

Minutes: Comms and side events working group call - Thursday, 11 August at 3pm

In attendance: Tiina, Estelle, Julie, Cheryl and Reem

1) Proceed with the REDD+ Lessons Learned Exchange (day event) or not:

- UNDP had shared initial thoughts in writing
- FAO and UNEP supported the idea of a half day event on REDD+ (something more than just a side event if the timing is right), as it would be a good opportunity to consolidate our activities and to position the Programme well, and that if we went with an event like this we would need to consider its relation to other events being organized at COP 17
- UNEP noted that we end up being committed in a lot of places and a one day or half day event could provide structure and in-depth analysis
- UNDP felt that at this time we could achieve the needed visibility and opportunities for exchange without a one day event (which would require a lot of capacity)
- The choice was to either consolidate in one event or organize several events. Given that UNDP, FAO and UNEP are committed to co-hosting learning events, it would be difficult to back out of those commitments
- The group agreed that we should not table the idea of a full/half day event on REDD+, but consider such an event moving forward

1a) Make a submission for a CEB side event slot:

- The group decided given our success at COP 16 with a high-level event under the CEB slots, we should host another at COP 17 and make a submission for a CEB side event slot, preferably during the first week
- The place holder subject for submission would be on REDD+ lessons learned
- The group asked the Secretariat to reserve the slot for the side event on behalf of the three agencies

1b) Organize joint side events with countries on a one off basis or try to create a series based on a regional approach?

- Regarding the request received from Ecuador, the group decided that since we have already co-organized an event on safeguards, we would forgo this option for Durban, and focus on presenting information on lessons learned; and that if an opportunity to work with them presents itself in FD5 then we should try and reach out to them

2) What LE's are the agencies working on for FD5?

- UNEP mentioned that this year FD5 will be charging entrance fee (\$50, \$25 for civil society)
- An entrance fee raises the question of accessibility
- UNDP noted that the LE's should be branded and coordinated as UN-REDD events, given they are focusing on the work of the Programme
- UNDP is co-hosting learning event seven with IUFRO (lead) on: ***Social safeguards: Indigenous Peoples and forest dependent communities in REDD+ and adaptation***

- FAO is co-hosting learning event two with the World Bank, FCPF on: **Reference levels and monitoring for REDD+**
- UNEP is co-hosting learning event four with the CBD (lead) (CIFOR possibly to join) on: **Biodiversity safeguards in REDD+ and adaptation** (UNEP is yet to confirm they will be co-hosting this event)

3) What other UN-REDD events is each of the agencies planning or that is in the works for COP 17?

- UNEP is exploring the possibility of being part of the CBD Rio Convention Pavilion; hosting REDD+ Hour side events (to possibly partner with countries like Tanzania and Indonesia) as the traditional activities UN-REDD participates in at COPs will not suffice for their needs;
- UNEP has thought about key messages, partners and possible key venues for such events, and that a lot of their thinking around events in Durban does not mesh with the lessons learned theme, as their thinking is forward towards RIO+20 with respect to green economy, and that messaging and objectives would be in line with that
- We think we might pursue REDD+ Hours, the Pavilion, etc. given that the traditional activities will not suffice for their needs
- UNDP and FAO to provide an update on activities as they present themselves

4) Should we apply for exhibit space at both COP 17 and FD5?

- The group discussed that exhibits are great opportunities for interaction and to feature key publications (i.e. policy briefs, joint paper, etc.)
- The group agreed that UN-REDD should apply for booth/exhibit space at FD5 and COP17 (during the first week only) if we have the capacity to do so as it will need to be manned at all times

5) AOB:

a) Outreach:

- UNDP suggested that we target the audiences we want to invite to UN-REDD events, in addition to mass mailings on listservs

b) Positioning and branding events as UN-REDD:

- UNDP stressed the importance of the need for better coordination of events to be promoted and seen as initiatives of the UN-REDD Programme; and that the Secretariat needs to play a stronger coordinating role, and that they strive to work towards more timely and effective sharing of information to the Secretariat to contribute to enhancing such coordination
- The Secretariat suggested that since we are not doing the full day event, we should discuss and identify what the through line for all UN-REDD events in Durban would be; and that given plans are still in development within the agencies, once we have a better sense of what is emerging we can better define how to approach the promotion of and create meaningful connections within all UN-REDD activities

c) Can the concept of a REDD+ Hour be applied to any event:

- The REDD+ Hour is universal and can be used for various needs
- The aim is to provide a space for a series of in-depth and substantial discussions