

NON – PAPER FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ONLY – VERSION 3

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

Draft recommendation submitted by the Co-Chairs

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Invites Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to provide views on the advice on relevant country-specific biodiversity safeguards for REDD+ contained in section II of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8 to the Secretariat, and requests the Executive Secretary to provide a revised version of the advice, based on the views received, for consideration by COP 11.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, may wish to recommend 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, policy measures and positive incentives for 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 (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;

I (bis) [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 (recommendation XV/1, UNEP/CBD/COP/11/2), in particular for Targets 5, 7, 11, 14 and 15, is relevant to the monitoring of impacts of REDD+ activities on biodiversity and indigenous and local communities];

I (ter) [Noting that relevant technical guidance for achieving biodiversity and indigenous and local community benefits in the context of REDD+ activities is available at national, regional and international level in other processes and fora];

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to continue and strengthen their efforts to ensure that REDD+ activities also contribute towards achieving of 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 in their REDD+ strategies and action plans how REDD+ activities can contribute to achieving the Aichi targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(b) Further strengthening technology transfer and capacity building for the inclusion of relevant indicators in national forest monitoring systems, building on existing initiatives.

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'.

3. ~~[Approves]~~~~[Takes note of]~~ *[Welcomes]* the advice on relevant country-specific biodiversity safeguards for REDD+ contained in section II of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8, as guidance focused on national implementation;]

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to consider the information in [document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8] 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;

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

6. *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 high 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) 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.

7. 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 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 sub-national implementation.

8. 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; [to further develop the safeguard frameworks, *inter alia*, by reflecting the guidance referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 above and by developing national verifiable indicators to assess their effectiveness;] and invites organizations and countries in a position to do so to provide to further support developing countries in addressing biodiversity concerns and in achieving multiple benefits in REDD+ activities at national and, where appropriate, at sub-national level.

9. *[Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to examine how the indicative list of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (recommendation XV/1, UNEP/CBD/COP/11/2), including indicators that may be relevant to REDD+ and are consistent with decisions by the UNFCCC, can be taken into account when carrying out future Global Forest Resources Assessments, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with FAO to help ensure that the Global Forest Resources Assessment continues to provide useful data and analysis for the purpose of assessing progress in implementation of the Convention];

10. *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.

10. (bis) *Invites* the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions to consider this information when undertaking their broader work, as appropriate.

11. 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, 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;

(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 the organizations involved in the development of [the] REDD+ safeguard initiatives [referred to in paragraph 7 above] to further integrate biodiversity concerns in the safeguards initiatives and in relevant capacity-building and implementation activities;

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

12. [Further *requests* the Executive Secretary, building on the information on possible indicators and assessment mechanisms in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8, and with effective consultation with Parties and based on their views and in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (including with its Global Forest Expert Panel on Biodiversity, Forest Management and REDD+), and with relevant forest criteria and indicator processes, and without pre-empting any future decisions taken under the UNFCCC, to develop a reduced list of indicators based on the list of possible indicators in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8 for monitoring and assessing the contributions of REDD+ to achieving the objectives of the Convention, for consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.]