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# INFO BRIEF

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JULY 2019

AUTHORS: UN-REDD PROGRAMME SAFEGUARDS  
COORDINATION GROUP

## INTRODUCTION

A landmark climate deal - the Paris Agreement - was adopted by representatives of 195 nations at the 21st Conference of the Parties (CoP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015. Forests are identified as key to climate change mitigation in the agreement, and REDD+iv is explicitly recognized as an instrument to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhancing forest carbon sinks. The CoP21 also concluded negotiations around REDD+ with the adoption of, inter alia, 'Further guidance on ensuring transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness when informing on how all the [Cancun] safeguards [for REDD+] are being addressed and respected'<sup>v</sup>.

Under the UNFCCC, the Cancun safeguards<sup>vi</sup> were agreed by the CoP16 in 2010. It was agreed that these safeguards should be 'promoted and supported'<sup>vii</sup> when undertaking REDD+ actions, in order to ensure that the implementation of REDD+ not only mitigates or avoids potential environmental and social risks, but also enhances the benefits for people and the environment. Further decisions on the Cancun safeguards outline three basic interrelated safeguards requirements of countries seeking to receive results-based payments for measured, reported and verified GHG emissions reductions and removals from REDD+ under the UNFCCC<sup>viii</sup>:

1. **Promote and support the Cancun safeguards** throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions<sup>x</sup>;
2. **Develop a system for providing information** on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected (i.e. a "safeguards information system" - SIS)<sup>x</sup>; and
3. **Provide summaries** of information on how all the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions<sup>xi</sup>.

This brief discusses the recently adopted UNFCCC guidance on the content of summaries of safeguards information, and shows how countries might develop their summaries by drawing on some of the work they may already have undertaken to develop their country approaches to meet-

ing the UNFCCC, and other, REDD+ safeguard requirements.

The ideas presented in this brief build on the outcomes of a consultative process - comprising regional South-South knowledge exchange workshops, as well as one-on-one interviews - through which the UN-REDD Programme has compiled and synthesised different perspectives from REDD+ stakeholders (including countries, donors and civil society) on the possible contents of summaries of information. An overview of stakeholders' understanding and expectations of the contents of summaries of safeguards information is presented below.

Developing countries seeking to receive results-based payments for REDD+ should provide the most recent summary of safeguards information, **to be made publically available, upon commencing** implementation of REDD+ actions. Once the first summary of information has been submitted, the frequency of subsequent summaries should be consistent with the provisions for submissions of national communications, i.e. at least once every four years for developing countries<sup>xii</sup>. Additionally, a country may submit a summary of information directly to the UNFCCC REDD+ web platform<sup>xiii</sup> at any time.

There is no UNFCCC-required structure for a country's summary of safeguards information. Guidance on the content of summaries of information, however, has been adopted by CoP21 (Box 1).

What information could be included in the summaries?

The following suggestions on the contents of summaries of safeguards information elaborate on the UNFCCC guidance (Box 1) but are not intended to be prescriptive. Rather, suggestions are offered on how countries might achieve 'transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness' with regards to the information content of their summaries.

Information on which REDD+ activities are included The following suggestions on the

contents of summaries of safeguards information elaborate on the UNFCCC guidance (Box 1) but are not intended to be prescriptive. Rather, suggestions are offered on how countries might achieve 'transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness' with regards to the information content of their summaries. Information on which REDD+ activities are included<sup>1</sup>

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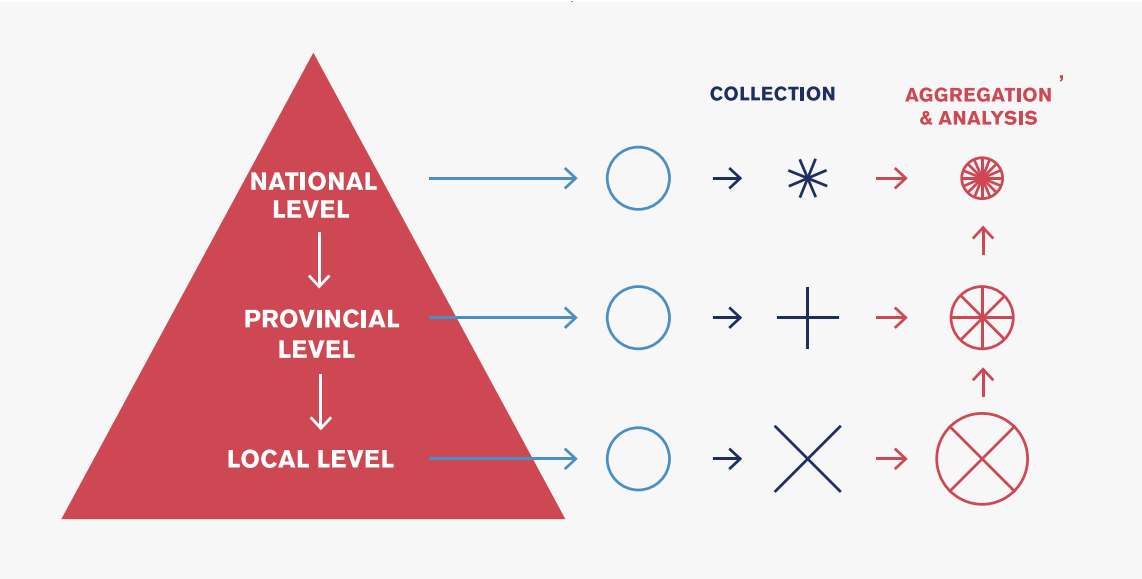
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The ideas presented in this brief build on the outcomes of a consultative process - comprising regional South-South knowledge exchange work- which the UN-REDD Programme has compiled

## BOX 1

Using economic and noneconomic information in REDD+ implementation planning in Viet Nam Viet Nam is in the process of developing its medium-term implementation plan for its National REDD+ Action Programme.

This process involves bringing together key partners in a range of sectors to design and cost 'action programmes' and to articulate a logic for achieving the country's vision for REDD+. This also allows exploration of Lendest, qui none est et aut ut ut fuga. Nem qui vit, optam sus et lacidat urecus niet qui inctationse cone optatiur aut pra pliquam exceper iorectis pore es aceratque nienissum acessequia sum reptatiis sequo incipis ad modi ducium, nem aut quiatur apis eum sim qui inistiatum quiam que rerro omnihil luptatur?

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on country approaches to REDD+ safeguards and the various products and services offered by the UN-REDD Programme, please:

- Visit the UN-REDD Programme Online Collaborative Workspace - <http://bit.ly/un-redd-safeguardshome>
- Contact the Safeguards Coordination Group - [safeguards@un-redd.org](mailto:safeguards@un-redd.org)



UN-REDD (2015a) Info Brief  
No. 4 - Country Approaches to  
Safeguards: Initial Experiences  
and Emerging Lessons  
(English - Español - Français)



UN-REDD Programme (2015b)  
Technical Brief No. 1 - REDD+  
Safeguards Information Sys-  
tems: Practical Design Consid-  
erations  
(English - Español - Français)

**UN-REDD**  
PROGRAMME



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Workspace: [www.unredd.net](http://www.unredd.net)