

MISSION REPORT

Distribution: UNEP-WCMC SMT & CCB UNEP UN-REDD UN-REDD SCG Mounkaila Goumandakoye Frank Turyatunga	Name of person(s) that undertook mission: Lera Miles, Elina Väänänen, Lisen Runsten
	Period (including travel days): 14-20 June 2015
	Project: 2650.07 task 7 activity 1
	Institution(s) or Meeting(s) and Venue(s): Planning meeting with UNEP and UN-REDD team, 15 June 2015, UNEP DEWA office, Nairobi Internal knowledge day with Africa UN-REDD colleagues, 16 June, UN compound, Nairobi Africa regional exchange on country approaches to safeguards, Oak Place Hotel in Nairobi
File(s): meeting report	Main Person(s) contacted: UNEP: Tim Christophersen, Steven Swan, Daniel Pouakouyou, Thais Narciso, Emelyne Cheney UNDP: Ela Ionescu, Wahida Shah, Elsie Attafuah FAO: Kristin Devalue, John Fonweban 38 African safeguards focal points (countries + 3 IP/CSO)
	Objective(s): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold an Africa regional exchange on country approaches to safeguards 2. Bring together information and experiences from participating countries on lessons learned on safeguards 3. Hold an internal knowledge day on safeguards for the Africa region

Summary

A three-day exchange on country approaches to safeguards in the Africa region was held in Nairobi, Kenya, 17-19 June 2015. It brought together approximately 38 national focal points and experts from Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eq. Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, The Republic of Congo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, CSO and IP representatives participated, as well as representatives from Costa Rica, Mexico and Viet Nam. The meeting was organized by UNEP-WCMC with inputs from UN-REDD teams from UNEP, UNDP and FAO. The exchange aimed to provide an opportunity for REDD+ teams from African countries, as well as the colleagues from other regions, to share lessons learned and best practices from their work on safeguards-relevant policies, laws and regulations (PLRs), safeguards information systems and summaries of information. There was a mix of introductory talks, plenary discussions, group sessions and interactive exercises, which sought to allow countries in different stages of preparation for REDD+ to learn from each other and the agency staff present. The workshop received good support from the regional team and members of the global team from all the agencies, allowing us to run five breakout groups across two languages at least two times each day.

The first day covered Country approaches to safeguards; the second day covered the topic of Addressing and respecting safeguards through Policies, Laws and Regulations; the third and final day focused on safeguards information - designing Safeguards Information Systems and a summary of Information. Presentations were short, with ample space for discussion afterwards, and UN-REDD presentations were minimized in favour of giving space for country experiences. Three breakout group discussion sessions were included each day to ensure time for exchange. In the end, plenary discussions after presentations consistently took longer than expected and one of the breakout group sessions was replaced with a short discussion in plenary. We managed the agenda adaptively to cater for the enthusiasm for dialogue in plenary.

Participants expressed a great appreciation of the exchange, especially of the experiences shared by countries far progressed in the readiness process. They found the breakout group discussions particularly useful for understanding how a collaborative benefits and risks assessment can be organized to help to design both policies and measures for REDD+, and also highlighted the sessions on clarifying the safeguards, the World Café, and the discussion on audience and content of a summary of information.

Mette Løyche Wilkie, UNEP DEPI Director & UN-REDD Policy Board co-chair made closing remarks congratulating the countries for progress made in recent years, and thanking all for a vibrant discussion and useful exchange.

Workshop and lessons learned reports are currently being prepared. A film-maker was commissioned to create a short video of the workshop. It will be ready for release in August. A discussion forum was established on the UN-REDD workspace to allow for and encourage continuous discussion among the workshop participants.

Internal knowledge day

On 16 June the safeguards coordination group (SCG) organized a one-day dialogue on Country Approaches to Safeguards for UN-REDD staff in the Africa region. The purpose of this dialogue was (1) to familiarise regional UN-REDD staff with interagency thinking on this work area and ensure that staff speak with a harmonized voice and understanding of the theme to partner countries, and (2) for SCG to learn from regional colleagues about the challenges and imperfections of real world implementation, so as to improve internal backstopping services and products.

The dialogue went well with regional team interest in using the internal products developed by SCG and sharing some experience from relevant work in Africa, which also helped to frame the subsequent workshop.

SCG

The UN-REDD Safeguards Coordination Group members present at the workshop met to jointly provide some input to the UN-REDD 2016-20 results framework.

Recommendation(s)/Action(s) to be taken:

Follow up action:	Responsible	Time-frame (by)
Post all materials on UN-REDD workspace	EV/AH	Done
Send thank you email to all participants with link to materials and encouragement to sign up to the online forum	EV	Done
Collate material and draft workshop report	EV	31 July

Collate material and draft lessons learned report	LR	31 July
Write newsletter/blog article, include links to report and video	LM/EV/LR	Next newsletter
UN-REDD Roundup article	LM/EV/LR	Next roundup
Finalize payments	EV	A.S.A.P.

Detailed report [] encl. [X] N/A.	Documents [] encl. [] list [] non	Date 8 July 2015
Classification [X] restr. [] unrestr.	Signature(s) staff member(s) 	Signature(s) supervisor 

Annex: Participant list

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