

UN-REDD | REDD+ ACADEMY
PROGRAMME

8

REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems

Learning objectives

By the end of this module, you should be able to:

- Define what safeguards are and what their role is
- Understand what UNFCCC requires
- Describe how to develop a country approach to safeguards





Agenda for the session

- Introductory presentation on REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems
- Exercises in relation to prioritised policy or measure:
 - Clarify safeguards for Bhutan
 - Identify benefits and risks for safeguards

What are safeguards?

- Technical measures to prevent accidents or reduce risks (e.g. protecting your computer from viruses)
- Precautionary measures, policies, laws or regulations (e.g. laws protecting the rights of citizens)
- A measure taken to protect someone or something or to prevent something undesirable – **do no harm**
- UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards are atypical safeguards as they call for enhancement of benefits – **do good**



Why safeguards?

For the private sector, strong safeguards are a pre-requisite, not an aspiration.

- Reputational risks:
 - Nestle/Greenpeace, social license to operate
- Operational risk/costs - poor environmental risk management can lead to:
 - Production stoppages, fines, license withdrawals
- Legal risks:
 - Legal liability for investors can remain beyond the investment term

Why Apply Safeguards to REDD+?

- Strengthens the quality and sustainability of REDD+ implementation
- Contributes to broader national development goals
- Ensures confidence that REDD+ is delivering benefits and avoiding/minimizing risks

Norway's submission to SBSTA

Being able to provide information on how these safeguards are addressed and respected will **increase the confidence of the international community in REDD+ and thereby help attract long-term investments and payments for performance.**

Providing information on safeguards could in addition have an intrinsic value for developing country Parties by informing national policy making and strengthening the credibility of REDD+ among domestic constituents.

Risks and benefits of REDD+ implementation

	RISKS	BENEFITS
SOCIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contested land/resource rights • Inequitable sharing of benefits (elite benefit capture) • Exclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities from decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified/secured resource and tenure rights • More sustainable rural livelihoods • Improved governance
ENVIRONMENTAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of natural forest with plantations • Displacement of deforestation/ degradation to areas important for biodiversity • Agricultural intensification and erosion of non-forest biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration, maintenance or enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services • More resilient forest landscapes contributing to climate change adaptation

What are the Cancun safeguards?



UNFCCC Safeguards Requirements



What does “Address and Respect” Safeguards Mean?

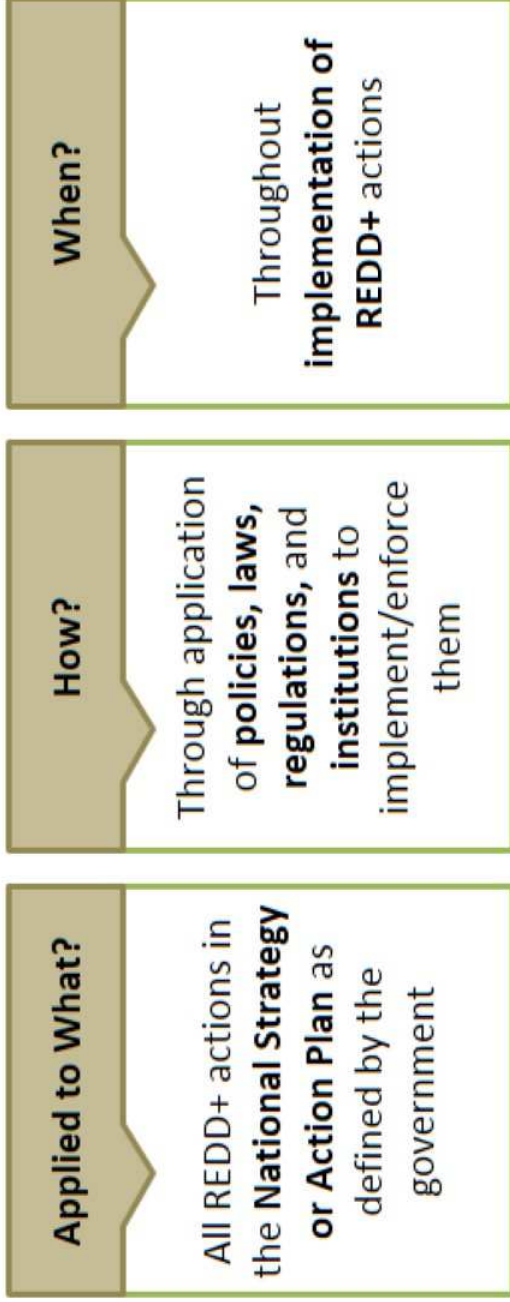
“Address”

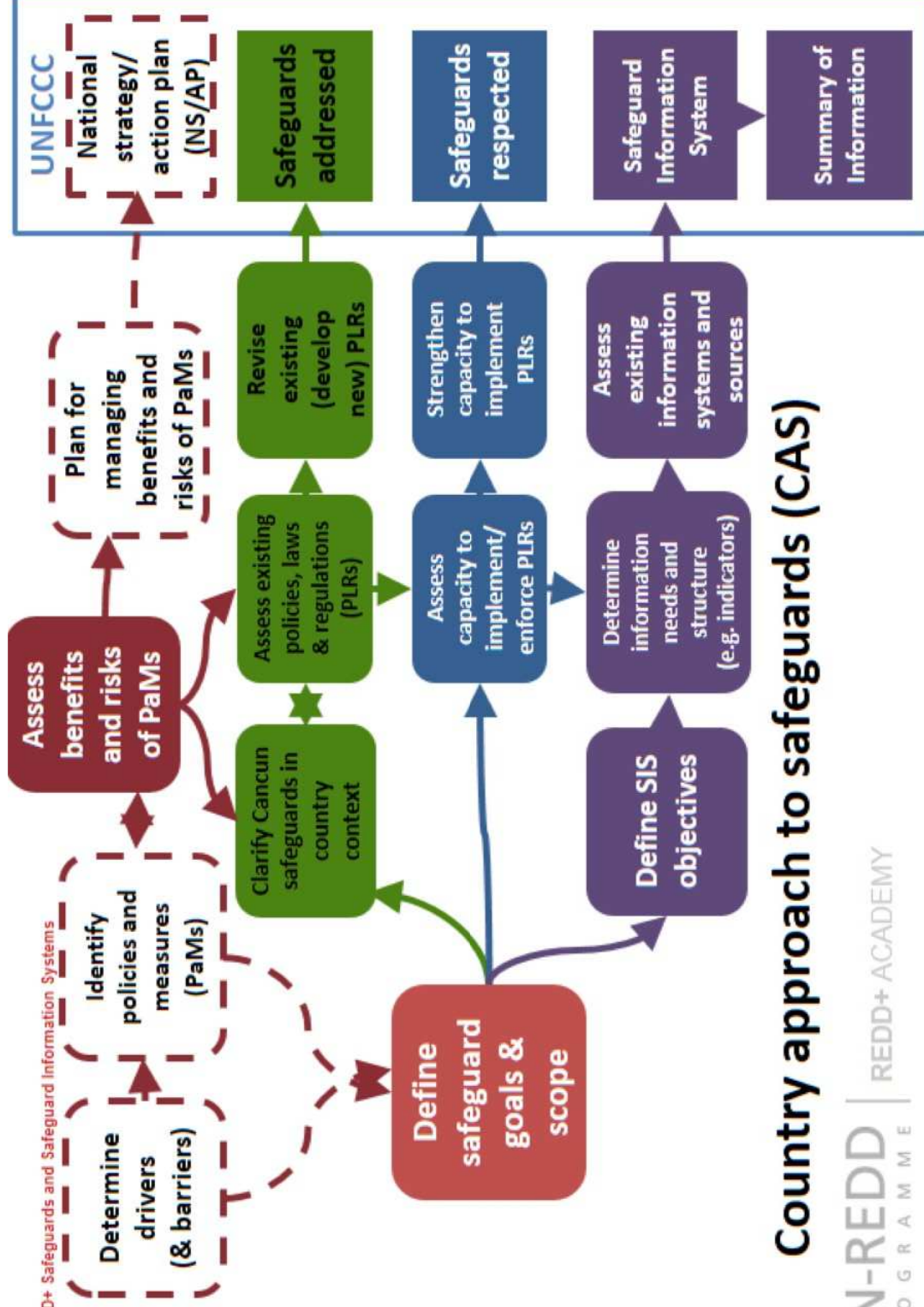
The governance arrangements - including policies, laws, regulations and the institutions, information systems, etc. – to deal with safeguards, are in place (*on paper*)

“Respect”

How these governance arrangements are being implemented and affect real and positive outcomes on the ground (*in practice*)

How are Cancun Safeguards Applied?





Country approach to safeguards (CAS)

CAS key considerations

- NS/AP and Safeguards feedback loop
- Step-wise, iterative approach – learn from doing – build and refine as you go
- Building on existing PLRs, institutions, information systems – focus on gap filling
- Consultation and participation with stakeholders throughout the process



Safeguard Information System (SIS)

Developing countries participating in REDD+ should set up **systems for providing information on the way the safeguards are being addressed and respected** when implementing REDD+ activities



Durban decision (COP17, 2011) Guidance on SIS

Agreement on guiding principles for safeguards information systems

Consistency	Be consistent with Cancun guidance
Accessibility & Periodic Reporting	Provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis
Improvement over Time	Be transparent and flexible to allow for improvements over time
Comprehensiveness	Provide information on how all of Cancun safeguard elements are being addressed and respected
Country Drivenness	Be country-driven and implemented at the national level
Utilizing Existing Systems	Build upon existing systems, as appropriate

Safeguard Information System

Defining safeguard information objectives

- What are the different domestic and international information needs that the system will respond to?

Determining information needs and structure

- What information is needed to demonstrate risks are being mitigated and benefits are enhanced?
- How should this information be structured (e.g. narrative statements, indicators) to optimise accessibility and value of content?

Assess existing information systems and sources

- What does a country already have in place, in terms of institutional arrangements, to meet information needs, and are there any gaps?

Summary of Information

What?	Who provides?	To whom?	When?	Linked to?
How all of the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout REDD+ implementation	National government	UNFCCC	National Communications to UNFCCC (every 4 years) and/or voluntarily, via UNFCCC web platform	Summary required for results-based payments

SIS = national-level system!

Summary = product for international audience!

Key points

- The UNFCCC requires each country to address and respect safeguards during REDD+ implementation; develop Safeguard Information System; and submit a Summary of Information.
- Cancun safeguards are a generic set of principles that need to be adapted to or clarified for each country's context.
- Cancun safeguards are designed to avoid doing harm to people or the environment, while promoting benefits during REDD+ implementation.

