Minutes / Action Points
Safeguards Coordination Group
Support to National REDD+ Action / Global Programme
03 October 2013, 15:30 CET

Attendance:

FAO:	Maria SanzSanchez, Serena Fortuna
UNDP:	Kimberly Todd, Claudia von Segesser
UNEP:	Lera Miles, Julie Greenwalt
Secretariat:	Clea Paz-Rivera

Draft Agenda:

1. Approval of draft agenda
2. Decision-support tool
3. LAC workshop on SIS
4. Peru targeted support
5. AOB

Minutes:

1. <u>Approval of draft agenda</u>

The draft agenda was approved, with two additional items posed by UNEP to discuss the SNA Semi-annual report 2013, as well as to provide an update on a mission to DRC and ROC.

2. <u>Decision-support tool</u>

- UNDP started by remarking that during the Africa Regional Workshop in Nairobi on 17-19 September 2013, two elements were piloted: (1) the graphics (flow diagram) and (2) the self-assessment; and that feedback gathered was overall as prescriptive for the first component and very positive for the second.
- UNDP continued by giving a general overview in how the different inputs could be addressed:
    - As for the graphics, the group could consider dropping the decision tree concept altogether.
    - As for the excel-based self-assessment:
        - As it aims to be undertaken as a group exercise with engagement among colleagues, *to add some instructions for reaching out colleagues,* rather than incorporating "I don't know" as an option for a response . Also to clarify this, would not retain "self" in the title.
        - The word "assessment" could mislead the purpose of tool, making countries believe that it can potentially affect future funding; therefore *to consider renaming the module (i.e. planning tool).*

        - To facilitate the use of the tool while engaging the SESA process, *add comment boxes and to consider an initial set of questions, thus potentially having two versions.* That way, it wouldn't unnecessarily complicate the tool for a country that is not engaging in the SESA process or REDD+ SES.
        - There is a request to include a way to prioritize actions.
    - As for the SIS component, feedback has been received in order to merge the last two steps (collecting and providing information). Group could consider merging them or test the tool in LAC where countries are more advanced when it comes to SIS and see if the feedback differs.
- UNEP commented that the tool was highly appreciated and the feedback was rather positive.
- Regarding the flow diagram, UNEP suggested that before considering dropping it altogether, the language could be reformulated and tested in LAC, and then make a decision
- UNDP commented that the tool can be informally tested in the LAC workshop and afterwards the feedback could be combined.
- UNEP mentioned that during the workshop some group sessions were facilitated using the five steps as the framework; as a result countries struggled while auto-placing the activities undertaken. The whole process seems too abstract, thus the group should think how to present safeguards.

  Action item:
    - UNDP and FAO to prepare a revised version and share it with the group, asap.
    - SCG to consider testing the tool in the upcoming LAC workshop where lots of institutions, knowledge and data related to safeguards are available.

3. **LAC workshop on SIS:** 24-25 October, Lima, Peru

- UNDP started by thanking the comments received on the draft agenda and confirmed the availability of the three agencies to physically participate. Also recognized offers made by email to deliver presentation(s) remotely via videoconference (either Clea or Maria).
- The Secretariat commented that the comments already sent would need to be revised given that this is not only a UN-REDD workshop but other partners organizing.. UNDP confirmed that workshop is co-organized by the UN-REDD in Ecuador with the ICAA Project (with Marco Chiu as focal point), as well as REDD+ SES
- UNEP suggested asking the organizers for a clarification on the sessions and where UN-REDD SNA-Global Prog. would have responsibility to present or facilitate.
- FAO commented that the agenda uses terminology (monitoring/reporting) going beyond UNFCCC, and pointed out the importance of revising this language, especially for the group sessions under the responsibility of UN-REDD Global Programme. Additionally commented that UN-REDD Global Prog. could support some sessions but should not have the responsibility.
- The Secretariat remarked that it is important that workshops should only include what the convention requests and not beyond. Additionally observed that the agenda is quite loaded and even with contradictive items (sessions on scope and monitoring). The Secretariat also suggested to contribute only in one session and to avoid being too pushy (i.e. change the name

on session #4). Furthermore they suggested exploring the possibility to extend the invitation to Argentina and Paraguay.

- UNEP commented that regardless if UN-REDD Global Prog. responsible or not for the sessions, the language itself does not reflect UN-REDD. Also agreed that decision-support tool could be presented as a helpful structure for countries to explore where they are. On session #4, UNEP recommended to avoid repetition with other presenters, therefore to plan together especially with REDD+SES.
- FAO suggested that for session #4 a general presentation on the framework could be given; and during the detailed session to present the decision-support tool. Additionally recommended that to ensure consistency with the conceptual framework a preparation meeting with all the staff should take place before the workshop.

  Action item:

  - UNDP to send feedback: *(done).*
    - To ask for clarification if UN-REDD as a responsible indicates UN-REDD NP Team in Ecuador or to the UN-REDD Global Programme.
      - If UN-REDD Global Prog. responsible for facilitating session #7, offer to share a draft version of the decision-support tool that includes the SIS component of national safeguard approaches, in order to assess utility for the countries.
      - If UN-REDD Global Prog. responsible for facilitating session #12, offer to only give the introductory presentation on Day 1 and then facilitation of one of the working group sessions, not two.
    - To raise questions regarding the terminology.
    - To suggest a pre-meeting with all staff.
    - To suggest extending invitation to Argentina and Paraguay.

4. Peru targeted support

- UNDP commented that comments have been received via email and that right now they are being compiled.

5. SNA Semi-annual report 2013

- UNEP volunteered to revise the final version.
- UNDP working on comments based on the last version by FAO.

  Action item:

  - UNDP to post the last version on *SharedDocs* *(done).*
  - All to provide inputs (as necessary) and UNEP to revise the final version.

    File can be access at http://www.unredd.net/kt/control.php?action=browse&qs=fFolderId%3D889

6. Update on missions to DRC and ROC

- UNEP commented that the National Standards are soon to be finalized, and that DRC is currently going through the SESA process. Additionally that there is a proposal on hosting an international expert meeting (in French with possible translation) in November to review the work on safeguards, followed by a validation workshop. Furthermore, UNEP requested support from the group to participate (or to identify an expert to join) in the meeting, pointing out that they have the funding.
- In the case of Congo, the country is at an earlier stage, just starting safeguards work.
    - They've hired a consultant who has accomplished a lot in a short time – she's taken the SEPC and adapted to a national context for Congo. This includes indicators as well as means of verification.
    - Congo is requesting more capacity-building support on safeguards/multiple benefits

Action item:

- For DRC, to volunteer or to identify a French-speaking expert to participate in the international expert meeting on safeguards.
- For DRC, UNEP to provide the budget for the participant.
- For Congo identify opportunities for building capacity related to REDD+ safeguards

7. AOB

- Concept Note:
    - UNDP mentioned that is currently working on the note and that soon it will be distributed for comments.