



Convention on Biological Diversity

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Sixteenth meeting

Montreal, 30 April - 5 May 2012

Item 7.1 of the provisional agenda*

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS SIXTEENTH MEETING

XVI/7. *Advice on the application of relevant REDD+¹ safeguards for biodiversity, and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to assess impacts of REDD+ measures on Biodiversity*

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Noting* the potential for synergies in implementing efforts for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+), and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, *urges* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to ensure that they are implemented in a coherent and mutually supportive way;

2. *Noting* that the indicative list of indicators to assess progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as contained in recommendation XV/1 of the Subsidiary Body, could be useful for assessing the contributions of REDD+ activities for achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Noting* that relevant technical guidance for achieving biodiversity and indigenous and local community benefits in the context of REDD+ activities is available or under development at national, regional and international level;

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/1.

¹ With reference to relevant decisions and documents of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the term REDD+ refers to 'reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries'.

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4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to continue and strengthen their efforts to promote the contribution of REDD+ activities towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and provide benefits for biodiversity and to indigenous and local communities, with particular attention to:

(a) Building synergies between national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national REDD+ strategies and action plans; in particular by indicating how REDD+ activities can contribute to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(b) Further strengthening existing technology transfer and capacity-building processes for the inclusion of relevant indicators in national forest monitoring systems;

[(c) The indicative list of indicators in the annex of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8, as appropriate, to promote biodiversity safeguards.]

[5. *[Approves][Takes note of][Welcomes]* the advice on relevant country-specific biodiversity safeguards for REDD+ contained in annex I,** as guidance focused on national implementation;]

6. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to consider the information in annex I** when planning and implementing REDD+ activities and when preparing national reports and other submissions on progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020, and, where applicable, for other relevant submissions under other processes;

7. Noting its relevance to addressing REDD+ safeguards and multiple benefits, *reaffirms* its guidance on ecosystem based approaches to climate change mitigation and on reducing biodiversity impacts of mitigation measures in decision X/33, paragraphs 8 (m)-(q), (s), (u), (v), (y) and (z);

8. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, according to national circumstances and priorities, as well as relevant organizations and processes to reduce the risk of displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and/or higher biodiversity value, and other risks to biodiversity and to indigenous and local communities, including through:

(a) Undertaking comprehensive land-use planning, applying the ecosystem approach and its operational guidance, and utilizing international standards for identifying key biodiversity areas to prioritize their conservation, when planning and undertaking REDD+ activities (decisions V/6 and VII/11);

(b) Promoting broad participation in all phases of REDD+ at the national and, where appropriate, at the subnational levels, including the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities [and other relevant stakeholders];

(c) Ensuring the monitoring of changes in biodiversity across all main terrestrial ecosystems, in the framework of monitoring achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi targets; and promote regional and sub-regional collaboration for monitoring and assessment, with technical and financial support to developing countries;

9. With reference to the safeguards adopted in UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, paragraph 2, *encourages* Parties that are planning and implementing REDD+ activities to develop and

** Annex I will be based on document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8, revised in accordance with the request to the Executive Secretary in part B of this recommendation.

apply REDD+ safeguards that ensure that benefits for biodiversity and for indigenous and local communities are achieved, and to share their experiences and lessons learned from national and, where appropriate, subnational implementation;

10. *Noting* that there are ongoing safeguards initiatives related to REDD+, *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations involved in these initiatives to share their experiences and lessons learned, as a contribution to the development and implementation of national, and where appropriate sub-national safeguard frameworks, considering paragraphs 7 and 8 above; and *invites* organizations and countries in a position to do so to provide further support to developing countries in addressing biodiversity concerns and in achieving multiple benefits in REDD+ activities at national and, where appropriate, sub-national level;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile information from Parties on experiences regarding how the potential effects of REDD+ activities for the traditional way of life and related knowledge and customary practices of indigenous and local communities are being addressed, and to submit this information to the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions for its consideration, and *invites* the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions to consider this information when undertaking their broader work, as appropriate;

12. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Enhance collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (including its Global Forest Expert Panel on Biodiversity, Forest Management and REDD+), as well as with the REDD+ Partnership, to further support Parties' efforts to help ensure that REDD+ contributes to the implementation of the Convention, and that relevant activities under the Convention contribute to the implementation of REDD+, including by offering further capacity-building activities, subject to the availability of funds;

(b) Compile information relevant to the application of REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity, and make it available through the UNFCCC REDD web platform, the clearing-house mechanism, and workshops, prior to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;

(c) Collaborate with relevant organizations involved in the development of REDD+ safeguard initiatives to further integrate biodiversity concerns in the safeguards initiatives and to facilitate relevant capacity-building and implementation activities;

and report on progress of such efforts to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further develop advice on issues included in paragraph 9 (h) of decision X/33, based on further views from Parties and in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the [twelfth] [thirteenth] meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

B. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to provide to the Executive Secretary views on the advice on relevant country-specific biodiversity safeguards for REDD+ contained in section II of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to provide a revised version of the advice, based on the views received, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.