

REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards Initiative

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Objectives of REDD+ Social & 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+

REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards

What are they?

- A set of principles, criteria & indicators (PCI) and a process for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV)
- A tool to demonstrate and communicate:
 - transparent, inclusive and equitable process
 - respect for rights of indigenous peoples and local communities
 - social and environmental benefits
- 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

Participatory standards development process

- **Phase 1 (April 09 – June 2010)**
 - Initial standards development workshop (May 2009)
 - Consultation meetings with diverse stakeholders and advisors including 3 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 at country level (Jan-April 2010)
 - Standards finalised for testing in pilot countries (May 2010)
- **Phase 2 (July 2010 – Dec 2011)**
 - testing in 6 pilot countries
 - support to other interested countries

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

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.

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 and 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, human rights and economic impacts
- Measures to mitigate negative & enhance positive impacts

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

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

Criteria address:

- Identification of priorities for maintaining and enhancing 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

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

Principle 7: All rights holders and stakeholders and 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

Principle 8: The REDD+ program complies with applicable local and national laws and international treaties, conventions and other instruments.

Criteria address:

- Compliance with relevant local law, national law and international treaties, conventions and other instruments
- Process for resolving inconsistencies
- Capacity of stakeholders to implement and monitor legal requirements

What the standards can be applied to

- Processes for development of national REDD+ programs, strategies, policies and plans
- Implementation of national REDD+ policies and plans
- Social and environmental outcomes on the ground

Generally not applied to content of national policy

How the standards can be used

1. Provide good practice guidance
2. Provide a framework for reporting on performance
3. Assess conformance with respect to requirements of the standards (a true standard)

Intended to promote higher social & environmental performance over and above minimum requirements

Monitoring, reporting and verification

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 comments public

Verification

No verification

Review by government-appointed technical panel

Verification by independent third party

Increasing transparency and accountability

REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards Initiative

Institutional home and governance

- Current arrangement
 - A 'Standards Committee' is overseeing standards development & approves each draft of the standards
 - Standards Committee membership ensures stake-holder balance with a majority from REDD countries, including:
 - REDD governments, IP organisations, community associations, social NGOs, environmental NGOs, private sector, developed country governments
 - CCBA and CARE are facilitators (secretariat)
- What long term institutional home/governance?

Voluntary or mandatory

- REDD+ SES Initiative promotes voluntary adoption of the standards – “race to the top”
 - Reduces sovereignty sensitivities
 - Reduces risk of political backlash on pilot countries from other less progressive countries
 - Success of CCB standards shows this approach can work
- But concern this sends the message that high social and environmental performance is an optional extra

Consistency

- Across countries:
 - Country-specific interpretation of indicators and MRV could result in bar being set at different levels in different countries
 - Standards Committee will review and approve country specific indicators and MRV to ensure they conform with overall intent of the standards.
- Within countries: what to do about “rogue areas” within a country or state where performance contradicts otherwise satisfactory performance?

Concluding comments

- It's early days – testing phase will clarify whether REDD+ SES is an effective mechanism for reporting REDD governance performance and resulting social/environmental outcomes + whether it may evolve into a true international standard
- Start voluntary but in time some elements may get incorporated into national and international policy/regulatory frameworks
- In pilot countries integration with mandatory social and environmental safeguards is key (e.g. of FCPF, UN-REDD)
- Provides a consistent and comprehensive reporting framework developed through international consensus to raise awareness and promote support and incentives for high social and environmental performance

For more information:

www.climate-standards.org/REDD+/

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