

Minutes / Action Points
Safeguards Coordination Group
Support to National REDD+ Action / Global Programme

18 July 2013, 14:30 CET

Attendance:

FAO: Emelyne Cheney
UNDP: Kimberly Todd, Jennifer Laughlin, Claudia von Segesser
UNEP: Lera Miles, Robert Munroe

Agenda:

1. Approval of draft agenda
2. BeRT
3. Optional items
 - a. Web-based decision tree update
 - b. Developing a concept note for info session at next PB
 - c. Africa regional workshop concept note for review
 - d. Updates on 4-5 July TS meetings in Costa Rica
 - e. Updates on 1-3 July REDD+ SES meeting in Bogor
 - f. AOB

Minutes:

1. Approval of draft agenda

The main item of the agenda was approved. Additional items were discussed, being shifted at the beginning of the discussion. A final item was also raised at the end of the call.

2. Multiple Benefits website

- UNEP commented that they have received many comments regarding the website content, and reminded that the deadline to send inputs is today, however if the group has additional comments, they will be welcome until beginning next week.

Action item:

- All to provide comments and inputs if necessary asap. *(done)*
The website can be accessed at <http://urmp.unepwcmc-005.vm.brightbox.net/>
For any other reference, please refer to email sent by UNEP dated 04 July 2013.

3. Africa regional workshop

- UNEP reminded that they circulated the concept note for review; and that even though the deadline was 16 July 2013, all inputs/comments are more than welcome.

Action item:

- All to provide comments and inputs if necessary asap.

The document can be directly downloaded at
<http://www.unredd.net/kt/view.php?fDocumentId=1355>

For any other reference, please refer to email sent by UNEP dated 04 July 2013, as well as the one dated 15 July 2013.

4. UNEP-FAO joint work in Tanzania

- UNEP commented that they will soon share an update of the UNEP-FAO joint efforts in Tanzania. FAO's representative commented that she will be on leave next week and that any inputs by tomorrow will be highly appreciated.

Action items:

- UNEP to send FAO an outline document.
- UNEP to share draft report with the group as soon as it's available.

5. BeRT

- UNEP made an introduction to the subject, also commenting that from this meeting the expected output is to have a consensus of what the next steps should be.
- The discussion was based in overall comments about the questions on purpose, format and content of BeRT's review concept note (page 3).
- FAO's general comment was that is necessary to agree on one of the use of the tool, that BeRT should not try to answer all the questions but to prioritize one need.
 - UNEP agreed with FAO, clarifying that the concept notes has some suggestions and that it should be used to select one priority. Additionally commented that providing TS in Costa Rica has pointed out the need of support both to develop indicators for SIS, and on the process of PLR review, and that this input might be also useful to set up priorities.
 - UNDP commented that the group has to agree on the objective and the BeRT questions should answer this objective. Also commented that if we were to discuss indicators, Tina S's participation will be necessary.
 - UNDP acknowledged that there seems to be a need in this area (development of indicators), but questioned whether the BeRT format was appropriate for indicator development and that this will be a new objective to consider.
- FAO ask for clarification on how you can use the BeRT for PLR's gap analysis.
 - UNEP described a workshop exercise based on the BeRT undertaken in the Bhutan targeted support, in which potential implementing actions for REDD+ in Bhutan were identified, the potential risks and benefits of these actions were discussed, the existing relevant policies, laws and regulations were reviewed and gaps were identified (either in PLR or in their actual implementation).
 - UNDP talked about the concept: Rapid appraisal based on the SEPC: pulling out a short-list of questions from BeRT to apply to high-risk activities and then discuss whether PLRs are adequate. Moreover, that once risk key priorities areas have been identified, then deeper questions can come to tease out the specific components of those risks and benefits.
- FAO asked if BeRT could be designed without using the SEPC as its sole starting point, adding elements of flexibility.
 - UNDP agreed that adding flexibility in the starting point is important, commenting that as for now, questions are aligned with SEPC. In addition, commented that there should

be links to the decision tree, especially if countries are looking into other tools. Also that it is necessary to revise the format, because now is one-to-one linked to the SEPC.

- UNEP commented that is important to keep in mind that there is an expectation from the PB to use the SEPC as our guiding framework on social and environmental risks and benefits.
- UNDP commented that there is also a suggestion that the Cancun Safeguards (CS) should be the starting point.
 - UNEP commented that keeping BeRT flexible is important, and that it could have a structure that allows flashing out using SEPC as well as other sources in a creative way. Also that BeRT should be more flexible and linked to CS.
 - UNDP commented that RTAs were really pushing to make a direct link to CS, furthermore that there is a need to reflect the link to the UNFCCC and then baseline expectation of countries.
 - FAO expressed that UNDP suggestion is a good approach, and that making look that the Cancun Safeguards were the safest point of reference available in this situation.
- UNDP reminded about the decision tree, saying that both tools should be developed together.
 - FAO commented that the BeRT should focus on social and environmental issues, rather than making explicit references to the SEPC, the WB safeguards or the REDD+ SES, to make sure that the tool will support countries in all kind of situations without being prescriptive.
 - UNDP said that the content and substance should not focus on the institutions but in what has already been done in terms of a national system for safeguards.
- UNEP commented that the request from countries is very specific and that they want to make sure that they're compliant with SEPC, REDD+ SES, CS, etc. Furthermore, reminded the importance of the format in making a low-tech and interactive tool.
 - UNDP said that BeRT should be able to be used in a participatory way.
 - UNDP commented that Community-Based REDD+ has been approved thus other type of stakeholders would have the potential need to use the tool.
 - UNDP said that best thing to have both a master document with a structure in order to update data by country and options to apply the tool in low-tech environments (i.e. handouts for workshops).
- Additionally, UNDP inquired about point d (purpose, page 3) in the concept note (*"Is a risk assessment framework required that identifies and outlines management for NP implementation risks, equivalent to ESMF? Could the BeRT become this? How would this change the NPD template? Will/are there enough new NPs in the pipeline to merit this work? Proposed answer: not a priority."*)
 - FAO identifies BeRT as a tool for the development of national safeguards which is very different from managing a NP itself. From their point of view, the reason why the work on BeRT has not gone forward is that there are too many expectations on BeRT, highlighting the importance of "detaching" the safeguards and NP questions.
 - UNDP commented that BeRT does not have to be related to NP but likely to be more useful as a framework for an output.
 - FAO commented that in order to have a useful product it should stick to the national safeguards work, having an overview in how countries address and respect safeguards. Also another question left unanswered in previous work on the BeRT is whether it applies to NP or to REDD+ strategies. Need clarity on this to go forward.

- UNEP expressed that best to formulate a BeRT that help REDD+ PLR gap analysis, and perhaps after to plan a second phase and think about indicators.
 - Agreement that it would be useful to have an output of the BeRT in the form of a risk management framework.
- UNDP asked agencies to think about a timeframe having in mind that there is a potential to have an information session at the next PB (early December 2013), then, probably necessary to have a draft by that point.
 - FAO motivated agencies to make the agreement on the BeRT very clear in the minutes, as several group members were absent during the call.
 - UNDP suggested circulating the minutes, pulling and highlighting the group' consensus. Additionally, UNDP commented that it is important to justify that this decision responses what countries are asking for.

Action items:

- UNDP to circulate the minutes, pulling out the following summary of the groups decisions:
 - Purpose: next version of BeRT to support REDD+ PLR review and gap analysis (hence part of national approach to safeguards work, rather than NP design).
 - Format: BeRT to have structure that allows ongoing management, updating, preparation of an output document and reporting functions, perhaps online and also have options to prepare a more usable, low-tech and participative format i.e. handouts and workshops.

6. Decision Tree

- UNDP suggested working on the decision tree parallel with BeRT as both serve particular purposes. Also commented that they have received good feedback on the actual version. Additionally suggested to hold another call in 2-3 weeks and focus the discussion on this other tool to keep the momentum going, having the same goal in mind and trying to have this ready for the potential info session.

Action item:

- To have a specific call on the matter.

7. Standard meeting time

- UNDP suggested to set Thursdays at 14:30 CET as a standard time, based on the doodle that shows this time slot as the more feasible option.

Action items:

- All to set Thursday 14:30 CET as the standard time for future conference calls, every 2-3 weeks.
- In case there is a major reason, conferences will be shift to the next day (Friday 14:30 CET).
 - Next meeting should be 08 August 2013, however as it is national holiday in NYC/ Geneva, thus most likely to be shifted to Friday 09 August at 14:30 CET.