

Submission by Brazil
Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected

The Government of Brazil, in response to the invitation to Parties contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on (1) guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected as referred to in appendix II of decision 1/CP.16.

(1) Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected

Recalling paragraph 71(d) of Decision 1/CP.16 that requests developing countries aiming to undertake REDD+ actions, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, to develop a *system* for providing information on safeguards, Brazil supports the idea that systems to provide information on how the safeguards are treated and respected should be developed nationally, according to the circumstances of each developing country. Rather than having a single system to be implemented by all Parties, each country will develop its own information system, oriented by general guidance to be provided by SBSTA and the COP. Hence, the importance of the COP to agree on clear general principles and workable guidance.

Equally important is to maintain the system for information on safeguards separate from the MRV system.

1. Characteristics and Design

To ensure transparency, national systems should contain publicly accessible data and information that are relevant for indicating how the safeguards are being addressed and respected. Since the data and information on safeguards are expected to originate from several sources, it is important to ensure **consistency** of the information (that is, the information is based on a clear and informed set of assumptions, methodologies, and guidance) and **completeness** in the sense that all the safeguards should be addressed. The type of data and information to be included in the systems of information should be a national decision, guided by the general principles agreed by the COP, and should allow for broad participation and be separate and **independent** from MRV systems.

The purpose of national information systems on safeguards is to provide clear, easily accessible and reliable information on how the safeguards outlined in Appendix 1 to Decision 1/CP.16 are being addressed and respected. The data and information should flow as deemed appropriate by each developing country. To ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness, national information systems should cater information needed in an integrated and coordinated way. This can be achieved by building information systems on existing data and institutions, so that they complement or are consistent with the objectives of the country's national forest programme and relevant data sets and processes.

The design of national systems should be flexible enough to accommodate for changing needs for information across time, and be adaptable to technical changes, if necessary. It also must allow for full flexibility of design according to national circumstances and challenges.

2. Provision of data and information

The provision of data and information for the system should be flexible; while for some of the safeguards data and information may be more frequently available, for others it may not. The timing for presentation of data and information should be defined domestically and respect national circumstances and challenges.

Brazil has an important experience with a system for providing information on how the official rates of gross deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon are produced. Using the internet as the vehicle of information, all the data, including nearly 240 satellite images, and the results from analysis of satellite imagery at state level is presented, thus allowing any interested person, agency or organization to reproduce the results obtained. Different stakeholders, including NGOs, state environmental agencies and others, can readily and easily access the data used and the information generated, including from previous years. This data will be instrumental for addressing the safeguard about non-conversion of natural forests to implement other REDD+ activities.

3. Potential barriers, including barriers, if any, to providing information, on addressing and respecting safeguards

Potential barriers include lack of data and information, lack of financial resources and capacity to generate information on how the safeguards are being treated and respected, and lack of the institutional arrangements necessary to ensure relevant data and information, including its dissemination to local communities and indigenous peoples.