



Options and Issues for Developing National Approaches to Safeguards

Second meeting of sub-technical working group on
REDD+ environmental & social safeguards, 19th April



Context

- Countries are faced with several sets of safeguards and related approaches
 - Multilateral initiatives have their own safeguards/related approaches
 - Civil Society has a long term interest in safeguards
 - Safeguards and approaches overlap but are not identical
- Rational approach for countries needed

Questions to consider

For example:

- What are the requirements of a national approach to safeguards for REDD+?
- Who should be involved in the development of a national approach to safeguards?
- Where to start?

What are the requirements of a national approach to safeguards?

For example:

- Meet international 'demands', as necessary
- Be in line with country priorities on REDD+
- Be based on unified understanding of major issues in country
- Be adapted to national capacities and skills
- Align with country's land management goals

Who should be involved in developing a national approach?

Composition of cross-sectoral consultation group might depend on, for example:

- Ministry responsibilities in country, e.g. covering forests, biodiversity, agriculture?
- REDD+ stakeholders in country, e.g. indigenous people and civil society
- Country participation in international initiatives, e.g. multilateral focal points of CBD, UN-REDD, FCPF, CARE, etc.

Where to start?

Three suggested options

1. Expand existing initiatives in country
2. Identify key elements of safeguards and develop national safeguards against these elements
3. Start from one existing set, expand for complete coverage, dependent on country needs

Option 1: Expand existing initiatives in country

Potential steps involved

1. Identify REDD+ relevant safeguard legislation already in country, e.g. related to forestry, women and children, land tenure, protected areas, indigenous people, etc.

Examples of possible extant REDD+ relevant legislation

- ◆ No plantations or cultivation in river beds or streams
 - Will avoid damage to watersheds by plantations initiated by REDD+
- ◆ Land tenure grievance process
 - Supports community rights

Option 1: Expand existing initiatives in country

Potential steps involved (continued)

2. Identify REDD+ relevant programmes

- Land use planning targets
- Community forestry programmes
- Existing initiatives on governance

3. Select safeguards and approaches to be implemented

- SESA, SEPC, REDD+ SES?
- Potentially also non REDD+ specific safeguards

Decision -makers in country may want to consider

- Country priorities
- Multilateral agreements now and in future
- Country capacity

Option 1: Expand existing initiatives in country

Potential steps involved (continued)

4. Identify elements of selected safeguards/approaches which overlap, and elements which are unique
5. Comparative analysis
 - ♦ Cross check alignment of existing policies against key elements of selected safeguards/approaches
 - ♦ Identify areas which are not covered
6. Expand policies as appropriate
7. Develop new programmes or legislation where an area cannot be covered

Where to start?

Three suggested options

1. Expand existing initiatives in country
2. Identify key elements of safeguards and develop national safeguards against these elements
3. Start from one existing set, expand for complete coverage, dependent on country needs

Option 2: Identify key elements then develop national safeguards

Potential steps involved

1. Identify key elements of safeguards and related approaches relevant for the country, e.g. in terms of
 - Content: what are the potential risks of REDD+ in the context of Viet Nam and the benefits envisaged?
 - Accountability: what are the minimum 'requirements', how much more could be achieved?
 - Output envisaged: Set of safeguards? Implementation process? Safeguards information system? Reporting and monitoring framework?

Option 2: Identify key elements then develop national safeguards

Potential steps involved (continued):

2. Develop a national set of safeguards / approach based on potential risks and envisaged benefits:
 - Content: ensure major risks and envisaged benefits are covered
 - Language: ensure there is unified understanding of the developed safeguards
3. Cross-check alignment with 'requirements': ensure at least minimum 'requirements' are met (may mean to include further safeguards)

Option 2: Identify key elements then develop national safeguards

Potential steps involved (continued):

4. Develop further elements to be included:

- Can elements in existing REDD+ safeguards/ approaches be used in the context of Viet Nam? To what extent do they need adjusting?
- Can existing processes in country be used? (e.g. existing strategic environmental assessment or environmental impact assessment procedures as per decree No. 29/2011/ND-CP)

Where to start?

Three suggested options

1. Expand existing initiatives in country
2. Identify key elements of safeguards and develop national safeguards against these elements
3. Start from one existing set, expand for complete coverage, dependent on country needs

Option 3: Start from existing set, expand according to needs

Potential steps involved

1. Choose existing set of safeguards / approach
 - Based on country priorities and existing processes
 - Considerations may include coverage, participation in multilateral agreements, etc.
2. Define what other safeguards / approaches a country may wish to consider
 - Considerations may include multilateral agreements now and in future, country capacity, etc.

Option 3: Start from existing set, expand according to needs

Potential steps involved

3. Analyse what content and elements are already covered by the approach from which you start:
 - Are major risks and envisaged benefits covered?
 - How does it relate to other approaches the country may wish to consider?
 - Is there guidance on a process for implementation or a monitoring and reporting system?
4. Expand to cover all elements required
 - E.g. considering existing initiatives in country and elements from other existing REDD+ safeguards

Summary

There are recurring steps in each of the options, for example:

- Need to clarify what the minimum 'requirements' are
- Cross-check whether existing initiatives can be of help
- Develop new elements as necessary

But the perspective from which the task is started varies!

'Anchorage' will always be needed, either of international 'requirements' to national institutions, legislation, etc. or of existing national processes, institutions, legislation to international 'requirements'

Potential pros and cons of options

Options	Pros	Cons
1 Expand existing in-country initiatives	Where existing initiatives can be used processes are easier to institutionalise	May require 'translation' of how existing initiatives work together to ensure compliance
2 Develop your own	Easier from a development point of view	Needs institutionalisation in-country and 'translation' of how own safeguards relate to existing ones.
3 Start from one set of REDD+ safeguards / related approach	Clear from the start which approach is being used	Institutionalisation

How to choose between options?

In-country planning session may help to compare options in context of

- ◆ Costing
- ◆ Timeframes
- ◆ Political buy in
- ◆ Practicality
- ◆ Capacity



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