Sub-technical working group on MRV
summary of discussions for 22 April 2011 meeting

Date and time: 22 April 2011/ 15.00-17.30
Venue: JICA meeting room
Participants: (see list at end of document)

Agenda items

1. Presentations on MRV and REDD+ Information System on safeguards
2. Discussions on stakeholders and institutional arrangements of MRV and Safeguards Information System
3. Brief on SNV's high-bio-diversity REDD+ project
4. Updates from FORMIS

1. Presentations on MRV and Safeguards Information System

The following presentations were made by the UN-REDD/FAO team working on a framework document for MRV development in Vietnam. Based on consultations with the STWG-MRV, as well as wider national stakeholders, a framework document for MRV will be developed for Vietnam, which will also feed into the National REDD+ Strategy/Programme/Action Plan document. The framework document will be a living document to be updated and revised as needs arise.

- Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) by Phung Van Khoa, VFU/FAO consultant <Attached - presentation 1>
- National Forest Inventory (NFI) & Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG-I) by Nguyen Dinh Hung, FIPI/FAO consultant <Attached - presentation 2>
- Safeguard information system by Pham Thanh Nam, FAO consultant <Attached - presentation 3>
  Other reference documents shared (linked):
  - Social Carbon Standards
  - CCBA REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards
  - UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria

- Key text from the Cancun Agreement (CP16) on MRV and safeguards:
  - (Para 71) requests for developing country parties to develop a "**robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities**…" and a "**system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout**… "
  - (Para 73) "decides that the **activities** undertaken by Parties … **should be implemented in phases**, beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action places that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, and evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified."

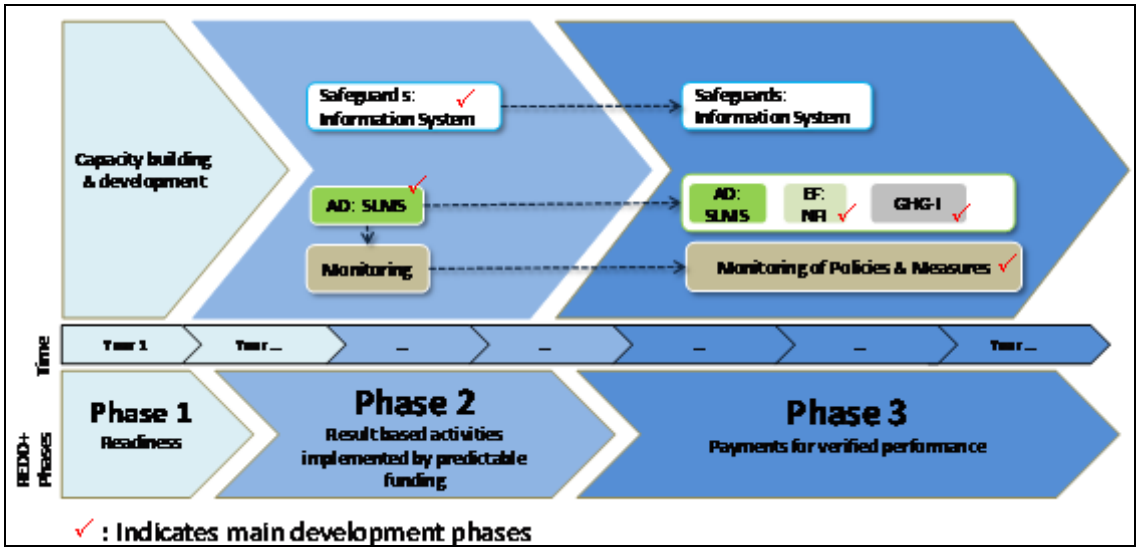

Diagram: phased approach in monitoring systems development

2. Discussions on institutional arrangements for MRV and safeguard information system in Vietnam

Based on information from the presentations, the STWG-MRV members engaged in three separate groups, in a brain-storming exercise to identify the key institutions/stakeholders under each of the sub-systems of MRV (SLMS, NFI, GHG-I) and the Safeguard Information System.

- SLMS
  - FIPI: for field surveys and satellite image analysis
  - VFU: for conducting training courses, doing accuracy assessment, conducting researches (e.g. allometric equation, carbon sequestration, etc).
  - MONRE (i.e. Remote Sensing Center, General Department of Land Administration)
  - Sub-FPDs: to participate in field surveys
  - It is necessary to establish a shared platform, including the above, for generating all necessary data
  - Verification: It is necessary to have a third party to conduct some verification job, such as some research institutes and universities (e.g. Space Technology Institute, FSIV, VFU).
- NFI
  - FIPI (including sub-FIPI offices) is the only institution with the capacity for carrying out field inventories on their sampling plot system being employed under the national forest inventory, monitoring and assessment program. However, while FIPI is the technical agency in charge of implementation of forestry inventory under VNFOREST, the overall administrative mandate to carry out the inventory remains at VNFOREST, MARD. A clear institutional definition of the ownership of the data and protocols for access needs to be defined. (While it is the general understanding among VNFOREST departments that the ownership of the inventory data is with the government, thus data access should not be charged by the implementing organization (ie FIPI), this has not been enforced.) According to information provided to the FORMIS project, VNFOREST is working to issue an administrative decision on this issue.

- FSIV (including RCFEE), VFU, FIPI and other research institutes/universities for carrying out studies to generate as much country-specific emission factors as possible, specifically for generating allometric equations and conversion/expansion factors. None of these institutions have particular mandate from government to lead or guide a national process (with the exception of FIPI, in charge of the forest inventory which will generate biomass volume data). However, the existing research capacity at RCFEE makes it a relevant focal point institution. RCFEE is currently undertaking a study to compile an inventory of existing tree allometry data for Vietnam and the GMS region, as consignment under CIFOR. The results of this study should be the basis for further coordinated work.

- GHG-I
  - So far, the GHG-I for the LULUCF sector is being compiled with the engagement of a number of related institutions, who compile the related data (original data comes from the FIPI inventory and other sources) and input into the "IPCC spreadsheet" which contains default emission factors, to generate the GHG-I. This process is mostly of data input and GHG-I generation is mostly an automatic process not requiring specialized capacity for GHG-I.
  - The need for specialized capacity for GHG-I may be best consolidated to address all relevant sectors, and not limited to the LULUCF sector.
  - RCFEE (and other organizations) has carried out biomass surveys in some areas such as the Central Highlands. Results from surveys on mangrove forests have also been generated. With the support from CIFOR, FSIV is conducting a mapping of available allometric equations in the region.
  - RCFEE has been carrying out a desk-based uncertainty assessment for the LULUCF sector, based on consignment contracts from the VN Office of Climate Change (MONRE).
- Safeguards Information System
  Generating and reporting consistent, verifiable results-based data will require capacity building and coordination between relevant agencies (ie particularly within MARD and MONRE).
  - Environmental: MARD, VNFOREST (FPD, REDD+ office), MONRE (VNCOO, Biodiversity Conservation Agency), CSOs (academia, research institution), NGOs, International NGOs, REDD+ WG, REDD+ STWG.
  - Social: Committee for ethics minority affairs (CEM), Indigenous people local representatives (IPLC), community based organizations (CBOs), MASS organizations (women's unions, youth unions, farmers' unions etc.), customary institutions, MoLISA, GSOs.
  - For cross-verification of data/information: people's councils at the different levels

Other comments raised in disucsions:

- (PM Cuong) The "Satellite Land Monitoring System" is better referred to as the "Land Monitoring System" as, the COP16 decision encourages REDD+ countries "to use a combination of ground-based surveys and remote sensing technology". The use of the word "Satellite" for the name of the system could lead to misunderstanding in technical and institutional arrangements. Therefore, LMS is a soft title and creates rooms for flexibility (not intend to impose any technique)

- (PM Cuong) According to the Cancun Agreement, the National Forest Monitoring System and the Safeguard Information System are two separate requirements and should be interpreted in Vietnam as such.
- (PM Cuong) In adopting the "phased approach", we should not assign specific time/years for attaining milestones, for the reason that timing for Phase 3 (payments for verified results) will be dependent on the progress of international negotiations.

3. Brief on SNV's high-bio-diversity REDD+ project (Steve Swan, SNV)

A brief introduction on the "High-Bio-diversity REDD+ Project" was given (material attached), highlighting the project's intention to address the bio-diversity related item of the safeguards, as well as to explore the possibility of elevating the bio-diversity conservation agenda within the REDD+ context in VN to actively promote, rather than just safeguard biodiversity. The project will address this through its interventions at the international and national policy levels as well as at the field level through piloting of relevant methodologies.
<attachment – presentation4>

4. Updates from FORMIS project (Tapio Leppanen, Le Anh Hung)

The FORMIS project is establishing the FORMIS platform and portal, which will contribute to linking, sharing and integrating forestry sector information/data (contained within databases which may be stored within or outside of FORMIS) across the country.
To introduce the FORMIS system and its relevance for REDD+, potential data accessibility was demonstrated by showing the different layers and possible overlays of digitized forest maps up to the compartment level (using generated from the Finnish study by NORDECO to support REDD+ preparation in VN).
(Screen shots to be provided as attachment – pending)

List of Participants (according to participation in discussion groups – item 2. above)

(S)LMS

- Phung Van Khoa, VFU/UN-REDD consultant
- Pham Manh Cuong, VN-REDD+ Office
- Le Phuoc Thanh, VIDAGIS
- Pham Thi Thuy Hanh, GLDA, MONRE
- Bui Manh Hung, VFU
- Le Anh Hung, FORMIS
- Nori Kitamura, VNFOREST/JICA
- Tomokazu Hoshino, JICA Study Team
- Vu Anh Tuan, STI-VAST
- Nguyen Hanh Quyen, STI-VAST

NFI/GHG-I

- Akiko Inoguchi, FAO
- Nguyen Dinh Hung, FIPI/UN-REDD consultant
- Vu Tan Phuong, RCFEE
- Eiji Egashira, JICA Vietnam
- Kazuhisa Kato, JICA Study Team
- Tapio Leppanen, FORMIS project

Safeguards Information

- Pham Thanh Nam, UN-REDD consultant
- Steve Swan, SNV
- Vu Thi Hien, CERDA
- Josh Kempinski, FFI
- Phuong Hoang, UN-REDD VN
- Do Trong Hoan, ICRAF
- Vu Minh Duc, Embassy of Norway
- Lea Bigot, REDD-ALERT project
- Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen, UN-REDD VN
- Nguyen Xuan Giap, CERDA
- Wataru Yamamoto, JICA Study Team

Others

- Patrick van Laake, UN-REDD