

WORKING GROUP GUIDANCE NOTE

On Days 2 and 3 of the workshop, participants will be organized in working groups. There will be three groups which should consist of a similar number of experts, taking into account regional balance, gender balance, representation of civil society organizations, and representation of indigenous and local communities.

Each working group will address following main issues:

- developing advice on the application of relevant REDD-plus safeguards for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities
- identifying possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- possibilities for enhancing synergies at national level between the CBD and UNFCCC with regard to REDD-plus

Under each task, the working groups will be expected to provide detailed recommendations.

The working groups will have a **facilitator** from a partner organization of the CBD. The working group results should be documented by a **rapporteur** chosen from the participants of each group. The rapporteur should report back to plenary on his/her group's findings, and the CBD Secretariat will compile results into a workshop report that will be presented to plenary for adoption on the final workshop day.

Developing advice on the application of relevant REDD-plus safeguards

The working groups will work on the basis of UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16. It will review a matrix comparing various existing safeguard frameworks (World Bank safeguard policies, CCB standards, Draft UN-REDD Principles and Criteria).

Key questions to be addressed will be:

- Do the existing safeguard frameworks adequately cover the main risks to biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities (see Annex)?
- Are there any gaps in the frameworks and if so how could they be closed?
- Are these frameworks relevant to country needs? What are the challenges and constraints in terms of applying them?

Identifying possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving CBD objectives

The working groups will work on the basis of an information note, prepared by the CBD Secretariat, on existing biodiversity indicators (e.g. from Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) variables, suggestions for a monitoring matrix for forest degradation, and CCBA/CARE guidance).

Key questions to be addressed will be:

- Are the indicators feasible, and are they sufficient?
- What information is needed at national level to assess REDD-plus impacts?
- Are there any gaps in the availability of data at national level? How could those gaps be closed?

Possibilities for enhancing synergies at national level between the CBD and UNFCCC with regard to REDD-plus

The working groups are asked to develop recommendations for improving the coordination between CBD and UNFCCC National Focal Points, and other relevant government contacts and institutions, in relation to REDD-plus.

ANNEX

Main risks of REDD-plus to biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities

1. Other specific risks for biodiversity identified by the meeting include:
 - (a) The conversion of natural forests to plantations and other land uses of low biodiversity value and low resilience; and the introduction of growing of biofuel crops;
 - (b) Displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and high biodiversity value;
 - (c) Increased pressure on non-forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value;
 - (d) Afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value.

2. Other specific risks of REDD-plus for indigenous peoples and local communities include:
 - (a) The loss of traditional territories and restriction of land and natural resource rights;
 - (b) Lack of tangible livelihood benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities and lack of equitable benefit sharing;
 - (c) Exclusion from designing and implementation of policies and measures;
 - (d) Loss of traditional ecological knowledge.

Source: Final report of the Global Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Benefits of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, Nairobi, Kenya, 20-23 September 2010 (UNEP/CBD/WS-REDD/1/3)