

Minutes
Safeguards Group Teleconference
(Support to National REDD+ Action / Global Programme)
23 October 2012, 15.00 CET

Attendance:

FAO: Emelyne Cheney, Maria SanzSanchez

UNDP: Kimberly Todd, Leo Peskett

UNEP: Barney Dickson, Julie Greewalt

Items for discussion:

1. UNDP policy brief on national approaches to safeguards
2. Safeguards Group draft “conceptual framework”
3. AOB

1. Policy brief

- FAO stressed that the policy brief should be informed by and entirely consistent with the conceptual framework, which was agreed by the group, but given the timeline for the policy brief, it was agreed that the review/finalization process for the brief could continue alongside revision of the conceptual framework and would not have to be halted until framework is complete.
- Broader question raised on the overall objectives of the policy brief series, which can be raised in more detail in the communications working group.
- The group did not spend time walking through comments received from UNEP, as responses and edits had been made and circulated via email. This was in the interest of having the group focus on its core work (so focusing on the other agenda item – the framework) and having the agencies maintain some level of autonomy with these briefs.
- Recommendations by Julie to share with countries as external reviewers – it was agreed this was a very good idea. In addition, there was a recommendation that the brief could be framed more as a “discussion paper” that could be updated in the future. Julie also asked when the last point would be for the safeguards group to provide comments. Kim said a version reflecting the external review input would be circulated to the group again for final review (likely early November timeframe).

Action: FAO to send any specific text comments on the brief, and UNDP will address any additional comments received.

Action: UNDP will be sharing with external reviewers the week of Oct. 29. RTAs are being asked for recommendations at the country-level for reviewers.

2. Conceptual framework

- FAO’s general proposal for the framework document was to focus only on the content of sections 1 & 2 and to merge them, therefore deleting the section on coordinating UN-REDD support with other initiatives, particularly FCPF and REDD+ SES. FAO also commented that any documents developed in collaboration with these other programs should be consistent with what we agree as a safeguards group. Leo clarified that documents developed in collaboration with these other programs have not been given UN-REDD “endorsement.”
- As in the UNEP feedback by email, it was emphasized and agreed by all to make this a brief document (perhaps no more than 3 pages), developed in a short timeframe.

- Like FAO, UNEP also supported deleting section 3 on coordination with other programmes, and in addition, Barney proposed it would be best to only focus on Section 1 and cut the section on UN-REDD tools as well. Julie stressed the need for the text to be balanced in terms of reflecting not only risks but also benefits, and also inquired about how we can reincorporate Objective 1.

Action: FAO, UNEP to send any additional, specific text comments; UNDP will revise based on this feedback and re-circulate a revised version in advance of the group's next call.

3. Other Items:

- UNDP proposal for the safeguards group to maintain a spreadsheet log of all country-level safeguards-related activities being undertaken by agencies. This was proposed quickly at the end of the call, and it was agreed that UNDP would send around a proposal/mock-up around and gather feedback by email. Some feedback was given on the call by Barney, who was quite supportive of such a log and having the safeguards group take on the role of ensuring this would be kept up-to-date, as long as this doesn't become too burdensome a task, i.e., data entry per activity should be concise.

Action: UNDP will send around the proposal with a draft spreadsheet log and FAO, UNEP to provide feedback by email before next call.

Next conference call: No date set on the call. It will be scheduled once a revised "conceptual framework" document is available and circulated. For the next call, it was agreed that we would also need to address how/when to go about the more detailed workplanning for 2013 (either setting up a dedicated, longer call for this topic, or scheduling an in-person meeting before the end of the year.