 - Reference levels can be submitted to UNFCCC for facilitative, non-intrusive, technical exchange
 - Information on SGs, drivers, national strategies, etc. can also be submitted to UNFCCC at any time to share experiences and lessons learned globally
 - Nominations of LULUCF experts needed!
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Summary (2 of 2)

- Parties and relevant international organizations invited to support capacity-building for development and assessment of reference levels
 - REDD Parties may designate a national entity or focal point to serve as a liaison with UNFCCC, and may also be nominated to obtain results-based payments
 - Finance decision with a clear signal to the GCF, and others, to collectively channel adequate and predictable results-based finance in a fair and balanced manner
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Thank you for your attention!

Questions? <dnemitz@unfccc.int>

Websites for further information on REDD-plus:

1) <http://unfccc.int/redd>

2) <http://www.unfccc-redd-forum.net/>

