

Minutes
Safeguards Group Teleconference
(Support to National REDD+ Action / Global Programme)
18 September 2012, 17.00 CET

Attendance:

FAO: Emelyne Cheney
UNDP: Kimberly Todd, Leo Peskett
UNEP: Barney Dickson, Julie Greenwalt
UN-REDD Secretariat: Helena Eriksson, Clea Paz

Agenda:

1. Approval of draft agenda
2. Approval of minutes from call on 11 September
3. Safeguards Group draft workplan
4. Inclusion of agency safeguards work under Objective 1 in the concept note (this was raised on the MG call).
5. UNDP policy brief on national approaches to safeguards
6. Paraguay request (see latest email exchange attached)
7. Argentina's request for TS and any other TS for discussion
8. AOB.

1. Approval of draft agenda

The draft agenda was approved with addition of updates from safeguards work in Bhutan and Nigeria.

2. Approval of minutes from call on 11 September

With the Group's changes received in writing, the minutes were approved.

3. Safeguards Group draft workplan

A first outline for the workplan was presented by UNDP, based on the endorsed Concept Note on proposed structuring of UN-REDD work on REDD+ Safeguards. The tasks listed in the Note have been divided into on-going, requested, proposed and agreed tasks with a generic timing. Further the tasks in the Appendix are divided into concrete tasks and ongoing for which it does not appear to have concrete products. The difference between the outline's two first bullets was clarified; the second refers to concrete products. The Group's workplan will need to be consistent with the workplan and budget for 2013-2014 which is being revised. (Newly formulized outputs and indicative activities). The Group's comments on the draft outline included;

- Frame core activities clearly, in particular for the remaining time of 2012
- Be specific on outputs and outcomes
- SEPC's stream of work should be clear
- Clear guidance on status of BeRT and terminology to use
- Indicate how UN-REDD work with the countries
- Consistency of Targeted Support – share requests and provide inputs
- Communication (share info and keep each other updated)
- Include National Forest Monitoring Systems, safeguards systems at country level and response to countries' needs (how the programme support countries)
- Be careful with conceptual issues
- Policy briefs to be added.

- Action:** Based the initial outline and comments, UNDP to share an updated version.
- Action:** Secretariat to share last version of workplan and budget when ready. (The Group member are also involved in the revision).

4. Possible inclusion of agencies' accountability work under Objective 1 of the safeguards concept note (this was raised on the MG call).

The Group asked for updates from the MG on the interagency cooperation of the accountability work. Further, some other elements of Objective 1 need to be discussed (handbook etc).

- Action:** Secretariat to follow up on MG's discussion.

5. UNDP policy brief on national approaches to safeguards

The Group considered UNDP's concept note and UNEP's draft brief having different focus and being complementary. UNDP's draft note focuses on efforts to provide guidance and tools to countries in the REDD+ space (current work on the topic, and provide a conceptual framework that can be considered by countries as they are operationalizing the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards and SIS requirements). It was recommended to avoid any large overlap of the policy brief and Safeguards Group's work. UNDP plans to have it ready for initial release at COP18. Deadline for comments and clearance on the concept note was 19 September, but further comments were welcomed and deadline for clearance was extended to Monday, September 24. (As mentioned under item 3, briefs to be added to workplan). It was agreed that the content of the policy brief would be consistent with discussions in the safeguards group and not go beyond current joint thinking. It was agreed that a review process for the brief would build in time for review among the Safeguards Group.

- Action:** FAO and UNDP to provide any further comments in writing a s a p.

- Action:** Secretariat to provide clarity on the next step of UNDP's draft note.

- Action:** UNDP to propose a review schedule for the brief, assuming clearance of the concept note.

6. Paraguay request

Agreed that a presentation is sufficient but not full a full safeguards workshop (FAPI, one of the three main Parties working on REDD+ in Paraguay, had requested a workshop in the context of a workshop on national grievance mechanisms) Clea mentions that she will provide some additional information by email.

- Action:** Clea to send some more information by email on the country situation.

7. Argentina's request for TS and any other TS for discussion

Both Argentina and Costa Rica TS request to be dealt with separately (emails, p calls)

8. AOB

- UNEP shortly mentioned safeguards work in Nigeria and Bhutan, but no time for discussion..
- The Group agreed to have these calls weekly at this stage.
- UNDP gave a short update on the Multiple Benefits Workshop preparations.

- Action:** Barney to send countries invitation list to Clea to check against the latest UN-REDD adress list.

Next conference call: Week of 24 Sept.