

Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC)

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SEPC Purpose

As welcomed by PB8 (March 2012), the SEPC provide a guiding framework for the UN-REDD Programme to address two specific needs:

1. Addressing social and environmental issues in UN-REDD National Programmes and other UN-REDD funded activities.
2. Supporting countries in developing their national approaches to REDD+ safeguards in line with UNFCCC

The SEPC are coherent with and draw from the broader guidance provided by Cancun agreement.



Social and Environmental Principles

Principle 1 – Apply norms of democratic governance, as reflected in national commitments and Multilateral Agreements

Principle 2 - Respect and protect stakeholder rights in accordance with international obligations

Principle 3 - Promote sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction

Principle 4 - Contribute to low-carbon, climate-resilient sustainable development policy, consistent with national development strategies, national forest programmes, and commitments under international conventions and agreements

Principle 5 - Protect natural forest from degradation and/or conversion

Principle 6 - Maintain and enhance multiple functions of forest including conservation of biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services

Principle 7 - Avoid or minimise adverse impacts on non-forest ecosystem services and biodiversity



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Principle 4

Contribute to low-carbon, climate-resilient sustainable development policy, consistent with national development strategies, national forest programmes, and commitments under international conventions and agreements

Criterion 14 – Ensure consistency with and contribution to national climate policy objectives, including those of mitigation and adaptation strategies and international commitments on climate

Criterion 15 – Address the risk of reversals of REDD+ achievements, including potential future risks to forest carbon stocks and other benefits to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of REDD+

Criterion 16 – Ensure consistency with and contribution to national poverty reduction strategies and other sustainable development goals (including those outlined under the Millennium Development Goals framework), including alignment with ministries' and sub-national strategies and plans that may have an impact on, or be affected by the forest sector and/or land use change

Criterion 17 – Ensure consistency with and contribution to national biodiversity conservation policies (including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans), other environmental and natural resource management policy objectives, national forest programmes, and international commitments on the environment

Principle 5

Protect natural forest from degradation and/or conversion

Criterion 18 – Ensure that REDD+ activities **do not cause the conversion of natural forest to planted forest**, unless as part of forest restoration, and make reducing conversion of forests to other land uses (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure) a REDD+ priority

Criterion 19 – **Avoid or minimise degradation of natural forest** by REDD+ activities and make reducing degradation due to other causes (e.g. agriculture, extractive activities, infrastructure) a REDD+ priority

Criterion 20 – Avoid or minimise **indirect land-use change impacts** of REDD+ activities on forest carbon stocks, biodiversity and other ecosystem services



Source: FAO Kenichi Shono FO-5859



Benefit and Risk Tool (BeRT)

- A question-based tool developed to help apply the SEPC
- Can assist national REDD+ teams to develop national programmes in accordance with SEPC
- Helps to identify:
 - Key information needs
 - Issues that need to be addressed
 - Existing policies, laws, regulations and other strategies that may help to mitigate risks and enhance benefits



Links to other processes

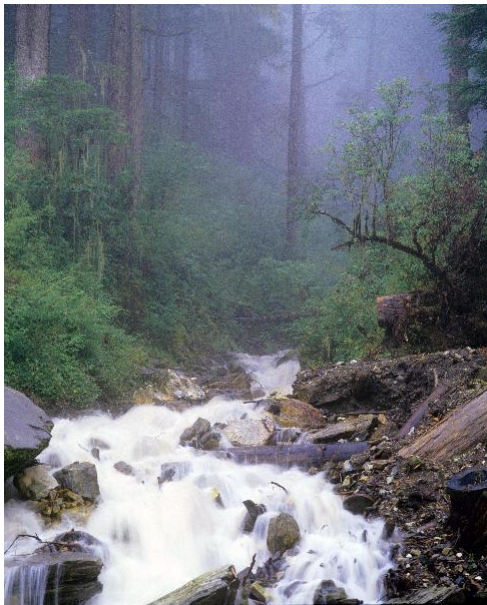
- Linkages between SEPC and
 - FCPF
 - Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA)
 - Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
 - REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES)

Thank you for listening!



Principle 6

Maintain and enhance multiple functions of forest including conservation of biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services



Criterion 21 – Ensure that land-use planning for REDD+ explicitly takes account of potential synergies and trade-offs between the **multiple functions of forest** and the benefits they provide, respecting local and other stakeholders' values

Criterion 22 – Ensure that planted and natural forests are managed to **maintain and enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity** important in both local and national contexts

Source: FAO Masakazu Kashio FO-6793

Principle 7

Avoid or minimise adverse impacts on non-forest ecosystem services and biodiversity

Criterion 23 – Avoid or minimise adverse impacts on carbon stocks, other ecosystem services and biodiversity of **non-forest ecosystems** resulting **directly** from REDD+ activities

Criterion 24 – Avoid or minimise adverse impacts on carbon stocks, other ecosystem services and biodiversity of **non-forest ecosystems** resulting **indirectly** from REDD+ activities (including those of indirect land-use change impacts and intensification of land use)

