

Sub-technical working group on MRV summary of discussions for 20 May 2011 meeting

Date and time: 20 May 2011/ 15.00-17.30

Venue: Room 101, B6, MARD

Participants: (see list appended)

Agenda items

1. Presentation of the Framework Document
2. Discussions
3. Next steps for developing the Framework Document

1. Presentation of the Framework Document

The draft “Information, Monitoring & MRV System Framework Document Ver.1 (Framework Document)” was presented, with the following key messages:

- The scope of the document covers areas of REDD+ to be monitored¹ including, a) Safeguards, b) Policies and Measures (PaMs) – including the monitoring of benefit distribution and c) GHG emissions/removals at national level = MRV. The first two components are discussed in general, while more details is provided on the MRV component. This is due to the fact that neither concept of safeguards or PaMs have been developed in the context of Vietnam, and require input from various entities working in the related area. (Slide 2)
- Introduction of COP15 and COP16 deliberations as basis of Framework Document (Slides 3-7)
- Phased approach to REDD+ Information, Monitoring and MRV System (Slide 8)
- Breakdown of the MRV System; Land monitoring system, Forest inventory, Expansion factors, and the resulting GHG-inventory (Slide 9)
- The framework of the Information, Monitoring & MRV System (Slide 10)
- Functions and institutional capacity needs (Slides 11, 12)
- Existing institutional capacity for each component and sub-system (Slides 13-17)

<Annex 1: presentation material>

<Link to draft Framework Document Ver1:

http://dl.dropbox.com/u/6896677/Information_Monitoring_%26_MRV_for_REDD%2B_in_Vietnam_Draft16May-all%28clean%29.docx >

2. Discussions

General feedback on the Framework Document:

- While the deliberations from COP 16 requests SBSTA to develop modalities for MRV (Annex II CP16), there is currently little basis for defining MRV. However, work on defining MRV for VN (such as this Framework Document) should be encouraged, and aimed to feed into the UNFCCC negotiations.
- While the draft Framework Document provides a general framework for MRV (and other components), the perspective appears to be from a theoretical breakdown of

¹ “Monitoring” is used here as a general concept, and is noted that in the context of Safeguards, “providing information” is required by UNFCCC.

MRV, rather than looking at the existing resources and capacity of VN. With more focus on existing resources/capacity within VN, the Document could be improved.

- Plans for FORMIS component development include: IT platform to be operational by end of June, and Portal to be operational by end of September this year.
- (In response to question on the position of the Government on NAMA), it was explained that GoV has taken the position to support NAMAs development, and that this is being led by MONRE, in consultation with other line ministries (including MARD).

Discussions on National Forest Inventory (NFI) component:

- There should be clear use of the word “NFI” as it can be miss-interpreted as the national forest inventory being implemented by FIPI (NFIMAP), in the context of VN. In the Framework Document, NFI is used in the narrow sense of an inventory, not including elements of mapping, which in the case of the NFIMAP, is an internal component.
- Within the context of the current NFIMAP, there is limited scope for increasing the frequency of national level forest cover mapping, for reasons of limited financial resources to procure the required SPOT5 images, and for human resource capacity constraints.

Discussions on institutions and capacity:

- There are agencies and sub-systems within/related to GLDA of MONRE which appear to be essential to the Land Monitoring System (LMS), and should be integrated.
- Vietnam Climate Change Office (VNCCO) may be internally discussing institutions appropriate for carrying out QA/QC for the national GHG-inventory so there should be more dialogue with VNCCO/MONRE on this.
- GSO’s role should also be noted.
- A useful tool to identify the proponents involved in different aspects of data collection is the “meta-data catalogue” being employed by FORMIS. This tool can be shared.

Discussions on the role of Participatory Carbon Monitoring (PCM) for estimating Emission Factor (EF):

- There is emerging understanding that the role of PCM for estimating EF is determined by two key aspects, namely PCM’s possibility to uphold/increase accuracy of EF versus costs.
- In VN, the UN-REDD Programme developed a manual for PCM and conducted a number of trainings in 2010. SNV also used the same manual for piloting trainings in Cat Tien, and is considering expanding this exercise, within a larger framework looking at Participatory Forest Monitoring measures. The past activities (UN-REDD and SNV) did not involve a cross-check of the validity of the measurements conducted by community, but this may be useful to do so in the future, for example with the prospective work under JICA verifying the results of the NFIMAP cycle IV data (notwithstanding, there will be difficulties in comparing results due to seasonal factors and growth increments with time.)
- A key question is whether the NFI (or NFIMAP in the context of VN) requires more data (sample plots through PCM) to increase statistical significance of data to generate EF. However, according to the FAO-Finnish NFA project, currently working on improving NFIMAP design, reaching Tier 3 is within the scope of the NFIMAP’s future

design, and does not require further sample plots, provided appropriate allometric equations and expansion factors can be generated by other research institutions.

- There are clear benefits and usability of PCM in awareness raising, engagement of local communities, and also possibly as a basis for benefit distribution. These need to be discussed separately from PCM for estimating EF. Moreover, there is a clear role for Participatory Monitoring of various aspects of REDD+ activities.
- Another consideration for Participatory Monitoring may be to target areas with high REDD+ potential, as they would theoretically be able to bear more costs than those areas with low REDD+ potential, thus making PCM a more viable option.
- Various instruments are recently being introduced into forest inventory which make participatory monitoring a more feasible option.

3. Next steps for developing the Framework Document and National REDD+ Programme document

Tentative timeframe for Framework Document development:

- 27 May: Deadline for receiving all comments on Ver 1 Framework Document
- 31 May: Finalize Framework Document (English) by addressing comments where possible, and noting comments where not feasible for addressing directly.
- 9 June: Produce Framework Document in Vietnamese
- June: Carryout focused consultation meetings with key stakeholders (agencies/ ministries/ institutions)
- Work for Ver 2 of the document to be planned thereafter.

Development and feedback to the National REDD+ Programme (NRP) document:

- Firstly, the draft NRP document will be circulated by VNFOREST/VNREDD+Office to stakeholders soon. As agreed at the REDD+ Technical Working Group , comments relevant to MRV (and related to RELs) can be addressed through the STWG-MRV.
- Secondly, the “Framework document” is intended to be integrated into NRP, namely into Section 7 (and to some extent into Section 3) of the NRP. So, in reality, all related comments should come to the MRV-STWG as comments to the Framework Document.

List of Participants

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