



Introduction to information systems & sources assessment: what is it and what approach is being used?

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Assessing Information Systems & Sources and Link to SIS

Importance of the last two components of the UNFCCC guidance for SIS as decided at the Durban Conference of the Parties in 2011:

- “be country-driven and implemented at the national level”.
- “build upon existing systems”.

Background

- Countries usually have a range of information systems and reporting mechanisms which can be built upon to provide information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected.
- To help design the SIS it is necessary to inventory and assess these systems. This often includes two elements:
 - Existing domestic information systems and sources that gather information that is relevant to the safeguards; and
 - Existing reporting mechanisms under international conventions and agreements applicable to the country.

Generic Examples of Information Systems and Sources

- National population censuses
- National forest monitoring systems (NFMS)
- National forest inventories (NFI)
- Living Standards Measurement Studies (LSMS)
- Sustainable forestry and agricultural commodity standards (including auditing reports)
- Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) Timber Legality Assurance Systems (TLAS), etc.
- Grievance redress mechanisms
- Cadastral databases
- Information sources used to assess Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
- Registries of site-based projects
- National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Systems supporting national implementation of other international conventions

Some Mongolian National Examples

- Forest taxation inventories (FRDC)
- Pest control database (FRDC)
- Environmental databases, e.g. land degradation, water resources, etc (EIC)
- Administration of Land Affairs, Geodesy, and Cartography (ALAGaC)
- National forest monitoring systems (NFMS) under development for REDD+
- National Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) database (NSO)
- National Statistics Office website/yearbooks
- Existing grievance redress mechanisms (e.g. for mining sector)
- EIA database
- National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans (NBSAPs) and reporting, under the CBD
- National Strategy to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation and reporting, under the UNCCD

Types and Frequency of Information

- Using a template to assess prioritized information systems and sources in terms of:
 - the types of information they collect, e.g. statistics, spatial data
 - the frequency and coverage of data collection, e.g. is it regularly updated? Does it cover all aimags?
 - how well the data may link to the information needs for the SIS
 - gaps or issues related to the data, e.g. is it 'official' and considered credible?
 - institutional capacities and factors related to the data systems
- Some examples to follow, and then Amarmaa will show progress to date for Mongolia

Eventual Structure Examples

Elements of the safeguard	Information needs	Information sources				Comments
National clarification and relevant PLRs	What information would help the SIS to demonstrate that the safeguard element is being respected	What detailed information is available? (Existing/planned ?)	What type of information is it? (E.g. statistical data, spatial data, finished map?)	Where the available information can be accessed? Is it easily accessed?	What is the frequency and level/unit of information? (E.g. frequency of collection and updating? At what administrative level and using what unit of measurement, e.g. by hectares, incident, village, etc)	E.g. operational challenges, any other important issues

An Example from another Country for One Element of Safeguard E

Key issues (from international guidance)	Name of data system / source (and weblink)	Relevant EXISTING parameters / data in the database (including frequency and unit, e.g. annual/aimag level/ha)	Any relevant future/planned data?	Key gaps/concerns/ comments
REDD+ actions are not used for the conversion of natural forest, including conversion from natural to planted forest	Forest Resources Monitoring System (www.frms.org)	Natural forest cover change (% / ha) annually	Data collected since 2016; coverage will improve to all forest provinces by 2018	Potential conflict w Ministry of Environment data; need to check which is considered 'official'
		Natural forest quality change (poor-med-high; m ³ /ha) annually, by forest type and management category		
		Land use change (in ha), showing type of change (e.g. to agriculture, construction, etc) annually		
		Forest category change (in ha) (e.g. from protection to production), annually		
	REDD+ Portal	N/A	Will have forest cover change maps for whole country and for forested provinces Will have tables showing changes between forest categories (ha/annual) Will have charts showing information on deforestation, degradation and forest gain (ha/annual)	Timeline to portal unclear; will draw on FRMS for this data

Using the Information Assessment

- What information is already available for us to use in the SIS?
- What necessary information could be missing, and how can we go about finding it?
- What are some possible institutional arrangements for housing/hosting the SIS (who will be responsible for performing the different functions and operating the information system?)