

Unofficial draft translation from Spanish Concept note: (for general guidance only)

Workshop to share information on National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD + in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ecuador, from 23 to 26 April 2013

Background:

There has been a large increase in the reporting requirements related to forests, both domestically and internationally, especially with respect to the change in land use and forestry for reporting greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Decisions regarding REDD + under the UNFCCC require that countries developing interested in implementing REDD + actions in their territories should develop a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), which will allow the country to collect forest information needed to provide estimates of carbon that are measurable, reportable and verifiable, and other relevant information.

The UN-REDD Programme was established to support countries in their efforts to develop and implement REDD + actions. The document of UN-REDD *"National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS): Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (M & MRV) in the context of REDD +"* provides a history and a summary of the requirements for national reporting for REDD + , which will be discussed in the workshop.

Many countries have made significant progress in the development of National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) including forest inventories, mapping, monitoring techniques via satellite images and inventories of greenhouse gases. However, the range of methods and the advantages or disadvantages of different approaches are not always known or shared among countries. Thus, there is opportunity for improvement through the exchange of information and experience to support countries in the development of efficient and effective forest monitoring and reporting systems. UN-REDD and FAO, jointly with the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, are organizing a workshop on these issues for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The workshop will be held in Ecuador from 23 to 26 April 2013.

Workshop objectives:

1. Inform countries on the UN-REDD document *"National Forest Monitoring Systems: Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (M & MRV) in the context of REDD + activities"*.
2. Encourage countries to share information on the current status and plans for National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD +, building on the experiences of Ecuador.
3. Share experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of National Forest Monitoring Systems.
4. Identify gaps in skills and the main needs of each country, exploring opportunities for regional support and training where common needs are identified, and specific support for particular issues in specific countries.

Workshop topics and structure:

Before the meeting are asked to prepare written statements short countries and a poster on the status and plans for their NFMS these posters will be used to examine practical examples and experiences NFMS (on forests and other data).

Invitations will be sent to 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with two participants per country. These two people will be chosen to represent the country on their NFMS progress. To interact in all sessions of the workshop, these representatives can be the focal point of national REDD + plus an expert with a technical background to choose between i) forest monitoring through remote sensing, ii) forest inventory, or iii) in collection of other information including socio-economic and biodiversity.

Day 1 will outline the key issues necessary to implement a successful NFMS using examples from the region based on country experience, for example, the experiences of Ecuador in multipurpose forest inventory and a summary of the workshop held in Chile on National Forest Inventories, 5-9 November 2012.

During Day 2 Working Groups will be formed on technical topics discussed on the first day. These working groups will allow more detailed discussions and then make plenary presentations. Initial topics will be proposed, but it is expected that countries can make suggestions that can support with case studies or experts. Proposed topics for these sessions are:

- National Forest Inventory to support REDD +
- Using Remote Sensing for REDD +
- Discussions on collecting other relevant information (e.g. socio-economic and / or biodiversity)

The third day will be a field day includes a visit to an inventory plot to demonstrate practical applications.

The fourth day of the final session will be organized to present the conclusions of the workshop and a debate to identify challenges and opportunities facing the countries in the implementation of National Forest Monitoring and finding joint solutions to these challenges.

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