



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATION AND
CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON
REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION
AND FOREST DEGRADATION IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES (REDD-PLUS¹), INCLUDING ON
RELEVANT BIODIVERSITY SAFEGUARDS
Singapore, 15 – 18 March 2011

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Asia-Pacific regional consultation and capacity-building workshop on REDD-plus, including on relevant biodiversity safeguards, to be held in Singapore from 15 to 18 March 2011, is being co-organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the National Parks Board of Singapore (NParks), with the generous financial support from the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Germany, and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. The organizers gratefully acknowledge that several of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) will contribute to the workshop by providing information about their work on REDD-plus.
2. Pursuant to paragraph 3 (b), of decision IX/5, the workshop aims to support Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Asia-Pacific region which are in the process of planning or implementing activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The workshop will be followed by regional workshops for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. The objectives of the workshop are:
 - (a) To develop advice, including on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity, so that REDD-plus actions “are consistent with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and avoid negative impacts on and enhance benefits for biodiversity” (see decision X/33, para. 9 (h)); and;

¹ With reference to decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), REDD-plus comprises reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. The acronyms REDD and REDD-plus are used for convenience only, without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or future negotiations under the UNFCCC.

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(b) To identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus “to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and assess potential mechanisms to monitor impacts on biodiversity from REDD-plus and other ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation measures” (see decision X/33, para. 9 (k)); and;

(c) To contribute to capacity-building on REDD-plus in the Asia-Pacific region, including with a view to “enhancing the coordination of capacity-building efforts on issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem-based carbon sequestration and the conservation of forest carbon stocks” (see decision X/33, para. 9 (f)).

4. Acknowledging that socio-economic, ecological and other conditions vary amongst the countries that are involved in, or are in the process of engaging in, REDD-plus pilot and demonstration activities, the workshop will make provisions for working groups to discuss views, and share experiences and expectations, with regards to relevant REDD-plus safeguards and the monitoring and assessment of REDD-plus co-benefits.

5. The Secretariat prepared a list of relevant documents that will be made available to the workshop participants with a view to facilitating the workshop discussions (see annex I). These documents include, *inter alia*, a draft technical paper prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraphs 3(a) and (b) of decision IX/5, (UNEP/CBD/WS-REDD/1/2), and the findings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (CBD Technical Series No. 41).

6. Results of the workshop will be brought to the attention of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as to the relevant bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

7. Registration of participants will commence at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 15 March 2011. Details of the meeting venue will be provided through subsequent notifications.

8. The workshop will be held in English.

II. BACKGROUND

REDD-plus under the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity

9. At its ninth meeting, held in Bonn in May 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) welcomed the consideration of the issue of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see decision IX/16).

10. At its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya in October 2010, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations and processes to enhance the benefits for, and avoid negative impacts on biodiversity from 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, and other sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use activities, taking into account the need to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in relevant policy-making and implementation processes, where appropriate; and to consider land ownership and land tenure, in accordance with national legislation (see decision X/33, para. 8 (q)).

11. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary 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 (see decision X/33, para. 9 (g)).

12. The same decision also requested the Executive Secretary, with effective consultation with Parties and based on their views and in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of 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 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 (see decision X/33, para. 9 (h)).

13. The same decision also requested the Executive Secretary to convene, subject to the availability of financial resources, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change an expert workshop, with the full and effective participation of experts from developing countries on 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, with a view to enhancing the coordination of capacity-building efforts on issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem-based carbon sequestration and the conservation of forest carbon stocks (see decision X/33, para. 9 (f)).

14. In notification 2011-018 issued on 24 January 2011, the Executive Secretary requested Parties and relevant organizations to submit their views in relation to the requests listed in paragraphs 11 and 12 above, by 30 April 2011. The views received by the Secretariat will be compiled and made available in time for subsequent regional workshops on this topic; however, they will not be available in time for this workshop.

15. The Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, at its fifteenth session, adopted decision 4/CP.15 on the “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”, in which it recognized the, “importance of promoting sustainable management of forests and co-benefits, including biodiversity, that may complement the aims and objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements.”

16. At its sixteenth session, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC adopted decision 1/CP.16, encouraging developing country Parties to contribute to GHG mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking REDD-plus activities. The implementation will take place in three different phases, starting with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, followed by their implementation, and finally, evolving into fully-measured, reported and verified results-based actions.

17. In decision 1/CP.16, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC 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 (Resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007);

(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.

18. The Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC further requests developing country Parties aiming to undertake REDD-plus activities, to develop:

- (a) A national REDD-plus strategy or action plan;
- (b) A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level;
- (c) A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system;
- (d) A system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD-plus activities.

19. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC invited relevant international organizations and stakeholders to contribute to REDD-plus activities.

20. The Secretariat of the UNFCCC will be invited to provide an update on the status of negotiations to workshop participants.

Selection of workshop participants

21. In CBD notification 2010-222, issued on 16 December 2010, the Executive Secretary invited Parties and relevant organizations to nominate experts for the workshop. National focal points were encouraged to submit three nominations per country, if these experts were representing government responsibility for biodiversity issues in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, climate-change issues in the context of UNFCCC, and forest issues in the context of the UNFF. The Executive Secretary further invited donor countries; the co-chairs of the REDD-plus Interim Partnership; the Coalition of Rainforest Nations; and non-governmental organizations with whom the Convention Secretariat had a memorandum of understanding at the date of notification, to participate in the workshop. Due to limited funding, the Secretariat will not be in a position to fund the participation of all nominated experts from developing countries. Selection of developing country participants will be made on basis of geographic and gender balance, relevant expertise, and language skills. Priority will be given to designated experts involved in national-level implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and if additional funding is available, further country nominated experts such as Focal Points of the UNFCCC and of the UNFF will be supported. The workshop is open to self-funded participants from Parties, other governments, and from relevant organizations.

22. Indigenous organizations were invited to nominate representatives to participate in the workshop.

23. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), through funds from the Government of Germany, provided financial support for additional participants, on the basis of nominations received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Additional sponsorship provided to the ACB aimed to ensure overall regional balance of sponsored participants and full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities.

24. All CPF members have been invited, including the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Forum on Forests.

25. The outcome of the workshop will be made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, and in the appropriate format to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in India from 8 to 19 October 2012.

26. The workshop results will also be made available to the UNFCCC through the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) and the UNFCCC REDD Web Platform,² and through submissions and statements of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the relevant statutory meetings of the UNFCCC.

27. With financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), eligible countries will conduct a revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in the course of 2011. Workshop results will be made available to CBD national focal points and relevant organizations *inter alia* in order to inform the revision of NBSAPs and their harmonization with respective plans and programmes under the UNFCCC.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

28. The workshop will be opened at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 15 March 2011. Welcoming remarks will be made by a representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, a representative of the National Parks Board of Singapore, and a representative from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Election of officers

29. After a self-introduction of participants, the Group will be invited to elect two Co-Chairs based on proposals from the floor.

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

30. The provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary will be before the Group for consideration and adoption.

2.3. Organization of work

31. Under this item, the Group will consider the proposed organization of work for the meeting as contained in annex II below.

ITEM 3. REDD-PLUS UPDATE

32. Under this item, the Secretariat will introduce the workshop documents, and provide an overview of activities pursuant to decision X/33. The UNFCCC Secretariat will be invited to provide an update on relevant negotiations under the UNFCCC, and relevant activities of the UNFCCC Secretariat. The UN REDD Programme and other international organizations and initiatives working on REDD-plus pilot and demonstration activities will be invited to provide an update on their activities with regard to biodiversity benefits of REDD-plus. Representative from the Interim REDD-plus Partnership will be invited to give a presentation on the work programme of the Partnership, including potential efforts related to safeguards on biodiversity conservation. The Global Environment Facility will be invited to provide information about financing options in the fifth replenishment period.

33. Participants will be invited to present an overview of national experience and views on REDD-plus safeguards for, and assessment and monitoring of impacts of REDD-plus on, biodiversity and indigenous and local communities. This is limited to one presentation per country. A list of suggested key questions as a basis for country presentations will be provided.

34. Indigenous and local community representatives, and relevant organizations, will be invited to present experience on opportunities and challenges (including risks) of REDD-plus for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities.

² http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4531.php.

35. In all presentations, presenters are encouraged to also reflect on future research needs and policy development needs for REDD-plus safeguards and REDD-plus impacts on biodiversity.

ITEM 4. REDD-PLUS SAFEGUARDS AND ASSESSMENT/MONITORING OF IMPACTS

36. Under this item, the workshop participants will be organized in working groups to ensure that the workshop objectives can be achieved. It is proposed that the workshop deliberations should be conducted in plenary on the first and last day of the workshop, and in three working groups on the second and third day. The objective of dividing participants into working groups is to maximize the opportunity for participants to contribute their expertise. The three working groups 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.

37. Each working group will address two main issues: (i) developing advice on the application of relevant REDD-plus safeguards for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities; and (ii) identifying possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Under both tasks, the working groups will furthermore be expected to provide detailed recommendations.

38. It is suggested that the working groups would be facilitated by experts from CBD partner organizations (see proposed organization of work in annex II), and that their outcomes be documented by a rapporteur chosen from the participants of each group.

39. Working groups will report back on their findings to plenary on the end of the second and third workshop days, and the Secretariat will compile results into a workshop report that would be presented to plenary for adoption on the final workshop day.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

40. Under this item, participants may wish to raise other matters related to the subject-matter of the meeting, and to agree on any follow-up actions.

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

41. The Co-Chairs will provide an overview of their conclusions, and their observations whether meeting objective has been achieved.

42. Participants will be encouraged to provide feedback and evaluate the meeting.

43. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the meeting, on the basis of the draft report of the meeting to be prepared and presented by the Co-Chairs.

44. The meeting is expected to be closed 1 p.m. Friday, 18 March 2011.

Annex I

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
<i>Pre-session documents</i>	
	Draft Technical paper - Implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity: Synergies with REDD-plus
Convention on Biological Diversity Technical Series No 41	Findings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, 2009
UNEP/CBD/WS-REDD/1/3	Final report of the global expert workshop on biodiversity benefits of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, Nairobi, 20-23 September 2010
<i>Other documents</i>	
UNEP/CBD/WS/CB/REDD/APAC/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/WS/CB/REDD/APAC/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/X/33	Biodiversity and Climate Change (decision X/33)
	Convention on Biological Diversity expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity (annex to decision VI/22)
	“The Future of REDD-Plus: Pathways of Convergence for the UNFCCC Negotiations and the Partnership” (by Antonio G.M. La Viña)
	“Greening REDD+ - Challenges and opportunities for forest biodiversity conservation” (Policy Paper, University of Freiburg, Germany)

Annex II

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Tuesday, 15 March 2011	
8 a.m.-9 a.m.	Registration
9 a.m.-10 a.m.	Opening of the meeting by a representative of NParks Opening remarks by a representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity Opening remarks by a representative of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
10 a.m.-10.30 a.m.	Self-introduction of participants: Affiliation, Expertise, Expectations
10.30 a.m.-11 a.m.	Coffee Break
11 a.m.-11.15 a.m.	Organizational matters and organization of work: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
REDD-PLUS UPDATE	
11.15 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the activities of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in relation to decisions IX/5, X/33 and X/36, and introduction of workshop documents • Current status of UNFCCC negotiations and future process on REDD-plus (UNFCCC Secretariat) • Sustainable Forest Management, biodiversity, and REDD-plus (UNFF Secretariat)
12.30 p.m.-1.30 p.m.	Lunch
1.30 p.m.-3 p.m.	Update on biodiversity and indigenous and local community benefits in REDD-plus pilot and demonstration activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN REDD Programme • Forest Carbon Partnership Facility / World Bank • ITTO REDD-ES Programme • Global Environment Facility (GEF)
3 p.m.-6 p.m. With coffee break	Presentations by country representatives (10 min each, one joint presentation per country): National experience in REDD Pilot Actions - Biodiversity and Indigenous and Local Community Benefits
7 p.m.	Welcome Dinner as hosted by NParks at the Burkill Hall of the National Orchid Garden, Singapore Botanic Gardens.
Wednesday, 16 March 2011	
9 a.m. - 12 noon With coffee break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations by country representatives (<i>continued</i>) • Presentations by representatives of indigenous and local communities • Presentations by relevant organizations

REDD-PLUS SAFEGUARDS AND ASSESSMENT/MONITORING OF IMPACTS	
12 noon.- 12.30 p.m.	Introduction to working groups by Secretariat and working group facilitators
12.30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. With coffee break	Working Groups – Session 1
5 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.	Report back to plenary
Thursday, 17 March 2011	
9 a.m.-9.15 a.m.	Introduction to organization of work
9.15 a.m.-12.30 p.m. With coffee break	Working Groups – Session 2 Continued
12.:30 p.m.-1.30 p.m.	Lunch
1.30 p.m.-5 p.m. With coffee break	Working Groups – Session 3 Continued
5 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Report back to plenary
Friday, 18 March 2011	
9 a.m.-9.15 a.m.	Introduction to organization of work
9.15 a.m.-1 p.m. With coffee break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of draft workshop report • Adoption of the workshop report • Workshop evaluation and closing of the meeting
1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Lunch
