



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Thirty-sixth session

Bonn, 14–25 May 2012

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

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

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of decisions 2/CP.13, 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17 and 12/CP.17 in its consideration of 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.
2. The SBSTA took note of the views submitted by Parties¹ on issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems as referred to in paragraph 71(c) of the same decision. It also took note of the views submitted by admitted observer organizations.²
3. The SBSTA continued its consideration of methodological guidance relating to modalities for a national forest monitoring system as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(c) and for measuring, reporting and verifying as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix II, paragraph (c), using the draft text contained in annex I to document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/5 as a basis and taking into account the issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, appendix II, and the views submitted by Parties as referred to in paragraph 2 above.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.1 and Add.1.

² Submissions from intergovernmental organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3714>>. Submissions from non-governmental organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3689>>.

4. The SBSTA agreed to continue its work on methodological guidance relating to modalities for a national forest monitoring system as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(c) and for measuring, reporting and verifying, as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix II, paragraph (c), on the basis of the annex containing elements for a possible draft decision on these matters, with the aim of completing this work at its thirty-seventh session and preparing any recommendations for a draft decision on these matters for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighteenth session.
5. The SBSTA initiated consideration of issues relating to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, taking into account decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, paragraph (a), and the views of Parties and admitted observer organizations referred to in paragraph 2 above. It agreed to continue its work on the issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including consideration of social and economic aspects in developing countries at the national level, at its thirty-seventh session.
6. The SBSTA noted the request by the COP in decision 12/CP.17, paragraphs 5 and 6, to consider the timing and the frequency of the presentations of the summary of information on how all of the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected and to consider the need for further guidance to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness in the presentation of the summary of information. It agreed to continue consideration of this request at its thirty-seventh session with a view to concluding its consideration of this matter at its thirty-ninth session.
7. The SBSTA, in recalling decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 15, agreed to initiate work on developing guidance for the technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels at its thirty-seventh session, with the aim of reporting to the COP at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions on progress made, including any recommendations for a draft decision on this matter.
8. The SBSTA recognizes that further work on methodological guidance may be needed pending the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention.
9. The SBSTA recognized that Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, could consider the adaptation needs of the country concerned.

Annex

[English only]

Elements for a possible draft decision on modalities for national forest monitoring systems and measuring, reporting and verifying

Recalling decisions 2/CP.13, 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17 and 12/CP.17,

[Modalities for national forest monitoring systems

1. *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] [should] 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 carbon stock and forest-area changes;
2. *Also decides* that robust national forest monitoring systems should provide data and information that are transparent, consistent over time, complete¹ [and have undergone quality assurance and quality control];
3. *Affirms* robust and transparent national forest monitoring system contributes to strengthen forest governance including law enforcement and to further consider counter measures to deforestation and forest degradation, and to promote effective implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, further on, sustainable forest management including deploying multiple functions of forest;
4. *Also decides* [, that in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities,] national forest monitoring systems[, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71 [(b) and] (c), and in decision 4/CP.15, paragraph 1(d)] should:
 - (a) Build upon existing systems, as appropriate;
 - (b) Provide information on all forest [areas] [land] in the country;
 - (c) Enable the [assessment][identification] of changes incurred in natural forests;
 - (d) Be flexible and allow for improvement;
 - (e) Reflect, as appropriate, the phased-approach as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 73 and 74;
 - (f) Identify potential sources of uncertainties to the extent possible;
5. [*Also acknowledges* that national forest monitoring systems may provide[, as appropriate,] relevant [data and] information for [national] systems for the provision of information on how safeguards are addressed and respected;]

¹ Complete here means the provision of data and information that allows the technical analysis of the results[, and the establishment of forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels].

6. [*Decides* that under the joint mitigation and adaptation approach for the integral and sustainable management of forests a comprehensive and holistic monitoring system shall be developed considering the multiple functions of forests in climate change;]]

[Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying]

[*Reaffirms* that in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 73, results-based actions should be fully measured, reported and verified;]

[*Agrees* that the actions which preserve and enhance the multiple benefits of forests, are also those that contribute to the sustainability and permanence of emission reductions;]

1. *Decides* that measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks[, and, as necessary], forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 [and paragraph 71(b)], should be consistent with the [most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines and]methodological guidance provided in decision 4/CP.15, and any guidance on measuring, reporting and verification of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties as agreed by the Conference of the Parties, [and in accordance with any future relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties];

2. [*Decides* that adequate and predictable support, including financial, technical and technological support will be provided to developing countries, consistent with decision 1/CP.16;]

3. *Decides* that developing country Parties aiming to undertake activities in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 [, taking into account paragraph 71 (b)], should provide data and information on anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks[, and, as necessary,] forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes that are transparent, complete², consistent with the established forest reference emission level[s]/forest reference level[s] and over time, [and] accurate to the extent possible [and comparable];

4. [*Agrees* that [, subject to adequate and predictable financial support in all phases] a stepwise approach to [acquire more and/or] [measuring, reporting and verifying may be useful, enabling countries to incorporate] better data for the relevant pools and /or gases and to improve methodologies [may be useful], [and where appropriate, incorporate additional pools and gases,] as appropriate, recognizing that conservative³ [treatment of] estimates for some of these pools may be necessary to account for financial, technical, and/or technological constraints, while maintaining consistency with the established forest reference emission level[s]/forest reference level[s]; [noting the importance of adequate and predictable support as referenced by decision 1 /CP .16, paragraph 71;]];

5. *Further decides* that, consistent with Decisions 1/CP.16 and with Annex III to Decision 2/CP.17, the data and information referred to in paragraph 3 above should be provided through biennial update reports, taking into consideration additional flexibility given to least developed countries and small island developing countries;

6. [*Further decides* that, on a temporary basis before the international consultation and analysis process is fully operational, Parties providing information in accordance with paragraph 3 above may, on a voluntary basis, request that this information be technically assessed;]

² [footnote to be elaborated]

³ [placeholder for a footnote]

7. [*Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to respond to the requests made by Parties in relation to paragraph 6 above by mandating technical experts to undertake a technical assessment of the implementation of actions related to decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 [and taking into account paragraph 71(b)], and to prepare a report on this assessment;]
8. [*Further decides* that measuring, reporting and verification of the support provided by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention to Parties not included in Annex I for activities referred to in paragraph [xx above] should be carried out by a UNFCCC team of technical experts equitably balanced between members of developed and developing countries and supported by the secretariat in consultation with relevant national authorities in accordance with countries national circumstances, capacity and capabilities;]
9. [[*Decides*] [*Encourages*] that [developed country] Parties [,according to the principles of,] [to] the Convention should establish and support, technologically, technically and financially, programs for specific capacity development in developing country Parties implementing activities as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 [taking into account paragraph 71(b)], with the aim to:
- (a) Develop robust and transparent forest monitoring systems;
 - (b) [Fulfill the required forest [sector] reporting requirements within national communications and biennial update reports;]
 - (c) [Support the process of international consultation and analysis of [national communications and] biennial update reports;]]
10. [[In addition,[in accordance with relevant articles of the Convention,] the] [*Encourages*] [developed country] Parties [,in a position to do so] [should] [to] [establish] [[and/or] facilitate] [a free] access [to] [resource for] the [most accurate] [necessary] existing and future satellite imaging data available globally, given that the accuracy of the national forest monitoring system may improve depending on the financial and technical support received in order to build the required national capacity to access and process available satellite information and data;]
11. [*Also decides* that the [reported] reduced emissions [from sustainable management of forests] [or increased removals [or stabilized forest carbon stocks]] [from results-based actions] in the activities referred to in decision 1/CP .16, paragraph 70 [taking into account paragraph 71(b), [will] [may] be [subject to] [an international] [and] [national] [verification process, carried out by an independent] [third party] [[team of experts] under the auspices of the UNFCCC], [international consultation and analysis process] in accordance with [further guidelines to be developed under the Convention;] [any guidance on measurement, reporting and verification of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties as agreed by the Conference of the Parties]]
12. [*Agrees* that, consistent with the forest reference emission level[s]/forest reference level[s], measurement should be done in terms of CO₂eq [and the other co-benefits, including local community, livelihood, poverty eradication, and biodiversity conservation] [to the same pools and gases, and activities listed in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, which have been used in the construction of forest reference emission level[s] or forest reference level[s]]]
13. [*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 carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 [and taking into account paragraph 71(b)], to be

submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at a future session;]

14. [*Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to continue its consideration of modalities for [measuring,]reporting and [verification of results-based actions [which preserve and enhance the multiple benefits of forests including adaptation, poverty alleviation, biodiversity and secure livelihoods]] [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 the activities] referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph [70] [73] [taking into account paragraph 71(b)], with the aim of completing its work on this matter at its [thirty-seventh] [thirty-ninth] session and reporting to the Conference of the Parties at its [eighteenth][nineteenth] session on progress made, including any recommendation for a draft decision on this matter;]

15. [*Also encourages* Parties to develop a system for measuring, reporting and verifying under the joint mitigation and adaptation approach for the integral and sustainable management of forests.]]
