

Sub-technical working group on MRV summary of discussions for 21 January 2011 meeting

Date and time: 21 January 2011/ 9.15-12.00

Venue: MARD Building A3

Participants: (see list at end of document)

Agenda items

1. Presentation and discussions on Developments on MRV and REL/RLs according to the “Cancun agreement” (by Danilo Mollicone, Lead Technical Officer of UN-REDD Programme for Vietnam, FAO-HQs)
2. Discussions on Vietnam MRV developments and institutional arrangement
3. Planned activities for 2011 on MRV and REL development

1. Presentation and discussions on Developments on MRV and REL/RLs according to the “Cancun agreement” (by D Mollicone, FAO-HQs)

Links: Presentation material - http://dl.dropbox.com/u/6896677/MRV%20under%20UNFCCC_Cancun.pptx
Cancun LCA/CP.16 - <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awglca13/eng/l07.pdf>

- The COP “**requests**” developing country parties to develop (Para 71, LCA/CP16):
 - A national strategy or action plan;
 - A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level...;
 - A ... national forest monitoring system ...;
 - A system for providing information on how the safeguards ... are being addressed and respected ...;
- On MRV, a robust and transparent **national forest monitoring system** needs to be in place for monitoring, reporting (Para 71) and verification (Annex II) of the five REDD activities (Para 70).
- On safeguards, “**A system for providing information** on how the **safeguards** ... are being addressed and respected”(Para 71(b)) is required - indicating that information on safeguards is not part of the reporting or verification requirements. Safeguards which will need to be under MRV as appropriate include (Footnote to Para 71(b)):
 - emissions displacement at the national level;
 - how displacement of emissions is being addressed;
 - the means to integrate subnational monitoring systems into national monitoring systems
- A key guidance on REDD activities is “to be **results-based**” (Annex I).
- Implementation of activities in **phases**:
 - Development of national strategy/action plans/policies/measures and capacity building
 - → Implementation of national policies/measures/strategies/action plans with further capacity building/ technology development/ results-based demonstration activities
 - → Results-based actions to be fully MRV-ed
- The five REDD activities identified is a result of political negotiations and compromise, thus interpretations differ and are not necessarily mutually exclusive in scope. The

scope and content of each (or any selected number of them) need to be defined at the national level.

2. Discussions on Vietnam MRV developments and institutional arrangement

- The reporting requirement will be a major challenge to all countries including Vietnam. Generating and reporting consistent, verifiable results-based data will require capacity building and coordination between relevant agencies (ie particularly within MARD and MONRE).
 - Vietnam submitted its Second National Communications to the UNFCCC in December 2010. According to Dr Hieu of the Office of Climate Change (OCC), this data is generated by inputting data from the GSO statistical database into the GHG inventory software (“ALU” developed by US/EIA etc). Where data was unavailable at the GSO, other information sources were referred through FSIV. For emission factors, IPCC default factors were generally applied. Vietnam also submitted data on forest carbon stocks to FAO through the Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA). This data is submitted through MARD, based on data from the National Forest Inventory conducted by FIPI. The two reports use differences sources of data and different methods of calculation, thus provide inconsistent reports on the same years. The above inconsistencies between reports would not be acceptable against the “results-based” requirement (in the 2nd and 3rd phases), and would undermine the potential to receive REDD credits. One of the first steps will be for institutional responsibilities to be clarified particularly between MARD and MONRE.
- GHG inventory and need for capacity building
 - (D Mollicone) Institutional arrangements for all of the elements of the National GHG Inventory System in Vietnam need to be agreed by all related stakeholders (– a sample of the necessary institutional arrangements is available in slide 10 of the presentation material). Experience of Annex I countries suggest that improving quality and promoting feedback of information on data requirements to the inventory collectors requires even a small number of permanent and professional staff be trained as a national GHG inventory team.
 - (Hieu) Currently, the National Communications and national GHG inventoring is conducted in Vietnam on a project-basis, through a steering committee headed by MONRE; approximately 50 staff from agencies of relevant sectors are temporarily hired to work on data collection and input when National Communications need to be prepared. No permanent staff are secured for this purpose.
 - At least two donor-assisted projects (JICA and Denmark) are targeting capacity building for GHG inventory in Vietnam. The OCC identifies further need for donor assistance in collecting national emission factors, as currently much is relying on IPCC default factors which can only generate Tier 1 data.
 - The Vietnamese National Communications for 2010 were developed using the 1996 IPCC Guidelines, as the 2003/2006 Guidelines were considered too

complicated. Under REDD, use of the “most recent” IPCC guidelines will become necessary and calls for capacity building.

- Institutional arrangements under the MRV system
 - (Mollicone) One of the core elements of the MRV system is the **land monitoring system**, which requires a source of information on land-use dating back to 20 years. For most REDD countries, such a system will need to rely on a satellite based remote sensing system. The output of this system should be a **land use change matrix** which is the activity data (AD) for the MRV. The first critical step will be to identify the agency in charge of the land monitoring system, and to define further requirements.
 - (Cuong, Hieu) The **Center for Land Information and Archives**, under the **General Department of Land Administration (GDLA)** of MONRE is responsible for providing data on land use and land use changes.
 - Through the UN-REDD programme and with other REDD+ partners, further the Center for Land Information and Archives will be contacted to discuss on the land monitoring system.
- Collaboration between MARD and MONRE and institutional arrangements for REDD+
 - Improved collaboration between MARD and MONRE is called for in a number of areas including land allocation, Land Monitoring System, and Reporting on GHG inventory.
 - (Hieu) Coordination can be promoted through collaborative work under the National Target Programme on Climate Change whose Steering Committee is led by the Prime Minister.

3. Planned activities for 2011 on MRV and REL development (A Inoguchi)

- The planned activities on MRV and REL/RLs in 2011, through the UN-REDD programme for Vietnam are as follows - to be undertaken together with international and national consultants to be hired shortly:
 - Identification of national circumstances
 - Development of a MRV framework (design of elements and institutional arrangement)
 - Training and capacity building of staff of relevant national agencies on MRV
 - Development of 10 allometric equations targeting the 10 key ecological strata.

List of Participants

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