

Summary report: UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference, 4 – 13, June 2013¹

I. REDD+ Negotiations

SBSTA 38:

At this session Parties discussed the following items: measuring, reporting and verification; forest reference emission levels and or forest reference levels; national forest monitoring systems; safeguards; drivers of deforestation; non-market based approaches; and non-carbon benefits.

There were also two joint SBSTA-SBI workshops: [Coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangements \(SBSTA/SBI\)](#), and a [Workshop on results-based finance for the full implementation of activities relating to REDD-plus](#) that took place on June 7 and June 10 respectively.

After intense and productive discussions the SBSTA plenary adopted [conclusions](#) that included three clean draft decisions for consideration at COP 19: i) modalities for national forest monitoring systems, ii) the timing and the frequency of presentations of the summary of information on the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected and iii) Addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. And two annexes: i) With elements for a possible draft decision on modalities for MRV and ii) elements for a possible draft decision on guidelines and procedures for a technical assessment of submissions from Parties on proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels.

National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS)

The draft decision on NFMS decision called for systems being guided by the IPCC guidance and guidelines, as basis for estimating GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes; that the NFMS should provide data and information that are transparent, consistent and suitable for MRV; and that the systems should build upon existing systems, enable assessment of different forest types, including natural forests (as defined by the Party), be flexible, and allow for improvement. Finally it makes reference to they may provide for information on how safeguards are addressed and respected.

Safeguards

The conclusions called for: Parties to provide submissions by 24 September 2014 their views on experiences and lessons learned on safeguard information systems (SIS); Parties and observers to submit by the same date their views on the type of information helpful for considering how safeguards are being addressed and respected; Parties and observers to

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share via the UNFCCC Web Platform experiences and lessons learned on SIS; SBSTA to consider the need for further guidance on safeguards at its 41st session (Nov/Dec 2014). The draft decision on safeguards text contains: that developing countries should provide a periodic summary of information on how all of the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected through national communications or communication channels agreed by the COP after the start of implementation activities; sharing lessons on safeguard processes and safeguard information systems through submissions and the UNFCCC Web Platform .

Drivers of deforestation

The text draft decision on drivers reaffirms the importance of addressing drivers in the context of national strategies; recognises that drivers may have causes and actions that are unique to national circumstances/capacities/capabilities; calls on Parties, organisations and private sector to take action; share the results of work on drivers via UNFCCC Web Platform; and to take note of such shared information.

Measuring, Reporting and verification (MRV)

The **possible** elements of a draft decision for COP19, which contains many brackets on issues related to the verification:

- Main open issues if results-based actions potentially eligible for market-based approaches will/may be subject to further specific verification elements. Will be ICA as defined enough, or/and need of an specific process and information if result base finance is pursued (“verification” - how and by whom)
- A technical annex on specific required information (introduced initially by US and supported by Developed Countries)

Among the elements agreed: the need to develop capacities; data and information on emissions by sources and removals by sinks, stocks, stocks and forest area changes needs to be transparent and consistent over time and with established FRELS/FRLs and provided through biennial update reports, FRELS/FRLs expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year; encouraged improved methodologies over time; details on technical analysis of methodological consistency between the reference level and the results;

Forest reference levels and or forest reference emission levels (RLs and RELs)

Elements for a **possible** draft decision on guidelines and procedures for technical assessment of submissions from Parties on proposed FRELS/FRLs (currently heavily bracketed): each submission related to the Durban decision shall be subject to a technical assessment; Parties/IGOs to nominate technical experts to the UNFCCC roster of experts; proposed FRELS/FRLs to be considered for adoption at next COP; guidelines for technical assessment (objectives, scope, procedures).

Non-Carbon benefits and Non-market based approaches

The non-carbon benefits (NCBs) discussions revealed that further clarity is needed on what NCBs are. There are also questions regarding the UNFCCC's role vis-à-vis other conventions and processes. The real reason for being on the agenda is that many countries feel there is not an equitable division of support on REDD+ and this issue can allow that discussion (was also clear in workshop on coordination of support, see below). Further discussion on this could risk re-opening the safeguards discussions. It is becoming obvious that there is a need to consider the experience of implementing the safeguards and SIS first. Submissions are requested by 26 March 2014, and the issue will be further considered at SBSTA 40 (next June).

Non-market based approaches discussion was originally proposed by Bolivia who stated that they want a decision on this at COP19, including separate guidance from REDD+ (or it will start to object to REDD decisions). The general feeling is that these approaches are not currently excluded and there is a definite role. There is a strong need for clarity on what such approaches are and therefore submissions have been requested by 26 March 2014, and an in-session expert meeting is to be organised at SBSTA 40 and further discussions will continue at the same session.

SBI agenda items:

The SBI agenda was not adopted due to procedural blockages and no session was held. The joint SBSTA-SBI workshops were held because they were mandated by the CoP.

The joint SBSTA-SBI workshop: Coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangements

In a summary, the CfrN and African Group strongly advocated for a new REDD+ committee, and several countries including Mexico, Colombia and several developed countries saying that it is premature. Brazil stated that the best mean to coordinate is finalize the discussion on results-base finance, proposing as a mean of finance for all three phases the Climate Green Fund with 3 modalities that will include financing readiness. There was overall recognition of the need to enhance coordination for readiness process, and the importance of addressing methodological issues soon as a way to enhance coordination. Please see rough notes attached.

Floor was given to observers, but no multilateral initiatives spoke, only CAN intervened. Parties made all the points we wanted to raise: several parties mentioned the ongoing coordination among multilaterals although recognizing that there is more to do. UN-REDD was mentioned specifically or among other initiatives notably in the US's presentation, but in general in the same lines above (for the records US noted that UN-REDD is being organizing good activities on sharing experiences, workshops etc.). Regarding the proposed need for a registry for action and support the value of the Voluntary REDD+ Database was mentioned by a number of Parties.

The joint SBSTA-SBI workshop: Results-based finance for the full implementation of activities relating to REDD-plus

The following issues were discussed: scope of results-based actions; clarifying the “plus” in REDD+; guidance to the GCF Board; and the need to elaborate institutional arrangements with presentations from the EU, Ghana, Indonesia, Australia and Costa Rica. The unique features of REDD+ results based finance and the importance of the private sector were highlighted by the EU and Australia, while Ghana stressed the difficulties of accessing funding and the uncoordinated support. Indonesia called for bilateral and multilateral initiatives to focus on strengthening existing activities, filling gaps and avoiding duplication, as well as enhancing stakeholders’ capacities at the national level. Costa Rica spoke about building up on existing experiences like their national payment for environmental services (PES) scheme.

During discussion, parties highlighted the role of ante finance, that payments need to come from a variety of sources, the need for a new international architecture that promotes coherence and consistency of financing, the importance of predictability of finance and scaling up REDD+ finance, especially from public sources, and the need to fill the gap between fast start and long-term financing. Civil society organizations discussed REDD+ finance architecture, the role of markets, the importance of safeguards and the need for timely and adequate payments.

In the preparatory session for this workshop, Australia explicitly mentioned that at some point over the course of the work programme on results-based finance it would be useful to have presentations by the likes of the UN-REDD Programme.

II. Other Key Issues Relevant to REDD+

LULUCF

Parties started discussing broader LULUCF issues to be consider in the future regime, but Tuvalu blocked the discussions and there are no conclusions on the item will be achieved for this session. But finally they went through and achieved conclusions:

- Continue consideration of land base approach for LULUCF next session
- Submissions by Parties and observers on (2 September) CDM pendent issues (both new activities and non permanence) and a workshop before or during SBSTA39,
- Continue the consideration during the next session on how to apply the concept of additionality to the LULUCF sector and request for submissions to Parties and observers (2 September).

Documentation at the end of the session:

- REDD+: The final document can be found at: http://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn_jun_2013/in-session/items/7599.php
- LULUCF: The final document can be found at: http://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn_jun_2013/in-session/items/7599.php
- A related issue to CDM AR projects, in case you want to have a look: Forest in exhaustion (final document can be found at: http://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn_jun_2013/in-session/items/7599.php)

