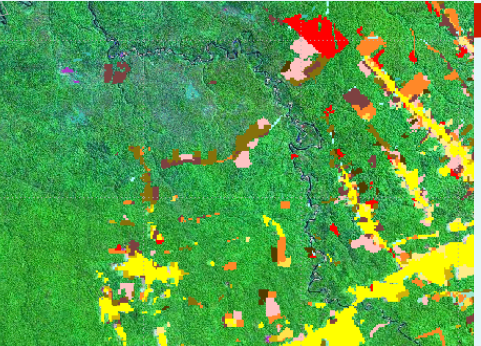




UNFCCC Context: REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems



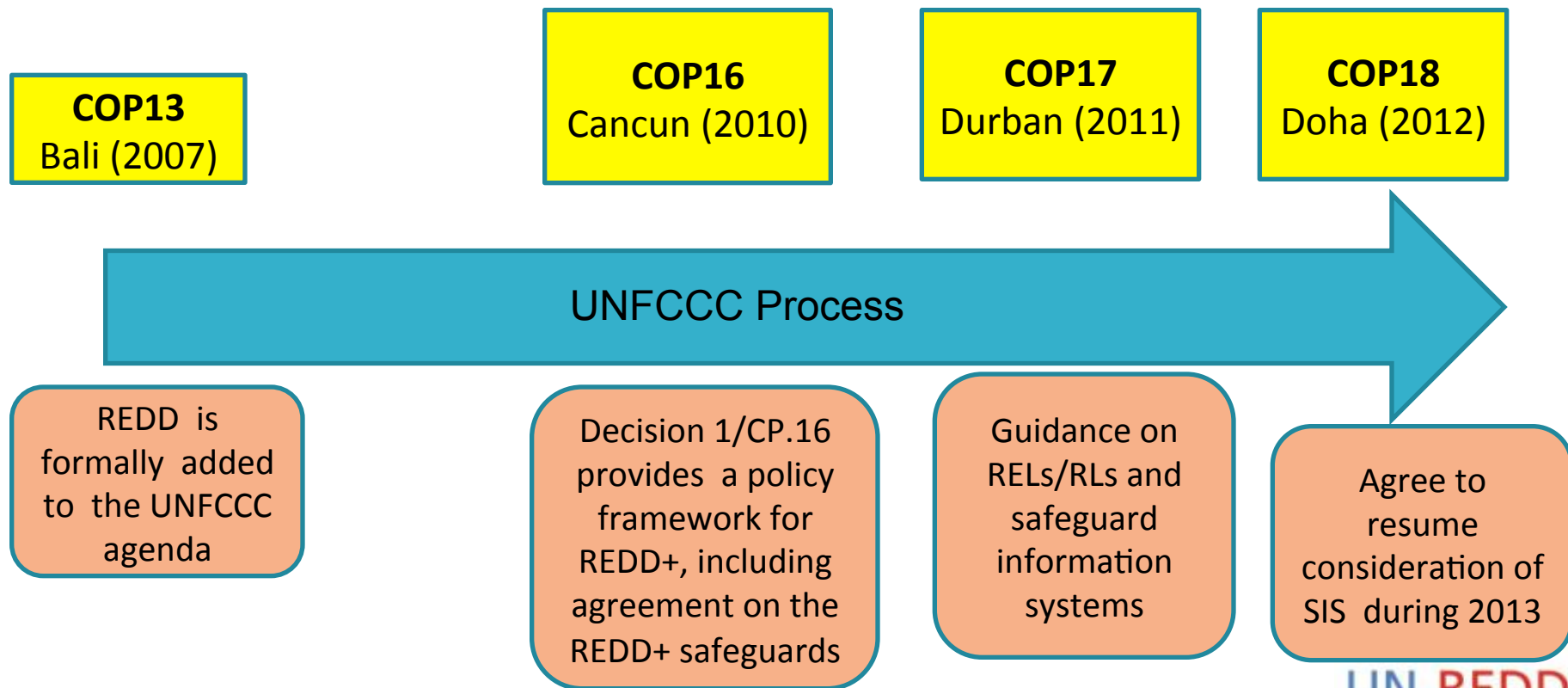
3rd UN-REDD Regional Lesson Learned Workshop
5 March 2013

Kimberly Todd
UNDP/UN-REDD





The UNFCCC Process: Putting REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems (SIS) into Context






The Cancun Safeguards: Issues Addressed

- Consistency with objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements
- Transparent and effective national forest governance structures
- Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities
- The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities
- Conservation of natural forests and biological diversity and enhancement of other social and environmental benefits
- Risks of reversals
- Displacement of emissions



The Cancun Agreements: Decision on SIS

- Parties aiming to undertake REDD+ activities are requested to develop 4 core elements:
 1. National REDD+ strategy or action plan
 2. National forest reference emission level and/or reference level (subnational in interim if appropriate)
 3. National forest monitoring system (subnational in interim)
 4. **System for providing information on how the REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities**




UNFCCC Expert meeting on SIS (Panama 2011): Conclusions

- **Example characteristics:**
 - Development and implementation of SIS must be country-driven, with national sovereignty and national legislation respected.
 - Processes relating to addressing safeguards and providing information should be transparent and ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders
- **Possible channels proposed:**
 - National communications under the Convention
 - Biennial update reports
 - a web platform where information could be updated as new data become available
- **Frequency of reporting:**
 - Different use for National/domestic and International, these two categories does not necessarily have to be at the same level of detail, have the same timing or be provided through the same channels
 - Frequency of reporting information at the national level could differ from that at the international level due to the possible different type of information required



Durban decision (12/CP.17): SIS Principles

- An SIS should:
 - Be consistent with Cancun guidance
 - Provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis;
 - Be transparent and flexible to allow for improvements over time;
 - Provide information on how all of the safeguards are being addressed and respected;
 - Be country-driven and implemented at the national level;
 - Build upon existing systems, as appropriate;
- In adhering to the above, the decision also states that the SIS should:
 - Take into account national circumstances and respective capabilities
 - Recognize national sovereignty and legislation, as well as relevant international obligations and agreements
 - Respect gender considerations



Durban decision (12/CP.17): What, When and How to Report on REDD+ Safeguards

- **What:**
 - Summary of information on how all of the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities
- **When and How:**
 - Information submitted periodically
 - To be included in national communications, consistent with relevant decisions of the COP on guidelines on national communications from Parties non Annex I Parties to the Convention, or communication channels agreed by the COP



Current Status of SIS under the UNFCCC

- Also included in the Durban decision was agreement to consider:
 - **Timing and frequency** of the presentation of the summary of information on safeguards (as requested in the Durban decision 12/CP.17)
 - Need for further guidance to ensure **transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness** in the presentation of the summary of information
 - Called for the additional guidance to be provided at COP18 (Doha)
- No further substantive work on SIS within the UNFCCC process since Durban
 - In Doha, agreed to resume consideration on these aspects under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA), with a view to conclude on this work by COP19 (end of 2013)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

