



United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

MISSION REPORT

Distribution: CCB, JH, MG, TJ UNEP UN-REDD	Name of person(s) that undertook mission: Cordula Epple
	Period (including travel days): June 3-5, 2013
	Projects: 2650.05 UN-REDD 2013
	Institution(s) or Meeting(s) and Venue(s): REDD+SES workshop on approaches to monitoring and assessing REDD+ safeguards performance, Proforest offices, Oxford
	Main Person(s) contacted: Joanna Durbin, Aurelie Lhumeau (CCBA), Phil Franks (CARE), Dawn Robinson (Proforest), Steve Swan (SNV), Pam Jagger (CIFOR / University of North Carolina), Gernot Brodnig (World Bank / FCPF), Michael Richards (Forest Trends), Jeff Hayward (Rainforest Alliance), Connie McDermott (Oxford University), Mary Menton (CIFOR / Global Canopy Programme)
File(s):	Objective(s): Present on UN-REDD's perspective on Safeguard Information Systems (SIS); participate in exchange of ideas and information on approaches to monitoring and assessment that could be relevant in the context of safeguards

Brief summary:

The point of departure for the meeting was the observation that several countries working with the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES) have made good progress on identifying indicators to monitor their performance against the standards, and new questions arise as they now move towards developing methodologies and institutional arrangements for the practical implementation of a 'monitoring system' (REDD+ SES language).

The meeting focused on a stocktaking of experiences with different approaches to collecting and assessing information on social and environmental performance from a range of forest-related initiatives. Discussions and group work addressed the potential relevance and suitability of various options related to data sources, sampling methods, institutional arrangements, review processes etc. in a REDD+ context.

UNEP-WCMC's participation in the meeting followed on an earlier process of dialogue on REDD+ safeguards issues between UN-REDD and REDD+ SES. The organizers generally seemed very positive about the past and possible future interactions with UN-REDD, and provided good space in the agenda for the presentation of UN-REDD's perspective on Safeguard Information Systems (SIS). The initial presentation by Joanna Durbin mentioned several UN-REDD tools as part of the resources available to countries in developing their national approach to safeguards and SIS. Phil Franks from the REDD+ SES Secretariat expressed a particular interest to hear more about the UN-REDD work on creation of a decision tree for choosing tools to support the development of national approaches to safeguards, and a wish follow up with UN-REDD colleagues on this.

Presentations on relevant lessons learned from other processes included experiences with the application of the safeguards policies of the World Bank, the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) procedure of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), and audit procedures for the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA). Participants also presented on insights from a number of projects and initiatives, such as:

- SNV support to the development of a national approach to safeguards and SIS in Vietnam;
- the development of a manual on Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment of REDD+ projects (SBIA Manual) by Forest Trends and Conservation International;
- the development of a tool for Livelihoods Impact Assessment (LIA) of the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) of the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process, which builds on the Poverty and Social Impact Assessment (PSIA) methodology of the World Bank and the Poverty Impact Assessment (PIA) approach of the OECD;
- the development of the WRI-led Governance of Forests Initiative (GFI) Framework of Indicators for

assessing forest governance, which includes indicators related to four thematic areas: land tenure, land use planning, forest management and forest revenues;

- the Learning Initiative on Social Assessment of REDD+ (LISA-REDD) study carried out in partnership between USAID and international organizations including CARE, CCBA, CIFOR and CI; and
- the Global Comparative Study on REDD+ led by CIFOR, which includes a scientific assessment of the social and biodiversity impacts of REDD+ initiatives in 6 countries around the world.

A further two presentations focussed on experiences with applying the REDD+ SES in Ecuador and Brazil.

An interesting discussion took place on the possible linkages between the gap analysis of policies, laws and regulations (recommended by UN-REDD as part of the development of a national approach to safeguards) and the FCPF SESA process, and between the development of an SIS and the Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMF) required by FCPF. Early experiences from the SESA process are likely to feed into the upcoming review of the World Bank's safeguards policies, which aims to prepare the ground for their realignment and reform.

The workshop developed a draft set of recommendations for practitioners and policy-makers on various aspects of collecting, assessing and reviewing safeguards information. These were to be presented at the REDD+ SES exchange and learning workshop in Indonesia (1-3 July) and finalized based on feedback from country participants at that workshop. While the recommendations are primarily aimed at countries using the REDD+ SES as a basis for their SIS, the organizers hope that they could be of interest to other countries as well. There are also plans to further develop the recommendations into a checklist of issues that countries should think about when developing an SIS.

As can be seen from the list of initiatives that were discussed, the focus of the meeting was clearly on the social rather than the environmental aspects of REDD+ implementation. This is indicative of a certain trend in coverage of the two areas within the REDD+ SES initiative, although efforts have been made to strengthen the environmental component of the standards. Future interactions with REDD+ SES should include support to continued consideration of environment-specific aspects.

Recommendation(s)/Action(s) to be taken:

Follow up action:	Responsible	Time-frame (by)
Contribute to review of the meeting report.	CE	Done.
Discuss possibility of visit by Joanna Durbin to CCB in August.	CE/VK/LM	Done.
Report back on the meeting to UN-REDD Safeguards Group.	CE/LM	Done.

Detailed report [] incl. [X] N/A.	Documents [] incl. [] list [] non	Date 11 August 2013
Classification [X] restr. [] unrestr.	Signature(s) staff member(s)	Signature(s) supervisor