

## HANDOUT I: THE UNFCCC REDD+ SAFEGUARDS<sup>1</sup>

*“When undertaking [REDD+] activities, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:*

- a) Actions complement or are **consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements**;*
- b) Transparent and effective **national forest governance** structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;*
- c) Respect for the **knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities**, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;*
- d) The **full and effective participation** of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities;*
- e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of **natural forests and biological diversity**, ensuring that the [REDD+] actions are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their **ecosystem services**, and to enhance other **social and environmental benefits**;*
- f) Actions to address the risks of **reversals**;*
- g) Actions to reduce **displacement** of emissions.”*

Source: UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16, Appendix I, paragraph 2

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<sup>1</sup> Also known as the ‘Cancun safeguards’, after the Mexican city of Cancun, where these safeguards were agreed

## HANDOUT II: EXAMPLES OF SIS OBJECTIVES<sup>2</sup>

**Note:** default objective required by the UNFCCC is to demonstrate that REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected, throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities. Summaries of safeguards information, submitted to the UNFCCC, can be products of the safeguard information system (SIS).

Other countries have also identified the following additional, and optional, objectives for their SIS:

1. providing information to address reputational risk to donors funding readiness and demonstration phases of REDD+;
2. attracting financing by demonstrating reduction in risks for (both private and public sector) investment in results-based actions for REDD+;
3. meeting safeguards requirements of international entities that are likely to make results-based payments for REDD+;
4. enabling access to funding sources for safeguards-related development, such as sustainable rural development, biodiversity conservation, etc;
5. improving existing information systems' functioning and resultant improvements in information quality;
6. improving National REDD+ Strategy implementation by informing design of more environmentally sustainable, and socially and gender equitable REDD+ actions;
7. enhancing domestic legitimacy of REDD+ by increasing transparency through fair and equitable stakeholder participation in various aspects of SIS design and operations;
8. contributing to evidence-based policy reform in various sectors – forestry, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, etc;
9. contributing to demonstrating compliance with other international conventions beyond that for climate change; and,
10. strengthening institutional capacities of existing or planned information systems

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<sup>2</sup> Collated from other REDD+ countries