



WWF

BRIEF

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Policy Brief

# UNFCCC-COP 19: WARSAW, POLAND THE NEED FOR ROBUST MRV SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES



## WHY ROBUST MRV SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES?

- Robust measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems and processes are essential to generate emissions reductions that are real and additional. This will be important both to achieve mitigation targets and in unlocking scaled up finance for REDD+. This must include both technical systems and capacities, as well as management processes that support MRV over the long term, and which can adapt to evolving technologies and technical capacities.
- A lack of guidance on the form that forest monitoring and MRV systems should take is currently hampering the ability of developing countries to move their REDD+ agenda forward. It is therefore crucial that at UNFCCC-COP19, parties agree on guidelines for robust MRV systems, in particular solving the issue of Verification.
- Forest monitoring and MRV systems should align with information systems for safeguards to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of REDD+ information systems.

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## WWF EXPECTATIONS FOR UNFCCC-COP19

### At UNFCCC-COP19, parties should agree on MRV guidelines that accomplish the following objectives:

1. Agreement that REDD+ MRV systems generate emissions reductions estimates with known accuracy and precision estimates that are consistent and comparable with the reference level used to assess them, and generated in a transparent manner. The following MRV system requirements should also be agreed upon with clear definitions:
  - a. MRV systems need to be resilient and capable to continue generating emissions reductions estimates with known new accuracy and precision estimates. Combined accuracy benchmarks for activity data and emissions factors should help REDD+ move forward faster and allow Parties to reach legitimate agreements.
  - b. Data generated by MRV systems needs to be consistent with data used for establishing reference levels in order to allow the tracking of performance changes through time as shown by each country/region.
  - c. Datasets generated in each country need to be comparable with that of others, so as to be able to assess the impact of the global efforts.
  - d. Methods used need to be transparent so that assessment on data generating approaches as well as of quality of estimates is feasible.
  - e. WWF believes the MRV processes should be participatory and include Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in both the design and implementation of MRV systems. This should be part of the strategy for compliance with social safeguards requirements.
2. Use of conservative values should be the rule of thumb for emissions reductions estimates. These values should be derived from accuracy estimates generated for emissions reductions estimates. Until capacities increase, use of lower accuracy data should be allowed under the precautionary approach.
3. National MRV systems should build upon existing data and expertise, and should aim for continuous improvement. MRV of REDD+ should use the most recent IPCC guidelines using lessons learned from “fast start” experiences such as the Guyana - Norway agreement, among others.
4. MRV of emissions should be linked with information systems for safeguards to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of REDD+ information systems, allowing countries to capitalize on the process of data collection and promoting smarter implementation strategies.
5. Parties should agree on the adoption of international consultation and analysis (ICA) as part of the MRV process for REDD+, with the addition of a technical annex that allow countries to provide the necessary information on the results of the implementation of REDD+ activities.
6. The adoption of ICA plus the technical annex will help to safeguard the environmental integrity of REDD+ as a climate change mitigation mechanism; however, if discussions related to REDD+ start including the negotiation of conditions to offset emissions, this process would not be enough and further independent verification processes will need to be agreed

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