Sub-technical working group on MRV
summary of discussions for 11 October 2011 meeting

Date and time: 11 October 2011 8.30-11.30
Venue: Room 403, B9, MARD
Participants: (see list appended)

Agenda items
1. INPE TerraAmazon system and LMS design considerations for Vietnam
2. Introduction to the Brazilian AMAZON FUND
3. MRV Framework Document and next steps

1. INPE TerraAmazon System and the LMS design considerations for Vietnam

Five participants from VNFOREST, FPD, FIPI, STI and GDLA attended the two-week training on the TerraAmazon INPE system in Brazil (funded by the UN-REDD Programme) in mid-September to learn about the TerraAmazon system. Based on the training, the participants collectively considered the pros/cons and technical considerations of adopting (in full or in part) the TerraAmazon system as the Land Monitoring System (LMS) for REDD+ in Vietnam. Some considerations/recommendations as presented are as follows (presentations in Annex):

- AD generation related:
  - Need for adopting forest/land classification system which is detailed enough for estimating GHG emissions/removals at Tier-3
  - Recommend combined use of high resolution RS imagery (e.g. SPOT 5) to generate land cover maps every 5 years, medium resolution RS imagery (e.g. LANDSAT, CBERS, DMC, LISS-3, ASTER) together with ground surveys to update land cover maps annually (or biennially)
  - Need to review of RS image processing options (compare with commercial software e.g. eCognition, ERDAS, ENVI and open source software like TerraAmazon)
- Monitoring related:
  - Recommend use of AWiFS imagery (56m resolution) for quick detection of clear-cut deforestation areas > 3ha, reporting monthly or quarterly depending on availability of RS data (DETER-B)
  - Recommend use of the TerraAmazon system (using the LSMM tool to generate raster soil maps and then using the segmentation tool for mapping)
- Database Management related:
  - Recommend distributed database management system (one database for forestry land and one for non-forestry land)
  - Recommend an information portal to ensure unified access to information on land cover maps on both forestry and non-forestry land
- Other considerations (from discussions):
  - Need to arrange institutional mandates/responsibilities particularly between forestry land and non-forestry land
  - Integration of ground-based monitoring results (by FPDs at sub-national levels)
  - Consideration for enabling information sharing for the entire forestry sector (as LMS generated information would be usable beyond the scope of REDD+), and also with MONRE, through a single computing layer (FORMIS) rather than duplicating

o The implementation of the MARD and MONRE consistent definitions in forest/land classification systems and adopting this to be consistent with IPCC guidelines.

2. Introduction to the Brazilian AMAZON FUND

As context of how the INPE TerraAmazon system is used in Brazil, and to provide a model mechanism (though not strictly following the UNFCCC or IPCC REDD+ requirements/guidelines), the Brazilian AMAZON FUND was introduced highlighting the following points (presentation in Annex):

- The AMAZON FUND is a results-based payment mechanism primarily targeting "reduced deforestation", and has already succeeded in accessing funds from developed countries (>$50billion by end of 2010)
- The AMAZON FUND uses a conservative formula for calculation of emissions where a generic and single emission factor of 100Ct/ha is applied for all forest types.
- DETER which is an almost-real-time deforestation detection system of TerraAmazon deforestation (>25ha) has been instrumental in reducing deforestation rates in the Amazon biome.
- The AMAZON FUND uses a historical base line (updated every 5 years) in place of the REL/RLs as is being discussed for REDD+.
- The AMAZON FUND uses its funds to implement "projects" which fit under its eligibility criteria and monitoring rules, ranging widely in types of activities including those directly targeting reduction of deforestation and indirectly through activities such as R&D, implemented by various types of players including the public and private sectors, NGOs, research institutes etc.
- The Brazilian government (including state government) has adopted various important policies and plans which have been instrumental in making the AMAZON FUND work. Such policy initiatives need to be considered also for REDD+ to be effective in the case of Vietnam.

3. Next steps for developing the MRV Framework Document

The MRV Framework Document has been updated to the Draft 3 of Ver 1, based on comments received and through consultation workshops of the earlier drafts. While various aspects are still only generally defined, awaiting further deliberation by the UNFCCC, VN-REDD+ Office determines the document ready to now be released as the Ver1. document (on http://vietnam-redd.org) to be integrated to the NRP (National REDD+ Programme). Further versions of the document will be worked on, when further deliberations by the UNFCCC are made available.

Systems management integration with FORMIS in particular need to now be discussed.

The next steps for MRV area work will be to define and develop LMS mechanisms with careful consideration of how to formalize the system for Vietnam.

List of Participants

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