



Expert Workshop on Monitoring Governance Safeguards in REDD+

24 - 25 May 2010, Chatham House, London

Concept Note

Background

During the REDD+ negotiations last year under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), consensus was reached that seven safeguards should be supported and promoted when undertaking REDD+ activities.¹ Three of these safeguards relate to governance:

(b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures....

(c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities...

(d) Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, including, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities....²

In Copenhagen at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the UNFCCC in December 2009, negotiators were coming to agreement on the need to monitor and report on the safeguards when negotiations were interrupted by events which led to the Copenhagen Accord. The provision on monitoring and reporting on safeguards therefore remains in square brackets in the most recently published draft text.³ The draft text further contains a provision requesting the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to 'develop modalities' relating to national forest monitoring systems, which would include safeguards if agreement can be reached on this.

¹ Draft UNFCCC REDD text, FCCC/CP/2010/2, 11 Feb 2010, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/02.pdf> (para 2, p 27)

² Ibid

³ Ibid, para 5 (c): '*requests that a developing country Party aiming to undertake activities referred to in paragraph 3 above, [provided that support is made available,] in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, develop: (c) [A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities referred to in paragraph 3 above [, and the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 above]....*

The need to monitor governance has also been recognized by the UN-REDD Programme, in its scope of work towards a 'MRV for Governance Framework', and by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The FCPF's latest template for REDD Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs) contains provisions on assessing governance (Component 2a) and on designing a system for monitoring 'other benefits and impacts over time, in relation to a country's reference scenario' (Component 4b) which requires countries to address key governance factors pertinent to REDD+ implementation and how they will provide for independent monitoring and review involving civil society.⁴

Several initiatives and different methodologies exist for monitoring governance. More established initiatives, such as independent forest monitoring and the Chatham House illegal logging indicators of progress project have been developed in the context of the need to strengthen governance and enforcement to tackle illegal logging, while more recent initiatives such as WRI's Governance of Forests Initiative and the CARE/CCBA REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards are being developed and piloted in the context of REDD+. Recognizing that there is overlap among the methodologies, in October 2009, Chatham House, Global Witness, WRI and UNDP met on the margins of the 2nd Chatham House –RRI Dialogue on Forests, Governance and Climate Change to compare initiatives and exchange views on monitoring governance. This led to a follow-up meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009, hosted by Global Witness and WRI, where organizations engaged in initiatives related to governance monitoring were brought together for the first time.⁵ The meeting was also attended by the FCPF and UN-REDD (FAO and UNDP). Participants identified overlaps in methodologies and pilot countries and discussed ideas for achieving better cooperation and coordination, as well as next steps. One idea was to achieve cooperation and coordination through a single website; another idea was to incorporate governance parameters into the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). It was agreed to hold a follow-up meeting in the margins of the 3rd Chatham House –RRI Dialogue in January 2010. At this meeting, agreement converged around the need for an Expert Workshop on Monitoring Governance safeguards in REDD+.

The evolving requirements for monitoring governance safeguards under REDD+ will necessitate methodological guidance as well as convergence towards a shared conceptual framework, aiming *inter alia* at:

- avoiding complexity and fragmentation by defining a common base consisting of a small number of key governance parameters;
- defining how trends and performance in governance can be measured for these parameters;
- enhancing national ownership through a bottom-up approach to assessing governance which places a premium on the participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society;
- integrating governance monitoring in national systems for forest monitoring;
- promoting methodological approaches that facilitate multi-stakeholder participation, transparency and robustness, and incorporate independent monitoring and review involving civil society and forest-dependent communities;

⁴ FCPF R-PP template v.3, 4 Sept 2009

⁵ Chatham House and VERTIC, Global Witness, WRI, CARE and CCBA, Transparency International, CIFOR

- mainstreaming, i.e. making REDD+ governance monitoring useful beyond REDD+ and the forest sector;
- taking account of existing initiatives designed to improve and monitor standards of forest governance, such as the EU's FLEGT initiative as well as any emerging initiatives.

Workshop

Chatham House and the UN-REDD Programme will jointly convene an Expert Workshop on Monitoring Governance in REDD+ on 24–25 May 2010 in London, building on the outcome of the meeting in Copenhagen hosted by Global Witness and WRI. Funding is being provided by UN-REDD and DFID.

Aim and Outputs

The aim will be to:

- Provide draft guidance, drawing on existing initiatives, which can be used to inform the negotiations on REDD+ in the UNFCCC, and support countries as they develop their monitoring systems for REDD+ in the current 'readiness' phase.
- Clarify our understanding of what monitoring and reporting of governance for REDD+ might entail; the role of verification; and how they relate to assessments of governance issues driving deforestation and forest degradation, assessments of readiness for different types of financing, etc., and consideration of the implementation of safeguards in purchasing emission reductions.
- Suggest means for improved cooperation among governance monitoring initiatives.
- Inform the development of country-led governance assessments under the UN-REDD Programme.
- Inform the development and incorporation of governance parameters in the Global Forest Resources Assessment under FAO.

Expected outputs are:

1. *A draft framework* of key governance parameters as a starting point for designing monitoring systems and for informing the design of the next Global Forest Resources Assessment (i.e. the 'what', e.g. transparency, performance, decision-making).
2. *Draft guidance* to support and promote effective participatory governance monitoring for REDD+ at national level by addressing the 'how' (e.g. indicator systems, country ownership aspects, independent monitoring), and the 'who' (e.g. minimum criteria for multi-stakeholder participation at country level, who validates findings etc.). The guidance would address the relationship with monitoring of the implementation and impact of FLEGT voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs); and would draw on existing and planned monitoring and indicator systems.

3. *Recommendations for improved cooperation and coordination* of different initiatives and programmes for monitoring governance (e.g. information sharing through the internet, hosted by an intergovernmental institution such as UN-REDD). While understanding that the various governance monitoring initiatives have been developed with different purposes in mind, it was recognized in Copenhagen that more cooperation and coordination is needed, particularly at country level where organizations are operating in the same countries (e.g. four of the programmes are working in Cameroon).

Workshop design

The workshop will bring together experts from organizations engaged in governance monitoring, REDD+ countries, donors, the FCPF and UN-REDD (FAO and UNDP). Participation will be on an invitation-only basis, and the total number will be limited to about forty, to facilitate debate. Discussions will be held under the Chatham House rule if necessary.

Existing and evolving methodologies and early initiatives by key REDD+ countries to design monitoring systems for REDD+ that address governance safeguards will be examined and lessons will be drawn. Two background papers will be prepared for the workshop:

Paper 1 will:

- Provide an overview of the different concepts or definitions of forest governance to inform what needs to be monitored for REDD+.
- Provide an overview of the different concepts and definitions of 'monitoring', and 'measurement, reporting and verification' (MRV), given the various REDD+ programmes being undertaken and developed and the broader climate change discussion.
- Include a summary of existing initiatives for monitoring governance – methodologies, purpose and (where achieved) results – and how they relate to different concepts of governance and what needs to be monitored.
- Identify specific tools and methods that can facilitate more participation, voice and accountability to local stakeholders including forest-dependent communities.
- Provide examples or short case studies of successful governance assessment and monitoring in developing countries, in order to support south-south cooperation and knowledge transfer.
- Draw preliminary conclusions on requirements for effective governance monitoring and suggest possible actions.

Paper 2 will:

- Examine how all proposals to date submitted to the FCPF and UN-REDD address governance-related issues and their monitoring, reporting and verification.

