



**United Nations Environment Programme  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre**

**MISSION REPORT**

<b>Distribution:</b> UNEP regional team, UNEP UN-REDD, UN-REDD SCG, UN-REDD teams other agencies	<b>Name of person(s) that undertook mission:</b> Blaise Bodin (BB), Agnès Hallosserie (AH)
	<b>Period (including travel days):</b> 7-13 June 2015
	<b>Projects:</b> 2650.07.E UN-REDD
	<b>Institution(s) or Meeting(s) and Venue(s):</b> Training session for field testing REDD+ national standards and REDD+ safeguards frameworks in DRC; Coordination Nationale REDD in Kinshasa, DRC
	<b>Main Person(s) contacted:</b> Rubin Rashidi (CN-REDD), Paul André Turcotte (consultant for the World Bank), Antoine Drouillard (CN-REDD)
<b>File(s):</b> diagram on an integrated approach World Bank/national standards	<b>Objective(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Deliver a training to assess the feasibility of applying the REDD+ national standards to existing projects on the ground and inform their revision</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Encourage that the SESA tools for DRC integrate the REDD+ national standards and refer to them as the overarching norm applied for any REDD+ action</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Receive feedback from CN-REDD for preparing the study on options for the design of an SIS</li> </ul>

**Summary:**

A four day training was delivered in Kinshasa, with joint support from UN-REDD and FCPF, in preparation of a test in the field of REDD+ national standards. The aim of the training was to provide participants with a methodology to collect constructive feedback for the revision of the standards from a project perspective. At CN-REDD’s request, the training on indicators was combined with a training on Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) by the World Bank, which sought to create a roster of national experts with the capacity to undertake ESIA’s in the context of REDD+ implementation.

The training emphasized the need to develop SMART indicators to provide information on how the standards’ principles and criteria are being respected, and was attended by 21 people, including 3 women. Collaboration with the World Bank team on this training contributed to the development of a joint understanding of the country approach to safeguards and SIS in DRC combining both UNFCCC and WB requirements. However, further elaboration will be needed from the CN-REDD before the approach can be finalized and implemented.

**Background:**

DRC developed national REDD+ social and environmental standards in 2012. The standards are divided into principles & criteria to be respected throughout REDD+ implementation, and ‘framework indicators’ aimed to inform on how these are being respected. Concerns have been raised with regards to the difficulty of applying these standards to small to middle scale REDD+ projects, an important vehicle of REDD+ implementation in the country, and a revision was suggested.

After further discussion, the CN REDD decided to proceed with the revision of the standards with technical assistance from UNEP UN-REDD. It was decided that the revision would only concern indicators, as principles and criteria have resulted from a broad stakeholder consultation process that will not be reopened. The broad methodology adopted for the revision of the standards was the following: (i) CN-REDD safeguards experts work on restructuring the standards based on feedback received during the validation workshop and (ii) submit a second draft to a panel of experts and representatives of the civil society and indigenous peoples (March 2015). Additional feedback was received. (iii) The feasibility of collecting information on the indicators is assessed by surveyors visiting four REDD+ project pilot sites. (iv) All comments received between the first expert meeting in March and the end of the test in the field are addressed before final validation of the standards during a workshop

with a large range of stakeholders (expected in autumn 2015). A matrix explaining how comments were addressed is created for transparency.

### **Progress against objectives:**

#### **1. Integration of the FCPF's SESA tools and REDD+ national standards**

Significant progress was made on this point and a flowchart of the integrated process was developed with PAT, AD and RR to reflect how the social and environmental risk assessment tools developed under the SESA (i.e. the project categorization grid and ESIA TdRs) and REDD+ national standards may be integrated within the general process of setting up REDD+ actions in DRC, and how the resulting risk management frameworks can inform the respect of the criteria during the implementation phase (see annex below).

BB, AH, PAT and RR met to discuss the content of the training, for which a consolidated approach had to be adopted. Those discussions highlighted the lack of previous integration of the social and environmental management framework (SEMF) resulting from the SESA process with the UNFCCC requirements for REDD+. There had been no reference to the Cancun safeguards in the SEMF, and a limited understanding of REDD+ implementation at the national scale through changes in policy rather than as a set of smaller-scale projects. Further to these conversations, it was decided that the structure of the ESIA and associated risks management frameworks would now be articulated around the DRC national standards (and therefore address the Cancun safeguards).

There is still work to be done on how this integrated framework (clarified in the flowchart below) will apply to REDD+ actions at different scales and with different sources of funding. Further work is urgently needed to clarify the various and confusing typologies of REDD+ actions proposed through the National REDD+ Strategy in order to consolidate the approach. This would also help clarify the means through which information on how the safeguards are addressed and respected will be collected across these different modalities of implementation, beyond the sole project scale. Despite progress on the articulation between the SEMF requirements and the National Standards, the current version of the risk assessment tools would need to be updated to ensure consistency.

#### **2. Training to carry out the field test of the REDD+ national standards**

The training was assiduously attended by the civil society representatives and the trainee ESIA experts. Participants rated the training 8/10 in terms of how it strengthened their knowledge of national REDD+ standards. At the World Bank's request, participants were subject to a test on the theoretical training to be selected for the practical training in the field. 18 persons attended the training to become ESIA experts. Eight were selected to participate in the field activities and request official accreditation by the government as ESIA experts. An additional 7 representatives of the civil society were also designated to participate in the theory and practical sessions of the training, without being submitted to the same selection process.

The agenda for the training was built along the steps of the national process for a project to be accredited as 'REDD+', to illustrate how ESIA are integrated within the regulatory framework of the REDD+ national standards. Participants were divided into groups to work on four REDD+ projects for which they had documentation. Participants carried out a first screening of the level of risk associated with a project based on a number of elements pertaining to its size and the type of actions implemented using the 'categorization grid' that forms part of the risk assessment suite of tools, and looked at the criteria in the national standards to see which deserved extra attention given the project's context and associated risks. Finally, they looked at improving current indicators to meet 'SMART' requirements, based on the information available at project level. The indicators designed during the training will be used as a basis for the test in the field.

The main conclusions of the exercises conducted throughout the training are the following:

- Given the nature and scale of the projects studied, ESIA's would have been required for all of them. This highlights the critical function of the categorization grid before a project is authorised.
- Almost all criteria apply to all projects. This finding is likely to be different for REDD+ policies, to which standards also apply.
- Designing good indicators for the standards is quite challenging as several criteria do not match SMART requirements themselves. Therefore, the field test format distinguishes indicators, targets and sources of data to ensure that the combination ultimately covers all 'SMART' requirements.

- A glossary is required to promote a common interpretation of the terms used in the standards and across CN-REDD documents.
- ESIA's should be undertaken after the categorization and before the actual implementation of REDD+ actions. The projects selected for the training were almost over and had never had an impact evaluation. This complicated the training on ESIA as the key ESIA objective is to anticipate and facilitate management of the risks, before implementation.

### 3. Consultations to inform the design of an SIS

Beyond progress on the coordination between UNFCCC and WB representatives, little was achieved under this objective. This high-level discussion should be led by the CN-REDD, and the REDD+ Coordinator, national REDD+ Focal Point and Secretary of the Sustainable Development Division were all away at the UNFCCC SBSTA negotiations in Bonn. Preliminary discussions within the CN-REDD suggested that the SIS is included in the National REDD+ Registry, as the Registry will compile information on the respect of the REDD+ Standards' criteria for all accredited REDD+ projects, programmes and reforms.

#### Recommendation(s)/Action(s) to be taken:

- Visits to project sites for the field testing started on the 22nd of June and will last about 4 weeks. UNEP UN-REDD will support the CN-REDD to process the results of the field test, and to prepare a revised version of the indicators to be submitted for validation by national stakeholders. The applicability of the standards for national scale REDD+ implementation through changes in policies remains to be assessed.
- UNEP UN-REDD to continue engaging with CN-REDD and FCPF on further development of the joint approach to safeguards and SIS, which will be included in the "Arrêt d'Homologation" currently under revision.
- UNEP UN-REDD will submit to the CN-REDD and REDD+ national/UN-REDD focal points a paper outlining options for the design of the SIS, to take the discussion forward.

#### Immediate follow up actions:

	Responsible	Time-frame (by)
Send the forms for the field test pre-filled with refined SMART indicator(s) for each criteria and user guidelines	AH	19/06 (Done)
Draft workshop report and share with CN REDD	AH	18/07 (done)
Update the Dropbox folder with all training material and share with participants	AH	18/07

Detailed report <input type="checkbox"/> encl. <input type="checkbox"/> N/A.	Documents <input type="checkbox"/> encl. <input type="checkbox"/> list <input type="checkbox"/>	Date
Classification <input type="checkbox"/> restr. <input type="checkbox"/> unrestr.	Signature(s) staff member(s)	Signature(s) supervisor

**Annex:** diagram of integrated approach between the National Standards and the FCPF SESA tools

Responsabilités du porteur de projet/bailleur du programme/mandataire de la réforme (en gras avec appui d'un expert agréé)

Responsabilités de la Cellule Evaluation

