

Sub-technical working group on MRV summary of discussions for 23 November 2010 meeting

Date and time: 23 November 2010/ 16.00-17.30

Venue: MARD Room 403

Participants: (see list at end of document)

Agenda items

1. Presentation and discussions on MRV (by Danilo Mollicone, Lead Technical Officer of UN-REDD Programme for Vietnam, FAO-HQs)
 2. Presentation and discussions on REL/RL (by Danilo Mollicone, FAO-HQs)
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1. **Presentation and discussions on MRV (by D. Mollicone, FAO-HQs)** (presentation link: http://dl.dropbox.com/u/6896677/MRV_under_UNFCCC_Bangkok_%28Nov_10%29%5B1%5D.pdf)
 - UNFCCC Article 4 “Commitments”: ... **national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks** of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, using **comparable methodologies**
 - All parties commit to reporting of national GHG inventories using methods which are comparable with those employed by other countries.
 - REDD+ has not been adopted or methodological guidance detailed under the UNFCCC beyond:
 - “Requests developing country parties” ... “To use the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines (ie. **IPCC 2003 LULUCF Guidance**), as adopted or encouraged by the COP, as appropriate, as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;
 - **To establish, according to national circumstances and capabilities, robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems** and, if appropriate, sub-national systems as part of national monitoring systems that:
 - (i) Use **a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches** for estimating, as appropriate, anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;
 - (ii) Provide estimates that are **transparent, consistent**, as far as possible **accurate**, and that **reduce uncertainties**, taking into account national capabilities and capacities;
 - (iii) Are **transparent** and their **results are available and suitable for review** as agreed by the Conference of the Parties.
 - For reporting on **Activity Data, which represents all relevant land area in a country, consistently and transparently**, with a timeframe of **20 years** [“...based on the amount of time needed for dead organic matter and soil carbon stocks to reach equilibrium following land-use conversion (20 years is recommended as a default, but can be longer, e.g., for temperate and boreal systems)”], the only viable approach is the **use of satellite remote sensing data** (which corresponds to Approach 3 of the IPCC **Geographically explicit land use data**).
 - Reporting requirements under the Kyoto Protocol specify the inclusion of the following:
 - GHG inventory time-series

- National inventory systems
- GHG inventory
- Changes in the national system
- An important starting point Vietnam in designing its National system will be to identify the comprehensive inter-sectoral institutional arrangement.

2. **Presentation and discussions on REL/RL (by D. Mollicone, FAO-HQs)** (presentation link: http://dl.dropbox.com/u/6896677/REL_RL_Bangkok_nov_2010_%28Nov_9%29%5B1%5D.pdf)

- UNFCCC Methodological guidance (Decision 4/CP.15) has yet to “request” countries to develop REL/RLs, and only “**recognizes** that developing country Parties in establishing forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels should do so **transparently taking into account historic data, and adjust for national circumstances**”
- UNFCCC has yet to come up with a definition or methodology for REL/RLs, but REL/RL need to be understood to be elements of the accounting system for REDD+. Other elements of the accounting system (also yet to be deliberated) which will affect REL/RL development methodology include:
 - **Market or fund based** mechanism?
 - **Land based or activity based** mechanism?
 - Accounting methods e.g. **net-net** or **gross-net**?
 - **Inclusion of emission intra-national emission displacement?**
 - **National or sub-national or project based** mechanism?
- In the meantime, countries need to prepare for REL/RL, by working on the following areas:
 - Assess the historical trend of the forest related emissions –removals
 - Assess national circumstances (socio-economic and environmental factors)
 - Identify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation resulting in emissions and also the means to address these;
 - Identify activities within the country that result in reduced emissions and increased removals, and stabilization of forest carbon stocks.

List of Participants

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| • Tim Holland, SNV | • Nguyen Thanh Phuong (FSSP, observer) |
| • Patrick van Laake, UN-REDD | • Miyazaki, JOFCA (JICA) |
| • Pham Manh Cuong, VNDof | • Hiroyuki Chiba, JOFCA (JICA) |
| • Hoang Viet Anh, RCFEE | • Akiko Inoguchi, UN-REDD/FAO |
| • Tapio Leppanen, FORMIS | • Danilo Mollicone, FAO-HQs |
| • Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen, UN-REDD | |
| • Vu Huu Than, FSSP | |