REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards Initiative

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(Presented by Celia Harvey, Conservation International)

Context

- REDD+ programs are being developed in at least 40 countries/states/provinces

- Potential for significant social and environmental co-benefits

- BUT serious risks, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other forest dependent peoples- and risks for biodiversity

- Increasing interest in the use of voluntary social and environmental standards

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Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards*

- CCB Standards assess the social and environmental impacts of land-based carbon projects
- Widely used in the voluntary market
  (19 projects approved, 43 projects have entered validation, 90+ projects planning to use CCB Standards)
- Reduce risks and add 'multiple-benefit value'
- Access to market and premiums

CCB standards are designed for site-based projects and not for national or state/provincial REDD+ programs

*CCBA: CI, CARE, TNC, WCS, Rainforest Alliance
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Objectives of REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards

- Overall goal:
  - *Effective social and environmental standards for REDD+ programs make a substantial contribution to human rights, poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation goals , while avoiding social or environmental harm*

- Specific objectives:
  - Help early adopters build support for their REDD+ programs nationally and internationally
  - Encourage improved performance of REDD+ in other countries
  - Build global support for effective and equitable REDD+

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What are the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards?

- A set of principles, criteria & indicators (PCI) and a process for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) on social and environmental aspects of REDD+ programs

- A tool to assess, demonstrate and communicate:
  - transparent, inclusive and equitable process
  - social and environmental benefits
  - respect for rights of indigenous peoples and local communities

- To be applied to policies and measures of government-led REDD+ programs implemented at national or state/provincial level

- Of use to governments, NGOs, financing agencies, and local rights holders and stakeholders

- Designed to be relevant to any form of financing - funds or markets

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Components of the standards

- **Principles** are the 'intent' level of a standard which elaborate on the objectives of the standard and define the scope.

- **Criteria** are the 'content' level of a standard which set out the conditions which need to be met in order to deliver a principle.

- **Indicators** are quantitative or qualitative parameters which can be achieved and verified in relation to a criterion.

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Principle 1: Rights to land, territories and resources are recognized and respected.

Criteria address:
- Identification of rights-holders and their rights
- Recognition of statutory and customary rights
- Free, prior informed consent
- Process to resolve disputes over land/resources related to the REDD+ program
- Carbon rights

Principle 2: The benefits of the REDD+ program are shared equitably among all relevant rights holders and stakeholders

Criteria address:
- Identification of costs, benefits and risks of REDD+ for different rights holder/stakeholder groups
- Transparency, participation, effectiveness and efficiency of the benefit sharing process
- Monitoring of costs and benefits and their distribution

Principle 3: The REDD+ program contributes to long-term livelihood security and enhances well-being of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with special attention to the most vulnerable people

Criteria address:
- Livelihood security benefits emphasizing most vulnerable
- Decision making process on the form benefits will take
- Assessment of positive and negative social, cultural and economic impacts
- Measures to mitigate negative & enhance positive impacts

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Principle 4: The REDD+ program contributes to broader sustainable development and good governance objectives.

Criteria address:
- Contribution to sustainable development objectives
- Coherence with relevant policies and strategies
- Coordination between government and other relevant agencies/organisations
- Improvement in governance of the forest and other relevant sectors

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Principle 5: The REDD+ program maintains and enhances biodiversity and ecosystem services

Criteria address:
- Maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Assessment of positive and negative impacts on ecosystem services and biodiversity
- Adaptive management of the REDD+ program in response to impact assessment

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Principle 6: All relevant rights holders and stakeholders participate fully and effectively in the REDD+ program

Criteria address:
- Rights holder/stakeholder identification & characterisation
- Participation in design, implementation and evaluation
- Representation of rights holders/stakeholders
- Capacity to participate effectively
- Building on existing knowledge/skills/management systems
- Resolution of grievances

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Principle 7: All rights holders and stakeholders have timely access to appropriate and accurate information to enable informed decision-making and good governance of the REDD+ program

Criteria address:
- Public availability of information for general awareness
- Rights holders/stakeholder having information necessary for full and effective participation
- Dissemination of information by representatives to their constituencies
- Feedback from rights-holders/stakeholders to their representatives

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Principle 8: The REDD+ program complies with applicable local and national laws and international treaties and agreements.

Criteria address:
- Compliance with relevant local law, national law and international treaties and agreements
- Process for resolving inconsistencies
- Capacity of stakeholders to implement and monitor legal requirements

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What the standards can be applied to

- Processes for development of REDD+ programs, strategies, policies and plans
- Implementation of policies and plans
- Outcomes on the ground

How the standards can be used

Current intent:
- Provide good practice guidance
  - development of REDD+ programs
  - implementation of REDD+ programs
- Provide a framework for reporting on performance

Possible future use (if there is interest and a need)
- Assess conformance with respect to requirements of the standards (i.e, by developing a certification process)

Monitoring, reporting and verification on social and environmental performance

Monitoring

Self-assessment	Government led with stakeholder involvement	Independent monitoring

Reporting

No public report	Some information public	All relevant information public	Report + comments public	Report, comments and response to public comments

Verification

No verification	Review by government-appointed technical panel	Verification by independent third party

Increasing transparency and accountability →

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Countries participating in development of the standards

- Criteria
  - Significant progress towards government led REDD+ program
  - Strong government commitment to demonstrating social and environmental performance of REDD+

- Countries
  - Nepal   - Liberia?
  - Ecuador   - Central Kalimantan (Indonesia)?
  - Tanzania
  - State of Acre (Brazil)

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Standards development governance

- A participatory and inclusive process

- A 'Standards Committee' is overseeing standards development & approves each draft of the standards

- Standards Committee membership ensures stake-holder balance with a majority from the south, incl.

  REDD governments, IP organisations, community associations, social NGOs, environmental NGOs, private sector, developed country governments

- CCBA and CARE are facilitators (secretariat)

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The REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards Committee

	North	South
REDD govts		**Marco Chiu,** Ecuador **Krishna Acharya,** Nepal **Evarist Nashanda**, Tanzania
Indigenous Peoples orgs		**Estebancio Castro Díaz**, IAITTF, Panama **Jennifer Rubis**, IPNM, Malaysia **Kanyinke Sena**, IPACC, Kenya
Community Associations		**Bhola Bhattarai**, FECOFUN, Nepal **Alberto Chinchilla**, ACICAFOC, Central America **Rahima Njaidi**, MJUMITA, Tanzania
Social NGOs	**Jeffrey Hatcher**, RRI, USA.	**Alejandro Alemán**, Centro Humboldt, Nicaragua **Samuel Nnah**, CED, Cameroon
Environment NGOs	**Jenny Springer**, WWF, USA **Gonzalo Oviedo**, IUCN	**Mauricio Voivodic**, IMAFLORA, Brazil **Belinda de la Paz**, Haribon, Philippines
Private Sector	**Brer Adams,** Macquarie., Australia **Leslie Durschinger,** Terra Global, USA	**Rezal Kusumaatmadja**, Starling Resources, Indonesia
Facilitators	**Joanna Durbin,** CCBA **Phil Franks,** CARE	

Standards development process

- Initial standards development workshop (May 2009)
- Draft principles and criteria circulated to interested stakeholders and advisors for comments (Jun-Aug 2009)
- Consultation meetings with diverse stakeholders and advisors in Nepal, Tanzania, Ecuador countries interested in early adoption (Jul-Oct 2009)
- First 60 day public comment period (Oct-Nov 2009)
- Meeting of the *Standards Committee* (December 2009)
- New draft version presented at COP15 (December 2009)
- Second 90 day public comment period and additional consultations in Liberia (Jan-April 2010) deadline is April 16
- Standards finalised for testing in pilot countries (May 2010)

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Phase 2: Testing the Standards from July 2010

- Country-specific interpretation of the indicators and a process for monitoring, reporting and verification
- Collection of information on performance with respect to the standards, report production and review
- Analysis of feasibility and costs of collecting information and using the standards
- Cross-country sharing of experience about assessing co-benefits and using the standards
- New version of the standards based on feedback from participating countries and other stakeholders about the use and perceived benefits of the standards
- Establish a long-term governance structure for the standards

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