

Minutes / Action Points
Safeguards Coordination Group
Support to National REDD+ Action / Global Programme
19 February 2014, 14:30 CET

Attendance:

FAO: Maria SanzSanchez and Emelyne Cheney
UNDP: Kimberly Todd and Jennifer Laughlin
UNEP: Julie Greenwalt and Robert Munroe
Secertariat: Helena Eriksson

Draft Agenda:

1. Approval of agenda.
2. Document "A country led approaches to REDD+ safeguards and multiple benefits" by SNV.
3. Targeted support requests and updates – Bhutan, Uganda, Costa Rica and Mexico.
4. Update from discussion with FCPF and REDD+ SES.
5. CAST (including feedback from UNDP team planning meeting, Sudan, and linkages to resource library on new version of the safeguards/MB pages).
6. Annual Report 2013.
7. Follow up from FTF SCG meeting in Rome –
 - a. Feedback on suggestion of SCG regional contact points and "safeguards champions" as ways of expanding support, and/or other suggestions.
 - b. Summary Report from meeting with draft workplan.
8. AOB.

Minutes and action points:

1. Approval of draft agenda

The agenda was approved as above, including UNDP's added items.

2. Document "A country led approaches to REDD+ safeguards and multiple benefits" by SNV

The Group had been informed by Clea and Jose Arturo Santos about the document being promoted in LAC countries as the alternative for country approaches to safeguards. There are some misleading references to UN-REDD.

While the document has already been published, UNEP, which has collaborated with the authors on related work in the past, will follow up with clarifications on the document. Overall, the Group welcomed safeguards initiatives like this one and that countries have access to various sources of useful information, not only from the UN-REDD. The importance of spreading information about UN-REDD's support to safeguards and liaising with NGO and other initiatives (apart from FCPF and REDD+ SES) to address such misunderstandings was re-emphasized. UNEP have reviewed the document to analyse references to UN-REDD and will circulate a summary of the approach highlighting obvious clashes / synergies with UN-REDD's framework on safeguards and multiple benefits work. (See e-mail from UNEP on 3 March). This will be used in follow-up with the authors. UNEP will inform the Group on any outcomes from discussions with the authors/SNV.

3. Targeted support requests and updates – Bhutan, Uganda, Costa Rica and Mexico

Requests received

The Secretariat followed up with the Group on the requests from Bhutan and Uganda. UNEP's comments already shared by e-mail referred to the clarity needed on activity 3.1 "Develop a nationally appropriate approach (including principles, criteria and indicators) to ensure environmental safeguards are addresses and respected" and the importance of environmental and social safeguards linkages. FAO mentioned its support to the overall request, but suggested that SIS is postponed to a later stage of implementation. UNDP had already sent general comments and would provide any safeguards-related ones by e-mail. Uganda's request was only briefly discussed as there are more general issues (linkages to FCPF; new NP etc), which first need to be discussed in NPWG or GPCG.

On-gong TS

UNDP updated the Group on the forthcoming workshop with the World Bank in Costa Rica at the end of March, with the confirmed participation from Clea, Gabriel, Arturo and Serena, among others.

Pipeline TS

Based on the discussions in December, FAO update the group that the request from Mexico is being finalized in coordination between all three agencies. It will be sent shortly to the Secretariat.

- With regard to the overall targeted support mechanism, the Group stressed on issues (operational, linkages to NP and other initiatives, amount levels, coordination-related, encouraging CNAs etc) that are not explicitly related to safeguards but need be discussed and clarified.

Action Point: Group to send bullets of targeted support issues that need to be resolved to the Secretariat for discussion in appropriate forum. (To be sent by 25 Feb).

4. Update from discussion with FCPF and REDD+SES

UNDP has taken initially steps to liaise with both Ken Rapp (FCPF) and Joanna Durbin (REDD+ SES) regarding the planning for upcoming coordination meetings. At the time of discussion, a meeting with Kenn was tentatively being scheduled for the beginning of March, via videoconference, with Jen and Kim representing the SCG. They will coordinate with the group on the agenda for the discussion with Kenn and update the Group of the outcomes, following the meeting. Pending outcomes of that meeting, a second meeting that would include all available members of the SCG as well as REDD+ SES for part of the discussions, is being considered for late spring. As per SCG's draft workplan, UNEP was also going to discuss with REDD+ SES (Phil and Joana) when visiting UNEP/WCMC on 12 Feb and will share feedback.

Action Point: UNEP will share information from the 12 Feb meeting with REDD+ SES. UNDP to confirm videoconference date/time with Kenn.

5. CAST

UNDP gave a brief update on feedback on CAST from its yearly planning meeting. A number of comments were received, with many fo them focusing on simplifying and streamlining

questions, as well as clarifying the intended definitions of terms used. UNDP also mentioned feedback from the workshop in Sudan held the week of 10 February, which Julie shared with the CAST development team. Linkages between CAST and the resource library on the new version of the safeguards/MB pages had been raised as an issue for consideration. Points raised regarding the Sudan workshop as well as linkages to the resource library on the new version of the website both required some clarification and the CAST development team will be reaching out to UNEP (Julie and Lera) to ensure the points are being interpreted correctly.
Action Point: UNDP will share feedback from Sudan workshop by e-mail.

6. Annual Report 2013

Secretariat reminded the Group about the request for reporting inputs on Outcome 5. (After the call UNEP proposed in a message how to divide the reporting task across the Group and indicated 6 March as deadline for taking into account UNDP's internal deadline).

7. Follow up from FTF SCG meeting in Rome –

a) Following the inputs from UNDP that regional safeguards contact points is not recommended by the agency the Group discussed other options for following up regionally and ensuring expanded support to safeguard work. A suggestion was to send a message to the regional colleagues for collecting views on what support they need and on any internal mechanisms that could help.

The use of informal contact points with regional responsibility was mentioned.

Action Points:

- Explore with regional colleagues ways forward to ensure support is sufficiently provided. (*TBD: one inter-agency message or a separate message from each agency to the RTAs*).
- UNDP to review if informal contact points could be helpful and what function that would involve.

b) The Secretariat mentioned the draft meeting report that is ready for review and welcomed any overall preferences from the Group on its structure, length etc. Any agenda items that were not dealt with at the Rome meeting will be included in the coming conference calls.

Action Point: Group to send comments on the draft meeting report.

8. AOB

UNEP reported that the MB/safeguards webpage was scheduled for MG discussion on 26 Feb. Comments on the content itself had been requested by e-mail from UNEP-WCMC but the Group recommended that clarity should first be sought on the webpage launch, modality and timeline as requested at the Rome Meeting before rushing with provision of comments. (*Due to lack of agency quorum on 26 Feb, the item was postponed to next MG meeting*)

The next conf. call will be held on 6 March, 2.30 PM CET