



SCBD/STTM/JM/TC/JSt/74726

24 January 2011

## NOTIFICATION

### **Submission of views on relevant safeguards in 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 (REDD-plus)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

With reference to Decision X/33 on biodiversity and climate change, I am pleased to invite you to send your views, experiences and expectations with regards to relevant safeguards in 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 (REDD-plus) to the Secretariat. Furthermore, I invite you to identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as to submit your views on potential mechanisms to monitor impacts from REDD-plus and other ecosystem based approaches for climate change mitigation measures on biodiversity. Please submit relevant information to the CBD Secretariat by email, as a word document attachment to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int), at your earliest convenience, but no later than **30 April 2011**. In submitting your views, I invite you to make use of the attached questionnaire.

At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, in decision X/33, requested the Executive Secretary with regards to REDD-plus to *'Provide advice, for approval by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, including on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity, without pre-empting any future decisions taken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, based on effective consultation with Parties and their views, and with the participation of indigenous and local communities, so that actions are consistent with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and avoid negative impacts on and enhance benefits for biodiversity.*

In the same decision, COP 10 also requested the Executive Secretary to *'With effective consultation with Parties and based on their views and in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable*

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*management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and assess potential mechanisms to monitor impacts on biodiversity from these and other ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation measures, without pre-empting any future decisions taken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Pursuant to decision X/33, the CBD Secretariat will convene a series of regional consultation and capacity building workshops on REDD-plus, including on relevant safeguards. The first workshop in this series, for Asia and the Pacific, will be held in Singapore City in March 2011 (cf. notification 2010-218). It will be followed by regional workshops for other relevant regions in this context, notably Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Separate notifications soliciting nominations of country-designated technical experts to participate in these workshops will be sent to you in due course.

The views received by 30 April 2011 on the basis of this notification will be compiled by the Secretariat and will be made available to Parties as soon as possible, to enable Parties to draw on the results in relevant fora.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

## **Questionnaire for the submission of views with regards to relevant REDD-plus safeguards**

### **National experience with REDD-plus**

- What is the national structure for REDD-plus planning, if any?
- What is the status of REDD-plus preparations, including participation in pilot and demonstration activities?
- How do you comply with safeguard requirements of REDD-plus pilot and demonstration activities, for example in the framework of the FCPF or UN REDD? What are your experiences with these safeguard requirements?
- How are biodiversity experts involved (including holders of traditional knowledge) in national REDD-plus planning? How are indigenous and local communities involved?
- Are there experiences from the voluntary carbon market that you are drawing from?

### **National experience with biodiversity safeguards**

- Are relevant biodiversity safeguards for the national level in place, or being developed? How do they relate to the safeguards outlined in the UNFCCC decision on the Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention at COP 16<sup>1</sup>?
- What is the national capacity for developing and applying biodiversity safeguards?
- Which are the main obstacles for including biodiversity safeguards, if any?
- What are concrete capacity building needs regarding biodiversity safeguards (if any), and at which level (government, civil society/ indigenous peoples, local communities)?
- What are main lessons learned so far regarding biodiversity safeguards?

### **National experience with safeguards for indigenous and local communities**

- What is the structure of civil society organizations representing indigenous and local community views? How are their views coordinated?
- What are the mechanisms through which the views of indigenous and local communities are considered?

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<sup>1</sup> In the decision on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, at its sixteenth meeting (COP 16) affirms that the implementation of REDD-plus activities should include the promotion and support of a number of safeguards, including

- (a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international agreements;
- (b) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- (c) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities
- (d) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that they are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forest and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits
- (e) Actions to address the risk of reversals
- (f) Actions to reduce the displacement of emissions

- How are concerns related to CBD Articles 8j (respect for traditional knowledge) and 10c (support customary use of biodiversity) reflected in REDD-plus planning?

### **Regional collaboration regarding safeguards and impact assessment**

- Do you participate in regional and international exchanges of REDD-plus pilot experiences regarding safeguards and multiple benefits? What is the value of such exchanges?
- What is the level of regional collaboration on REDD-plus e.g. through regional organizations such as COMIFAC/ACTO/ASEAN?
- What regional and international support (in addition to support provided by UN-REDD/FCPF/ITTO) would be useful?

### **Monitoring impacts of REDD-plus on biodiversity**

- Do you use (or are you planning to use) any indicators for measuring biodiversity impacts of REDD-plus?
- Are you planning to assess/monitor the impacts of REDD-plus on biodiversity and indigenous and local livelihoods? If so, how?
- Can such impacts be monitored through existing programmes (such as the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment, or the CBD National Reports), or are separate or additional efforts required? If so, what are your capacity building needs, if any?
- Which potential mechanisms (at national, regional and international level) exist or could be developed for monitoring the impacts of REDD-plus on biodiversity and indigenous and local communities?
- How are national efforts linked to regional biodiversity efforts and assessments?