National interpretation of the Cancun safeguards for REDD+ in Zambia

Progress and remaining questions

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29 May 2018 | Lusaka

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Why interpret the Cancun safeguards?

Cancun safeguards – 7 broad principles that countries are asked to address and respect throughout REDD+ implementation

- Potential for differences in understanding among stakeholders as to what these principles mean
  - e.g. what makes national forest governance structures "***transparent and effective***" (safeguard b),
  - or which forest areas in a country should be seen as "***natural forests***" (safeguard e).
- Helpful to prioritize the safeguards aspects most relevant in the country context (e.g. which social or environmental issues to focus on in Safeguards Information System)

Accepted good practice in many countries

A large number of countries across the world have already developed national interpretations, including some of the leaders in achieving REDD+ readiness.

Examples of countries having completed an interpretation of the Cancun safeguards include: Cote d'Ivoire Nigeria (subnational), DRC, Mexico, Ecuador, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Indonesia; others are about to be completed.

(Note that a variety of names have been used: 'Clarification', 'national standards', 'identifying key themes/issues', etc.)

What are the objectives of Zambia's national interpretation?

- Sets out, in detail, how the Cancun safeguards are understood in Zambia – creates consensus and makes the meaning of the safeguards clearer for national stakeholders
- Informs a refinement of Zambia's SIS design, helping to identify information needs
- Provides text that can be used for the Summary of Information on safeguards ('description of each safeguard in accordance with national circumstances')
- Identifies priority concerns for safeguards application in Zambia

Progress made so far

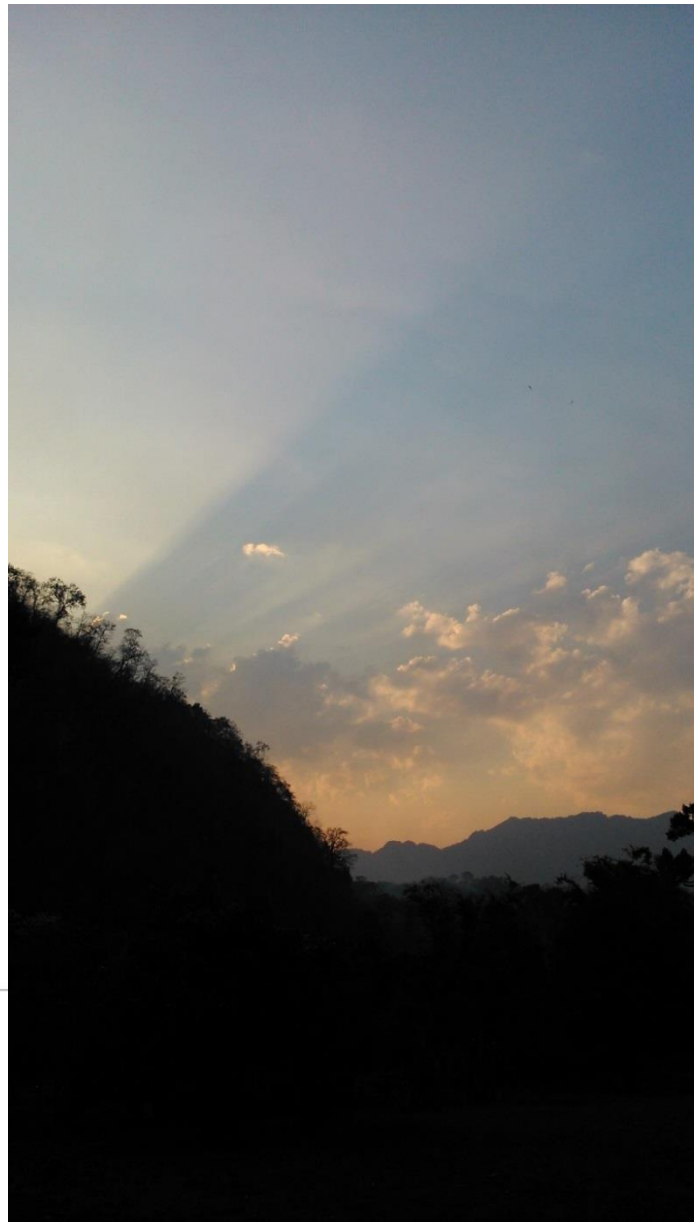
1. Inputs developed and compiled in a matrix:
   - Assessment of benefits and risks of proposed actions in REDD+ Investment Plan (workshop July 2017)
   - Recommendations on enhancement of benefits / mitigation of risks (same workshop)
   - PLRs and PLR gaps identified in initial review
   - Generic global interpretation
2. Draft interpretation discussed and edited (workshop December 2017)
3. Interpretation text extracted into Word format and edited for clarity and consistency; outstanding questions identified (January 2018)

Current structure of the document

Introduction (purpose, history, cross-cutting recommendations)

For every safeguard:

- Draft interpretation text
- Explanatory notes (Zambian context, rationale for highlighting specific points, etc.)
- Recommended measures to improve adherence to the safeguard ('PLR gap-filling measures')
- List of identified relevant PLRs



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Outstanding points

During the process of editing and quality control following the December workshop, questions came up in relation to:

- Some topics that were highlighted in benefits and risks assessment not being covered
- Inconsistencies in the text (e.g. topic raised in explanatory notes but not in interpretation text)
- Statements missing detail (e.g. who should be responsible for a task, how would PLR implementation be strengthened)

Aims for this meeting

- Collect input from participants to finalize the text and agree on way to solve outstanding questions
- Discuss steps for official approval of the document – who, how? (Is validation by STWG sufficient? Should a higher-level body endorse the document? Note earlier proposal for codification of the interpretation as a schedule in Forest Carbon Management Regulations)
- Agree next steps (e.g. final editing, publishing online, submission for high-level endorsement?)

Thank you!

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