

REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards: Some Lessons

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Countries using REDD+ SES

Country	Start (step 1)
Ecuador	October 2010
Acre State, Brazil	September 2010
Nepal	January 2011
Central Kalimantan	March 2011
Peru	March 2012
Mexico	April 2012

Stakeholder participation

- REDD+ SES – a framework for monitoring and reporting of social and environmental performance using a multi-stakeholder process
- Benefits
 - Enhances quality and credibility of self reporting
 - Promotes shared ownership by government and civil society
 - Increases transparency
 - builds consensus and trust between diverse stakeholders regarding safeguards and REDD+ more generally
- Challenges
 - Cost of multi-stakeholder process, e.g. workshops, translation into local languages,.....

Interpretation at country level

- Interpretation adapts REDD+ SES content and process to the country context, includes:
 - Creation of country-specific indicators (the principles and criteria remain the same across all countries)
 - Design of the country-specific assessment process
- Benefits
 - Builds understanding and ownership of stakeholders.
 - Ensures the standards are relevant and reporting is meaningful
 - reduces complexity (e.g. number of indicators)
- Challenges
 - Complex language of criteria and indicators is hard to understand .
REDD+SES version 2 splits indicators into “essence” and qualifiers”
 - Needs specialist technical expertise in developing indicators and developing monitoring plans for each indicator

Linkage to UNFCCC safeguards

❑ UNFCCC safeguards

- a) Objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements
- b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures
- c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities
- d) Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders
- e) Conservation of natural forests and biological diversity
 - not used for conversion of natural forests
 - protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services,
 - enhance other social and environmental benefits

❑ REDD+ SES covers all UNFCCC safeguards and provides a basis for development of the Safeguards Information System requested by UNFCCC

Need for integration of safeguards

- Existing processes and mechanisms – SESA/ESMF, UN-REDD, REDD+ SES - are both similar and different in key respects
 - All support addressing and respecting safeguards in REDD+ programs
 - They function differently, with different processes and levels of stakeholder involvement
 - They are used at different phases of readiness or implementation of a REDD+ program
 - There are different benefits and challenges in their use: some are requirements for funding
- Important to understand country needs to address and respect safeguards for REDD+ and to understand how different processes and mechanisms can help in different ways
 - implies development of a national safeguards system for REDD

Potential Elements of a national safeguards system

Policies, Laws and Regulations	Policy and legal framework that defines and operationalizes country-specific safeguards <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Existing policies, laws and regulations- REDD+ specific policies, laws and regulations
Institutions	Institutional framework that defines roles, responsibilities and interrelations of those responsible for the safeguards system <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Institution(s) to ensure fair, effective and transparent processes for design and implementation- Institutions to collect and process information for monitoring and reporting on safeguards
Processes and procedures	Processes and procedures that are followed to implement the safeguards system <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consultations- Capacity building- Action plans to mitigate harm and support benefits
Monitoring and reporting	Country-specific monitoring and reporting framework <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Indicators for process and outcomes related to country-specific safeguards interpretation- Monitoring methodologies- Reporting frameworks to address different information needs (for adaptive management, for national stakeholders, for donor agencies, for UNFCCC etc)
Grievance mechanism	National-level mechanism to receive and address grievances related to the national safeguards system