

Minutes / Action Points
Safeguards Coordination Group
Support to National REDD+ Action / Global Programme
18 December 2014, 4 PM CET

ATTENDANCE:

FAO: Caroline DeVit
UNDP: Kim Todd, Jennifer Laughlin
UNEP: Lera Miles, Daniela Carrion and Emelyne Cheney and
Safeguards Coordinator Steve Swan
Secretariat: Helena Eriksson

1. Approval of draft agenda

The draft agenda was approved.

2. AFRICA

a. DRC - Targeted support request received.

Following some queries from the group at the last call and some follow up ones from UNDP, UNEP (lead of the safeguards work under DRC's NP) clarified that the country had been requesting support on national standards, specifically a simplification of the standards for their operationalization in the context of the national strategy and the SIS. A safeguards working group will be established in the country including relevant initiatives such as WWF and Wildlife Works. The group will be chaired by the CN REDD. The work relates to WWF's work on SIS and this point on relation to WWF was particularly raised by SCG. The simplified standards (incl. indicators) are going to be tested in the Mai Ndombe Province. The country had requested support from UNEP/UN-REDD for developing a proposed institutional structure for the SIS. As SIS development is also included under the FCPF country work plan, subsequent consultations to validate and set up the proposed SIS structure will be done under FCPF funding. FAO suggested that linkages are made between the safeguards work to the MRV and NFMS targeted support work in the country.

The Group emphasized the usefulness of sharing pipeline TSs on safeguards as early as possible in the process. Secretariat mentioned that they forward TS requests to the SCG when it is proposed by the GPCG or TS agency focal points, but received requests are not automatically forwarded to the Group. This to apply the same approach to all work areas, especially those including more than one agency. Process related issues will also be a part of the discussion at the SCG planning meeting in end Jan.

b. Chad - Targeted support proposal.

The group appreciated FAO's alert to SCG on on-going discussion with Chad and the country's interest in support on safeguards. Clarifications on Chad's status of its overall REDD+ readiness, R-PP development etc had been provided by email from FAO and the group was fine with FAO's engagement in the TS. UNDP and UNEP will not provide financial support to this specific TS.

3. ASIA & Pacific

The Safeguards Coordinator shared an update on on-going exchange with Sri Lanka and Viet Nam and how he had provided information on the UN-REDD's overall country approach to safeguards and offered further technical support provided by the SCG (Sri Lanka and Viet Nam have not yet responded to this offer). FAO asked for clarification on the linkages to Viet Nam's PGA work. The Coordinator responded that the Viet Nam National Programme's Outcome 5 has been revised to cover both application of the country approach to safeguards, in addition to PGA activities, but the Coordinator had not provided any specific feedback on synergies with PGA.

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- It was agreed that the Coord. will share the email exchange with SCG for information and to ensure that the relevant regional officers are aware. Internal/external communication will also be an agenda point for the planning meeting.

4. LAC

No highlights were mentioned.

5. GLOBAL

a. Collaboration with REDD+ SES Initiative (See e-mail from Joana, 15 Dec , and from Steve, 17 Dec)

The Coordinator updated the group on some pros and cons of a possible enhanced collaboration with REDD+SES. Some country experiences in LAC point on dissatisfaction with REDD+SES, its significant related to UNFCCC is not clear and other initiatives such as CARE has taken steps away from cooperation. SCG acknowledged the insights and agreed to discuss this further. It was mentioned that REDD+ SES worked in the countries long before UN-REDD, some of the structures were considered useful and today the two initiatives are already working together in the same countries. Any complementary areas need to be reviewed.

- It was agreed that the Coordinator sends a message acknowledging the message from REDD+ SES, requests the full proposal and suggests that a joint discussion is taking place in February (after SCG's planning meeting)

b. Suggested regional/global workshop, May 2015, Thailand (See e-mail from Lera, 18 Dec)

Given that a regional safeguards workshop is being planned in the first week of March, back to back with the KM workshop in Bangkok, UNEP raised the point in an email preceding the call that the group should consider whether to still go ahead with the global workshop in May in Bangkok or shift to another region.. A meeting in the margins of PB14 in Washington would not include the relevant country representatives. In order to also consider an internal UN-REDD safeguards workshop, which appears to be a clear recommendation stemming from the internal safeguards review, funds were going to be looked into.

- It was agreed that the Secretariat will see if KM funding can be used for holding an internal safeguards workshop for UN-REDD agency staff, since UNEP's safeguards budget is strictly for country-directed workshops.

c. Safeguards review – check in on timeline (See e-mail from Steve, 18 Dec)

- It was agreed to postpone the deadline for the submission of the first draft by the SC coordinator to 6 January and discuss it in the SCG call on 8 January.

Whether to share the draft with the agency teams in view of the UNEP and UNDP retreats was brought up. One suggestion was to keep on hold the sharing outside the group until SCG had first gone through it and made its recommendations. Another proposal was to make the decision on possible sharing once the first draft has been seen. (Decision to be taken).

d. UN-REDD, Mini-retreat, 26–27 Jan 2015

Safeguards is an item on the draft min-retreat agenda (1 hour on 27 Jan). The retreat is not coordinated by the Secretariat and the Sec suggested that SCG members request to see the latest agenda through its MG members and make suggestions if needed and/ or bring any points to the group.

e. Planning for SCG Meeting, 28–29 Jan 2015

As agreed at the last call, UNEP and FAO (Lera and Kristin) will send a first outline of agenda.

Secretariat has booked a meeting room, arranged for coffee breaks (lunch at own expense) and will send out a logistics note including hotel tips.

f. Programme's strategy document – safeguards chapter (suggested item by FAO)

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The Secretariat made an update on the first draft which will be sent out the same day (19 Dec) to the MG. The SCG can communicate inputs on the safeguards text through its MG members or request that the text is reviewed by the SCG as a whole. It has been initially drafted by UNEP.

The next SGC call will take place on 8 January 2015.

Happy holidays!