

Coordination Group of the UN-REDD Programme

Decisions of meeting of 27 January 2012

Participants:

Coordination Group and alternates

FAO: Peter Holmgren

UNDP: Tim Clairs and Charles Mc Neill

UNEP: Mario Boccucci

Secretariat: Yemi Katerere

Apologies

Mette Loyche Wilkie

Others

Secretariat: Thais Linhares-Juvenal and Clea Paz

1. Guidance on UN-REDD Programme Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria:

Context: An inter-agency technical working group was formed and has been actively working together for several months on the development of the UN-REDD Programme Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC) and related tool. The SEPC has gone through two public consultation processes and has been presented at the sixth and seventh UN-REDD Policy Board meetings. The proposed culmination of the most recent consultative process is an external stakeholder workshop with representatives from the agencies, countries, civil society and other experts, which is scheduled for 8-9 February 2012.

Decisions:

- Restructure the 8-10 February workshop agenda to allow for a balanced discussion and recommendations on the principles and criteria, their scope and application (Leo with inputs from the Inter-agency working group). Specific questions to be addressed in the workshop include:
 - a. Should the application of the SEPC explicitly mention that these are/can be used by countries for the development of their own systems of safeguards. Or should this be captured only in the purpose of the SEPC whereby countries by applying the SEPC to UN-REDD activities will have an opportunity to test and learn about the development and use of standards and safeguards systems.
 - b. Should the SEPC be applied to the design and review of UN-REDD projects prior to submission to PB for approval? If yes, this would expand the set of criteria/standards used in the development and appraisal of UN-REDD Programmes.
 - c. A related question is whether with this extended set of criteria we would be creating an additional level of liability for the agencies which currently does not exist.
 - d. Should the SEPC be applied to "assess" National Programme implementation? As this implementation is directly under the fiduciary and programmatic responsibility

of the agencies, would such an application create an additional and incompatible level of liability for the agencies? If so, should the application of the SEPC in the implementation phase be only about testing the use and learning lessons but not assessing implementation?

- Regarding the two options on moving forward with SEPC/BeRT, the SEPC can be unpacked into two separate applications (1) *Principles, criteria and a tool that can help support countries on the development of their own systems of safeguards in line with the Cancun Agreement and (2) Minimum standards to be adhered to by UN-REDD Programme activities (quality assurance)*
- The agencies to undertake a preliminary analysis of policy and legal implications of implementing the SEPC and to circulate a resource paper before the workshop
- Agencies may wish to invite the appropriate experts to the pre-workshop meeting planned for 6-7 February and ensure appropriate participation from their UN-REDD teams at this meeting.
- After the workshop a new version of the SEPC and BeRT to be produced. The CG will revisit the document and assess whether or not the document can be reformulated in time for the Policy Board or if indeed it is ready content-wise to be presented to the Policy Board (Inter-agency working group and CG)
- Working Group to provide answers to the following questions:
 - a. Clarify the way in which the SEPC will be operationalized as well as their linkages to the accompanying tool (PB request).
 - b. Clarify the relationship between the application of the SEPC and that of the standards developed by the FCPF and other relevant bodies (PB request)
 - f. How this process relates to accountability framework and if so, the timeline for building this framework (PB request was specifically for the FPIC, but it would be useful to address also the SEPC). (Note: working group can liaise with the secretariat)

2. Date of next meeting: To be decided