

Recommendations to SBSTA on Safeguards Information Systems

At COP 17, Parties adopted guidance on safeguards information systems (SIS).¹ In the decision Parties requested SBSTA to consider the timing and frequency of the provision of information from the SIS and to consider the need for further guidance on the SIS.² Since 2011, countries have started to develop policies and institutions for REDD+, including on safeguards and the SIS. It is clear from country experiences that further guidance is needed on the basis of lessons learned, in order to provide more clarity for those who are implementing safeguards and SIS in-country. These lessons need to be captured in order to inform further guidance, as well as the discussions on methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits, which are inherently related to safeguards implementation.

At SBSTA 38, we recommend that Parties:

1. *Request submissions from Parties and Observers that, inter alia, capture relevant lessons learned and address best practices and challenges (see over the page for proposed elements of a submission). This should inform a discussion at COP 19 on experiences with implementation of safeguards and the SIS, as well as on further guidance needed, with a view to developing that guidance by COP 20.*
2. *Consider the need for a common platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned.*
3. *Decide on the timing and frequency of the provision of information from the SIS: Recalling that Parties agreed in Durban that an SIS should be in place in order to access results-based finance, and considering the need to expedite this process to enable full implementation, we recommend that information on safeguards implementation be provided by December 2014 either as part of the first biennial update report or as a separate interim report, and that subsequent information be submitted through biennial update reports and national communications.*

¹ Decision 12/CP.17.

² Decision 12/CP.17, paras. 5 and 6.

Suggested elements of a submission to inform discussions on the SIS

- Relevant lessons learned and challenges in developing and implementing safeguards and information systems at the national level, including ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities.
- Views on a common platform for sharing best practices.
- Relevant country experiences from REDD+ multilateral processes, including the FCPF Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (SESA), UN-REDD Participatory Governance Assessments (PGAs), and the REDD+ SES (Social and Environmental Standards).
- Challenges and possible approaches for the coordinated development of standards and provision of information between these REDD+ processes.
- Challenges and possible approaches for building upon existing systems under relevant international agreements and other processes including:
 - Approaches based on existing best practices, e.g. the coordinated system developed for reporting under human rights agreements; and
 - Approaches to realizing synergies with the CBD process on biodiversity safeguards (e.g. through a joint work programme between the UNFCCC and CBD).
- Views on submission of summaries of information: what kind of information should be provided and how (using and building on ideas in 2011 submissions); usefulness of a common reporting format; timing and frequency; and channels of communication.
- Identification of needs for the provision of support using the registry for NAMAs, and possible approaches to achieve coherence with GCF rules that are under development.
- Linkages between information provided by the SIS, non-carbon benefits, and finance for REDD+.