WWF Forest and Climate Initiative

External Policy Brief: UNFCCC-COP18

The Need for Robust MRV Systems

Why Robust MRV Systems?

Robust measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems 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+.

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-COP18, parties agree on **guidelines** for robust MRV systems at Doha.

Forest monitoring and MRV systems should align with information systems for safeguards to improve the **effectiveness and efficiency** of REDD+ information systems.

WWF Expectations for UNFCCC-COP18, Doha

At UNFCCC-COP18, parties should agree on MRV guidelines that accomplish the following objectives:

1. Agreement that REDD+ MRV systems generate emissions reductions estimates with **known accuracies** that are **consistent**, **comparable** 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** estimates. Combined accuracy benchmarks for activity data and emissions factors should help REDD+ move forward faster.

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.
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.

4. MRV of emissions should be linked with **information systems for safeguards** to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of REDD+ information systems.

For more information, contact: WWF Forest and Climate Initiative, forestclimate@wwfus.org

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