

Second Expert Workshop on Monitoring Governance for REDD+

18-19 November, 2010
FAO Headquarters, Rome

Report

Context

The UN-REDD Programme and Chatham House jointly organized the Second Expert Workshop on Monitoring Governance for REDD+ on 18-19 November at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The workshop brought together a range of stakeholders, including participants from government agencies of both REDD+ and donor countries, as well as civil society and academia, to discuss operational needs for monitoring governance for REDD+ implementation. It built upon the outcome of a first workshop held in May at Chatham House in London¹ which resulted in a set of core governance parameters and key considerations for monitoring. Inputs for the November workshop included the results of the first meeting, as well as background paper one (BGP1) prepared for the May workshop and background paper three (BGP3) prepared for the November workshop. BGP3 is based on BGP1 and the May outcome. It derives operational considerations from existing initiatives and mechanisms for governance monitoring (described in BGP1) and proposes an indicative national system for REDD+.

All documents related to the workshop, including presentations, are available online at: http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?it_id=209&it=event and <http://www.un-redd.org/AboutUNREDDProgramme/GlobalActivities/Governance/tabid/5830/Default.aspx>

Objective

The workshop aimed to inform the development of a guidance framework for national monitoring of governance for REDD+, with a view to assisting countries in their implementation of the activities and safeguards identified under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in the preparation of REDD readiness proposals (R-PPs) and national joint programmes (NJPs)². The workshop inputs (core governance parameters, operational

¹ For more information on the May workshop, please see http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?it_id=197&it=event and http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=2109&Itemid=53

² For the text agreed by the UNFCCC on 11 December 2010, see http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_16/application/pdf/cop16_lca.pdf

considerations and an indicative national system) provided the basis for a framework with three elements - “What to monitor”, “How to monitor it” and “Who should monitor it” - to inform the establishment of national monitoring systems for REDD+ implementation. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the three elements of this proposed framework, focusing particularly on operational guidance and an indicative national system, for elaboration into guidance for the development of effective governance monitoring systems in REDD+ countries.

The guidance framework for monitoring governance for REDD+

Participants formulated the following conclusions and recommendations with regard to the purpose, scope, style and content of the guidance framework for monitoring governance for REDD+:

- The primary aim of the guidance framework should be to help inform in-country processes for the development of governance monitoring systems for REDD+, to enable implementation of the governance, social and environmental safeguards agreed under the UNFCCC. While it is not a standard, it could also provide a valuable frame of reference to help build trust between REDD+ countries and other actors, including donor governments, civil society, indigenous peoples and the private sector.
- The guidance framework should be available for use by all REDD+ stakeholders at national and sub-national levels, including governments, civil society, indigenous peoples and investors.
- The guidance framework should inform and facilitate the development, use and/or adaptation of existing guidelines, assessment and monitoring tools, and methodologies. It should enable the convergence of proposed tools under REDD+ to ensure cost effectiveness and avoid unnecessary duplication. Linkages with other governance monitoring initiatives, including the FAO-World Bank initiative on indicators for good forest governance, should be clearly articulated in the final document. Participants identified gaps in the references to existing precedents and practices (e.g. governance and anti-corruption initiatives from the World Bank) and stressed the need for a more comprehensive review of the literature on governance monitoring.
- The guidance framework should maintain a clear focus on monitoring governance for REDD+. Participants viewed it as a component of a wider REDD+ monitoring framework which would also encompass ecosystem products and services, environmental and social safeguards, finance as well as mitigation actions.
- The final document outlining the guidance framework should be short (10-15 pages was mentioned) and practical. It should use clear language accessible to all REDD+ stakeholders, ranging from ministers to field practitioners. It should be made available in English, French, Spanish and other languages as needed. It could be complemented by a web-based resource, providing flexibility and depth as the guidance evolves, and should be drafted with this possibility in mind.
- The three elements driving the structure of the proposed framework collectively provide a good basis for the guidance. The core governance parameters (“The What”, see Annex 1)

constitute a solid foundation for the framework. The operational considerations (“The How”, see Annex 2) and indicative national system (“The Who”, see Annex 3) also provide a good basis but need further clarification and refinement. Annex 2 incorporates suggestions from the workshop but some elements need clarification. More attention needs to be paid to feedback loops, conflict resolution mechanisms, as well as benefit sharing and distribution. Instead of outlining an indicative institutional structure as proposed in Annex 3, the guidance framework should focus on the three institutional *functions* on which the proposed structure is based, in order to be relevant to different institutional contexts, as well as to both national and sub-national levels of government.

- Key concerns when developing the guidance framework should be feasibility and cost-effectiveness. It should provide practical guidance on how to establish effective monitoring systems and help institutional building within REDD+ countries. It should favour the use and/or adaptation of existing institutional structures and monitoring tools as far as possible, recognising that different countries were at different stages of development and needed to take different approaches on some aspects.
- Several participants noted the absence of private sector input in the process of developing the guidance framework and recommended their involvement in the reviewing, implementation and further development processes. There was also general agreement that, as a member of the UN-REDD Programme, UNEP would need to be engaged in the next phase.
- At a later stage, piloting in a balanced set of countries would help evaluate and refine the framework. Representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Tanzania expressed their interest in piloting the guidance. The Ateneo School of Government in The Philippines also expressed interest to incorporate it into its capacity building programme on monitoring safeguards.

Drafting and reviewing process

Participants agreed on a drafting and reviewing process for the guidance framework for monitoring governance for REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme will select drafters for the document and an advisory group, made up of all interested participants, will support the drafting process. The complete draft will be widely circulated for review among participants from both meetings.

The following timeline was agreed upon for the preparation the final document:

End of November 2010: Selection of drafters;

Beginning of December 2010: Elaboration of draft 0 based on workshop recommendations and constitution of the advisory group;

Mid-December 2010: Draft 0 sent to the advisory group for review;

Mid-January 2011: Teleconference with the advisory group to share comments and revise draft 0;

End of January 2011: Circulation of the complete draft for review (1 week);

Mid-February 2011: Final document ready.

The objective was set on an official release of the guidance framework for monitoring governance for REDD+ (Version 1.0) at the UN-REDD Programme's 6th Policy Board meeting in Vietnam in March 2011.