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Concept Note

5th UN-REDD Regional Lessons Learned Workshop Forest Monitoring Systems and Reference Levels for REDD+ 20-22 October 2014

BACKGROUND

REDD+ decisions under the UNFCCC request developing countries choosing to implement REDD+ to develop a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and a national Reference Emission Level (REL) or forest Reference Level (RL). An NFMS enables countries to collect information required to provide measurable, reportable and verifiable estimates of emission reductions and/or removals that occur as a result of the implementation of REDD+ activities. RELs and RLs are a way for a country that is undertaking REDD+ actions to show its plan for reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases over time.

Many countries have made significant progress in developing NFMSs, including components on forest inventory and satellite land monitoring systems. In the 4th UN-REDD Regional Lessons Learned Workshop, on **National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) for REDD+**, held in Bangkok on 15-17 October 2013, representatives of 21 countries in the Asia-Pacific region shared their experiences and developed a common understanding of the components of an NFMS and the necessary steps to develop them. The workshop, co-hosted by SilvaCarbon and USAID-funded Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (USAID LEAF) project, helped clarify the two main functions of an NFMS – the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) functions, and the monitoring for tracking the implementation and efficacy of specific policies and measures on the ground.

This workshop is part of a series of regional events around the world, organized by UN-REDD and led by FAO, and is also part of a series of ‘lessons learned’ workshops for Asia-Pacific participants, organized by regional UN-REDD agencies and international partners, including the SilvaCarbon USAID LEAF programs. It builds upon the 4th workshop by focusing on the monitoring functions of the NFMS, and the development of RELs and RLs.

The key objectives of the meeting are to:

1. Improve the understanding of the key components and approaches of an NFMS for REDD+ and share relevant experiences between countries from across the region;
2. Bring national partners up to date on the UNFCCC guidance to develop a REL or a forest RL, and share approaches and examples that countries may find useful from demonstration activities/initiatives or formally submitted to the UNFCCC;
3. Provide an opportunity for information exchange and joint learning across countries in the Asia-Pacific region on NFMS and RELs for REDD+; and
4. Identify capacity gaps in NFMS and RELs development to help plan follow-up activities for support at regional and national levels.



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OUTPUTS/RESULTS

The main results of the meeting will be a greater understanding of a NFMS and a forest RL for REDD+ among all UN-REDD partner countries as well as others in the region. This will lead to greater capacity within countries in the design and implementation of national NFMS and RELs/RLs.

A meeting report will be produced, and all presentations and summaries of discussions will be posted to the UN-REDD Workspace and linked to the websites of the UN-REDD Programme, SilvaCarbon and USAID LEAF.

VENUE AND DATE

It is proposed that the meeting will be held on 20-22 October 2014. The details of the venue and travel arrangements will be circulated later.

PARTICIPATION

Countries are asked to nominate two or three participants from each UN-REDD, USAID LEAF and SilvaCarbon partner country, to fit the following profiles:

1. **The UN-REDD Programme, LEAF, or SilvaCarbon Focal Point** for the country, or a suitably qualified representative. This representative must have good prior knowledge of REDD+, the status of national REDD+ Readiness initiatives. He/she will be responsible for drafting a summary document on national activities related to NFMS for REDD+ and RELs prior to the workshop.
2. **A forestry expert** who is familiar with monitoring, evaluation and assessment practices within the forest and land-use sectors.
3. **A remote sensing expert** with up-to-date knowledge of the national application of remote sensing tools and satellite land monitoring systems in the forest sector.

These participants should have working knowledge of English language, and be in a position to apply the information acquired during the workshop within the context of national REDD+ Readiness, through UN-REDD National Programmes, USAID LEAF, SilvaCarbon, or other initiatives.

Other participants will include:

- Representatives of non-UN-REDD partner countries in the region, to fit the above profiles, (1-2 each)
- Regional civil society representatives (number depends on funding)
- Regional advisors of FAO, UNDP and UNEP, and technical experts
- Representatives of other REDD+ Readiness initiatives in the region, including FCPF, USAID LEAF, USFS SilvaCarbon, RECOFTC etc.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the workshop itself, please contact Adam Gerrard (UN-REDD-NFMS-Meeting@fao.org) or Ben Vickers (Ben.Vickers@fao.org) of FAO and Marija Spirovská Kono of SilvaCarbon (mkono.silvacarbon@gmail.com). Travel arrangements will be coordinated by Ms. Hatairat Thongprapai (Hatairat.Thongprapai@fao.org) and Mr. Brian Bean (bbean@winrock.org).