

DRAFT TEXT
on
SBSTA 35 agenda item 4

Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

Version of 1 December 2011 at 10:00 hrs

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 2/CP.13, 4/CP.15 and 1/CP.16,

Recalling also decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 69, 70 and 71 (d) and appendices I and II,

Noting that guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected should be consistent with national sovereignty, national legislation and national circumstances,

Recognizing the importance of adequate and predictable financial and technology support, including support for capacity-building for developing and implementing systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected,

Being aware of the need for any modalities and guidance for the construction of forest reference levels and forest emission reference levels to be flexible so as to accommodate national circumstances and capabilities,

Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected

1. *Notes* that the implementation of the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 and information on how these safeguards are being addressed and respected should be included in, and be consistent with, where appropriate, all phases of implementation referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 73, of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of the same decision;
2. *Agrees* that systems for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected should:
 - (a) Be consistent with the guidance identified in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, paragraph 1;
 - (b) Provide transparent, consistent, complete and regularly reported data and information;
 - (c) Aim to support, and be consistent with, the national strategy or action plan referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(a);
 - (d) Demonstrate broad and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect for the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples and communities;
 - (e) Allow for easy access by all relevant stakeholders to the data and information in the systems ;
 - (f) Be country-driven and flexible, taking into account national circumstances and respective capabilities, and recognizing national sovereignty and legislation;
 - (g) Be implemented at the national level and be under the responsibility of the relevant national institutions;

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(h) Recognize the role of the systems already in place at the national level for the provision of information relating to safeguards, and how safeguards are addressed and respected, and to build upon these systems;

3. *Agrees also* that developing country Parties undertaking the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 should identify the communication channels appropriate for the provision of information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected

4. *Requests* developing country Parties implementing activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, to provide information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected, including:

- (a) The levels and scales at which such information are provided;
- (b) The relevant stakeholders and users of the information at both the national and international levels;
- (c) Methodologies used for the collection of data and information and on how the quality of quantitative and qualitative data and information being provided is ensured;
- (d) Relevant legislation, policies and institutional arrangements relating to safeguards;
- (e) Description on how the actions are contributing to the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
- (f) Description of participatory processes in the implementation of the national strategy or action plan;
- (g) Description of the actions taken to address the risks of reversals and displacement of emissions;

Modalities for forest reference levels and forest reference emissions levels

5. *Acknowledges* that a national forest reference emission level will apply when considering only those activities intended to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and a national forest reference level will apply when considering additional activities listed in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16;

6. *Agrees* that a forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level is a benchmark for assessing a country's performance in the reduction of anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and enhancement of removals by sinks resulting from the implementation of those activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16;

7. *Decides* that a forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level shall be established on the basis of, and maintaining consistency among, anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks as shown in greenhouse gas inventories and relevant historical data;

8. *Agrees* that the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level may be adjusted, taking into consideration socio-economic circumstances, in order to reflect the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and any expected change to those drivers in the period to which the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level is applied provided that it is supported by transparent and reliable information;

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9. *Agrees* that a developing country Party should update its forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level periodically, taking into account new knowledge, new trends and any modification of scope and methodologies;
10. *Notes* that a step-wise approach to national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level development may be useful, and encourages Parties to continue to improve the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level by incorporating better data, improved methodologies and additional pools;
11. *Acknowledges* that a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level may be elaborated as an aggregate of subnational forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels and that, over an interim period¹, the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level of a Party may cover less than its entire national territory or forest area;
12. *Invites* developing country Parties, on a voluntary basis, to submit information on their forest management and their forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level, taking into consideration the guidelines contained in the annex;
13. *Requests* the secretariat to make available information on forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels on the UNFCCC REDD web platform², including submissions with proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels and review reports;
14. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to develop guidance for the review of national forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels at its thirty-sixth session.

Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying

15. *Decides* that measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, should be consistent with existing methodological guidance provided in decision 4/CP.15 and guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties agreed by the Conference of the Parties, without prejudging any future relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;
16. *Encourages* Parties when developing a system for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 to provide data and information that is transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate;
17. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to elaborate methods and provide good practice guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, to be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at a future session;

¹ In accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71.

² <<http://unfccc.int/4531.php>>.

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18. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to continue its consideration of modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, with the aim of completing its work on this matter at its thirty-seventh session and reporting to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session on progress made, including any recommendation for a draft decision on this matter;

Modalities for national forest monitoring systems

19. *Decides* that the development of national forest monitoring systems for the monitoring and reporting of activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure, shall take into account the guidance provided in decision 4/CP.15 and be guided by the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged by the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources, and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;

20. *Also decides* that national forest monitoring systems should provide data and information that are transparent, consistent over time, robust, complete, comparable and be subject to quality assurance and quality control.

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Annex

Guidelines for submissions of information on reference levels

Each developing country Party aiming to undertake the actions listed in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 should include in its submission transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate information for the purpose of allowing a technical assessment of the data, methodologies and procedures used in the construction of the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level. The information provided should include:

- a) Information that was used by Parties in constructing the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level in a comprehensive and transparent way;
 - b) Transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate methodological information used at the time of construction of the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level, including, inter alia, as appropriate, a description of approaches, methods, models and assumptions used, descriptions of relevant policies and plans;
 - c) Pools, gases and activities listed in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16, which have been included in the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level and the reasons for omitting a pool and/or activity from the construction of the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level;
 - d) The definition of forest used in the construction of the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level and, if appropriate, in case there is a difference with the definition of forest used in the national greenhouse gas inventory or in reporting to other international organizations, an explanation of why and how the definition used in the construction of the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level was chosen;
 - e) A description of the domestic policies adopted, implemented and planned, and explain how these policies have been considered in the construction of the forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level.
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