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Guidance for the Provision of Information on REDD+ Governance (May 2011 draft)

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Cancun Agreement (December 2010)

- Developing country Parties are requested to develop:

A system for providing information on how the [REDD+] safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the [REDD+] activities, while respecting sovereignty [para 71 (d)]

REDD+ activities for mitigation

- Reducing emissions from deforestation
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks
- Sustainable management of forests
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

Undertake activities in accordance with REDD+ safeguards

- Policy coherence
- Transparent & effective forest governance structures
- Respect for knowledge & rights
- Full & effective stakeholder participation
- Environmental integrity

Objective & Basis

- Provide flexible guidance for voluntary use on main elements to consider when establishing a national information system on REDD+ governance
- Offers a common language & structure
- Based on analysis of initiatives & experience on governance monitoring & assessment in natural resources sector

Intended users

- Primarily national governments
 - Prime role in ensuring activities are implemented & safeguards addressed & respected
- Also other stakeholders
 - Have important role in REDD+ governance

Why provide information on governance?

- Demonstrate results & ensure accountability to domestic stakeholders, donors & investors
- Assist with evaluating performance
- Assist domestic decision-makers to assess progress towards national development objectives & improve national REDD+ strategies
- Increase transparency in REDD+ planning & implementation

Structure of Guidance – 3 main questions

- *What* information to provide
- *How* to provide the information
- *Who* should provide the information

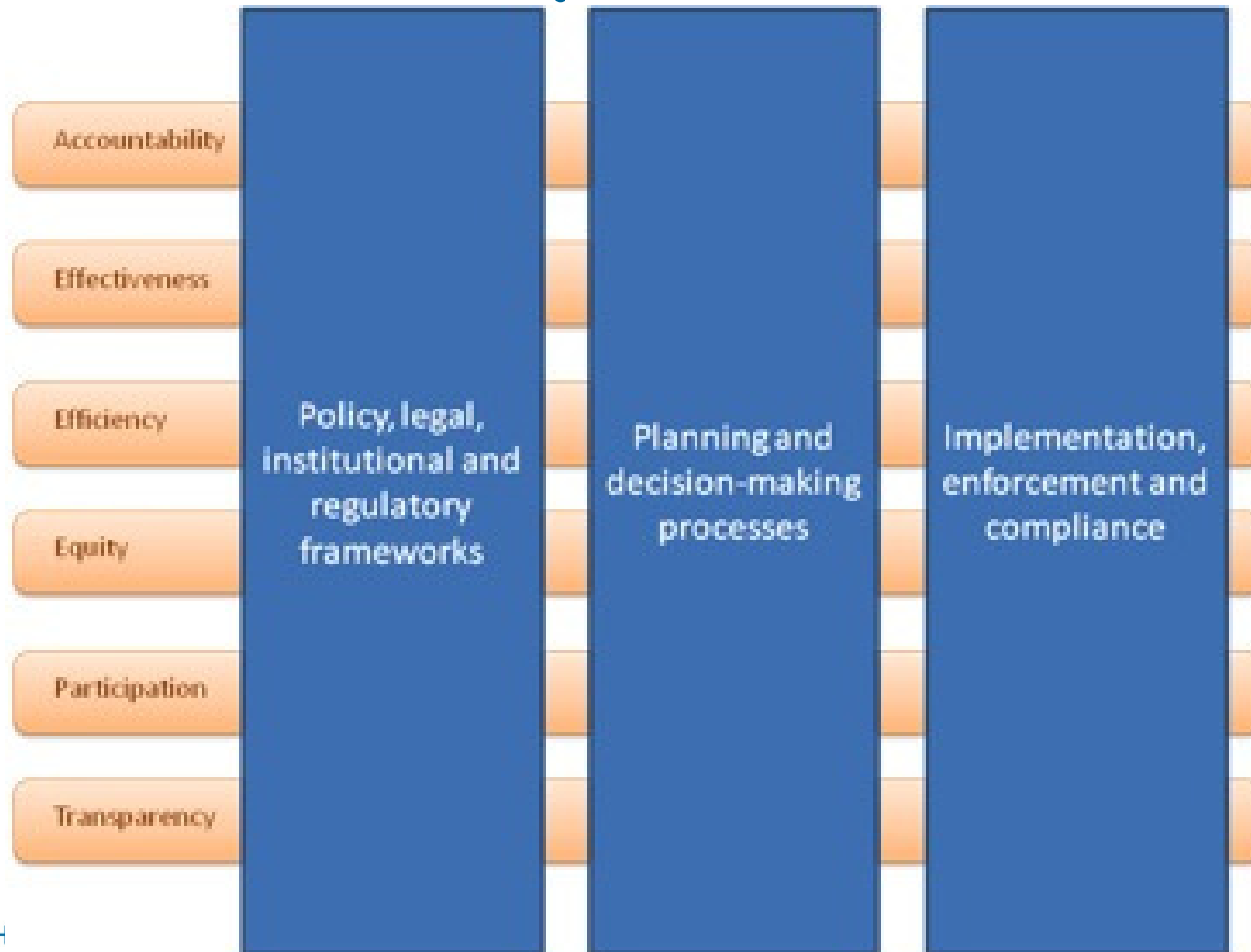
Scope of REDD+ Governance

- The oversight of all the institutions, policies and processes that a country has in place at national and sub-national levels to implement REDD+
- Its scope includes previously existing institutions, policies and processes, as well as those created for REDD+

What information to provide

- Step 1 is to identify governance issues on which to provide information
- Both expert processes have reached consensus on:
 - Three *pillars* of REDD+ & forest governance as a basis for identifying components
 - Six *principles* that characterise good governance

Pillars & Principles of REDD+ governance



Pillars & Components of REDD+ governance

Pillars	Components (19 total)	Relevant safeguards
Policy, legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks	Existence of legal framework supporting & protecting land tenure, carbon ownership & use rights, including customary & traditional rights of IPs & LCs	Respect for rights of IPs & LCs
Planning and decision-making processes	Transparency and accountability (including reconciliation) of REDD+ payments & revenues	Transparent & effective national forest governance structures
Implementation, enforcement and compliance	Effectiveness, transparency & integrity of the judiciary & law enforcement agencies	Transparent & effective national forest governance structures

Extracts from Table 1: generic guidance – non-comprehensive, to be adapted to country context

How to generate & provide information

Step 2 of the draft Guidance:

- Identifies lessons learned from current & past initiatives & experience on assessing & monitoring governance in natural resources sector
- Applies the lessons to suggest design elements for an information system

Definition of an information system

- *The set of institutions and processes through which information is collected, verified, assessed and published*

Lessons learned (18)

- Cross-cutting lessons (5)
- Lessons for indicator-based data collection (4)
- Lessons for selecting appropriate tools (3)
- Lessons for design of information systems (6)

Cross-cutting lessons

1. Timely access to information
2. Stakeholder participation in all aspects of information provision
 - ensures accountability & builds trust
3. Capacity building at all levels i.e. for all stakeholders involved
 - enables full & effective participation

Cross-cutting lessons (continued)

4. Build on existing data sets
 - e.g. from FLEGT

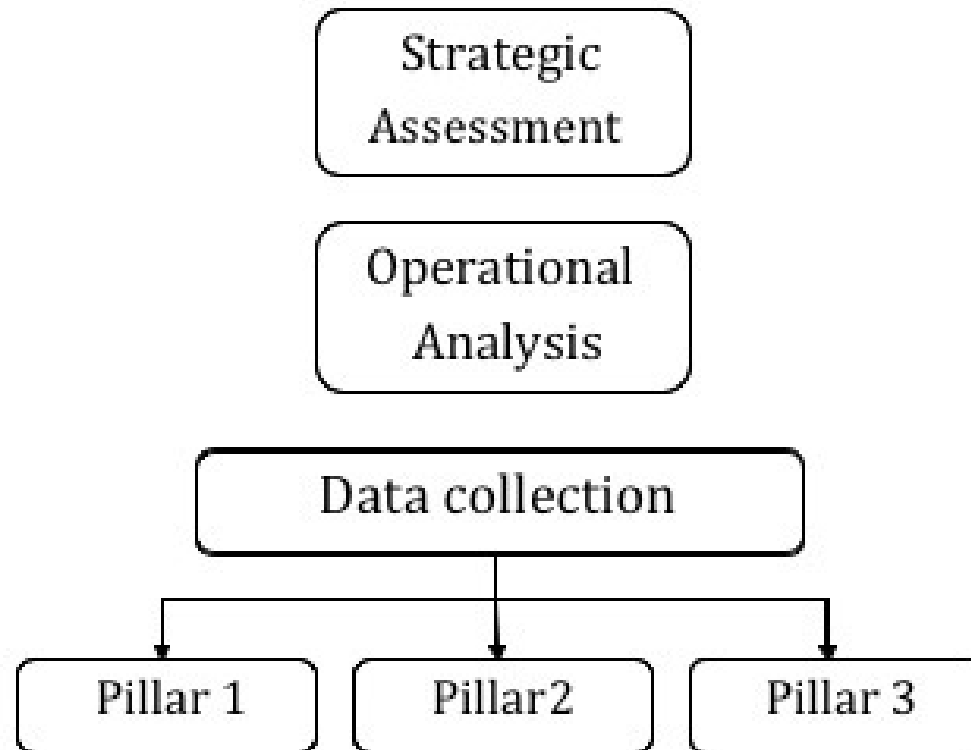
5. Build on existing processes
 - e.g. voluntary standards, annual financial audit by Indonesia Supreme Audit Agency

Designing a national information system

3 key elements

- Data collection
 - though observation & recording (surveillance activities)
- Operational analysis
 - regular analysis to inform implementation of REDD+ activities
- Strategic assessment
 - periodic assessment of the state of REDD+ governance to inform REDD+ plans & strategies

A national information system for REDD+ governance



Proposed activities under national information system for REDD+ governance

Data collection	Operational analysis	Strategic assessment
Publish REDD+ payments & revenues	Conduct independent audit & verification of REDD+ payments & revenues	Reconcile REDD+ payments & revenues & independently verify potential discrepancies
Engage IPs, local communities & CS in indicator design & data collection	Independently assess the implementation, enforcement & impacts of national REDD+ systems	Publish information, after peer review & endorsement by government & representative group of stakeholders
Extracts from Table 2		

Who should be involved in providing information

1. Government agencies overseeing REDD+ activities;
2. Independent third parties, including:
 - public institutions (e.g. ombudsperson, human rights commissions, supreme auditor)
 - non-state actors (e.g. NGOs, broader CS, IPs and other forest-dependent communities, academia)
3. Service providers contracted to fulfil specific functions (e.g. financial auditors)

Who should be involved in providing information

- Mix of actors should be appropriate to specific national context
- *A participatory process for providing information collected from a variety of sources and verified and reviewed by a multi-stakeholder body will carry greater legitimacy in the eyes of citizens and international donors/investors*

Suggestions for improvement of Guidance

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