REDD+ Network sub-technical working group on environmental and social safeguards (STWG-SG)

Minutes of the third meeting

2:00-4:10pm, 12 September 2012, Oriental Palace, Hanoi

Agenda items:

1. Consultation on draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for REDD+ environmental and social safeguard roadmap development
2. Consultation on proposed revisions to STWG-SG ToR and annual work plans (AWP) for 2012 and 2013

Chairs: Pham Manh Cuong (VRO); Steve Swan (SNV)

1. Environmental & Social Safeguard Roadmap: a contribution to the National REDD+ Action Programme (NRAP)

Presentation by Steve Swan (SNV)

Discussion points:

- The purpose of the roadmap is to provide Vietnam with a phased plan of action in terms of a national safeguard response, which mitigates risks associated with persistent uncertainties under the international climate change international negotiations

- The focus of the roadmap will be to provide policy guidance to those developing, implementing and assisting the NRAP, yet the roadmap should also recommend indicative measures of how to operationalize those policies at subnational levels

- The roadmap is intended to provide technical guidance to national government and other stakeholders, not necessarily a formal piece of codified policy ordinance; the roadmap should be viewed as a ‘living document’ to be revised as REDD+ evolves

- The roadmap is proposed as an opportunity for an country-led process that draws on, and responds to, various international safeguard frameworks to guide national policy response that is anchored in existing national laws, policies and regulations

- Operationalising safeguards at the local level of REDD+ implementation will require piloting of a variety of ‘co-benefit delivery mechanisms’, such as benefit distribution systems, participatory forest monitoring and future subnational REDD+ action plans

- The policy-to-practice gap analysis informing the roadmaps development will first assess against the broad aspirational statements of the Cancun safeguards, and secondly safeguard frameworks associated with near-term funding opportunities

- The roadmap development process needs to include multi-stakeholder, at national and subnational levels, validation of recommended actions through iterative consultations co-ordinated by the STWG-SG
Community forestry management (CFM) is one possible areas of ongoing pilot policy and practices that could have relevance to REDD+ environmental and social safeguards and could be considered during the roadmap’s development.

Comments raised in the meeting, together with any subsequent comments submitted in writing to the co-chairs, will be taken into consideration in revising the draft ToR for the safeguards roadmap, which will then be circulated among the REDD+ Network.

2. STWG-SG ToR and 2012/2013 AWP review

Presentation by Steve Swan (SNV)

Discussion points:

- No comments or objections raised to proposed STWG-SG ToR and 2012/2013 AWP revisions made by the co-chairs

3. Proposed agenda for 4th STWG-SG meeting

- Mid-November
  - Consultations on initial work plan for the safeguards roadmap (HB-REDD+ project)
  - Updates from other national safeguards processes FCPF SESA (World Bank)
  - Stakeholder consultations and awareness raising on social safeguards (CCWG)?

4. Announcement:

- 25 September, 08:00-12:00, Daewoo Hotel. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 11th Conference of the Parties (CoP 11) stakeholder consultation meeting: Vietnam’s position on application of relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity. Convened by Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA). Further information to be circulated via the REDD+ Network.

Co-chair thanks to Adrian Enright and Vu Thi Kieu Phuc of SNV for taking minutes of the meeting.