

# Introduction to REDD+ Safeguards



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# Key REDD+ requirements under UNFCCC

**National Strategy/  
Action Plan**

**Forest Reference  
Emission Level /  
Reference Level**

**Safeguards &  
Safeguard  
Information  
System**

**National Forest  
Monitoring  
System**

# Introduction to Safeguards

- 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 Apply Safeguards to REDD+?

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

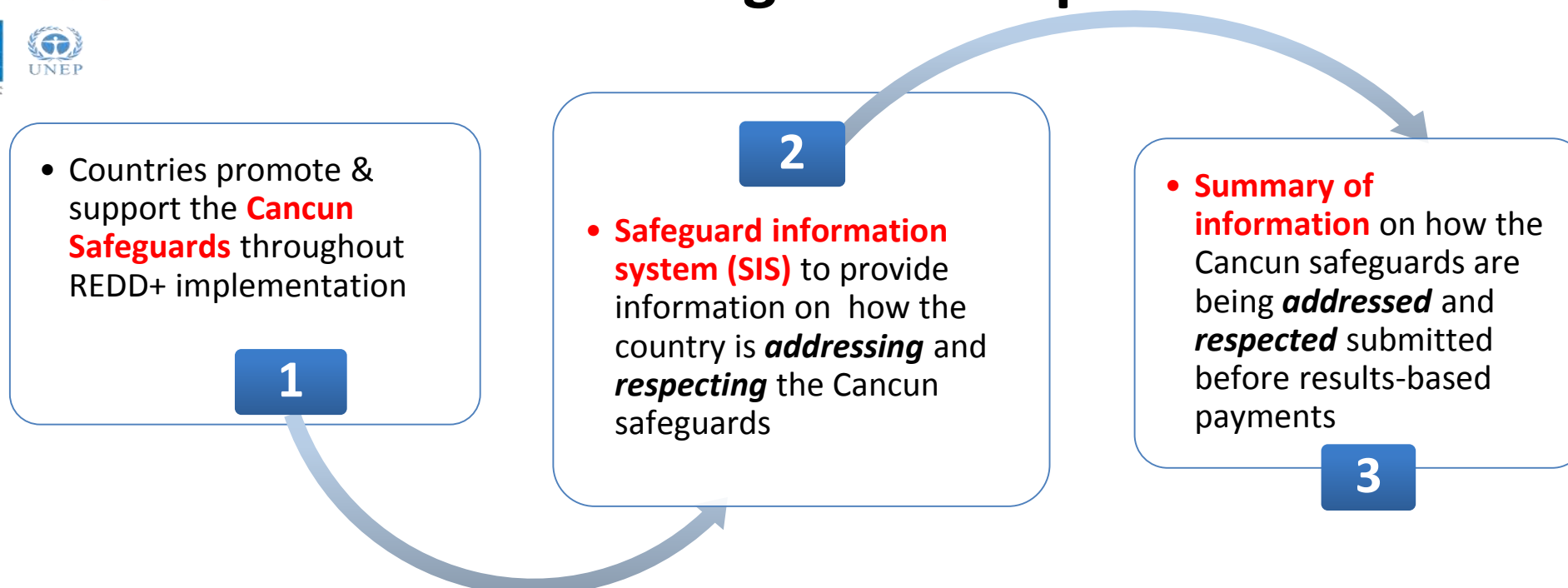


# Examples of potential benefits and risks

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



# 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?

## Applied to What?

All REDD+ actions in the **National Strategy or Action Plan** as defined by the government

## How?

Through application of **policies, laws, regulations, and institutions** to implement/enforce them

## When?

Throughout **implementation of REDD+** actions



# Clarifying the Cancun Safeguards

1. **Consistency** with national forest programmes and international conventions
2. Transparent and effective national forest **governance** structures
3. Respect for the knowledge and **rights** of indigenous peoples/local communities
4. Full and effective **participation** of relevant stakeholders
5. Conservation of natural forests and biodiversity...enhancing other **benefits**...
6. Actions to address the risks of **reversals**
7. Actions to reduce **displacement** of emissions



## **Safeguard (a)**

**[REDD+] actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements**

**Consistency with:**

**Objectives of national forest programme**

**International environmental commitments, incl. NAMAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, MDGs, SDGs, poverty reduction strategies**

**State's human rights obligations under international law**

**Other relevant international conventions and agreements**

## Safeguard (b)

**Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty**

Accountability  
Land tenure  
Gender equality  
Corruption risks  
Access to information  
Enforcement of rule of law

Equitable benefit distribution  
Participation in decision-making processes  
Resources and capacity to meet institutional mandate  
Access to justice, effective remedy, dispute resolution



## Safeguard (c)

### Respect for the knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples/Local Communities


Recognition & protection of Indigenous Peoples/Local Communities traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, intellectual property

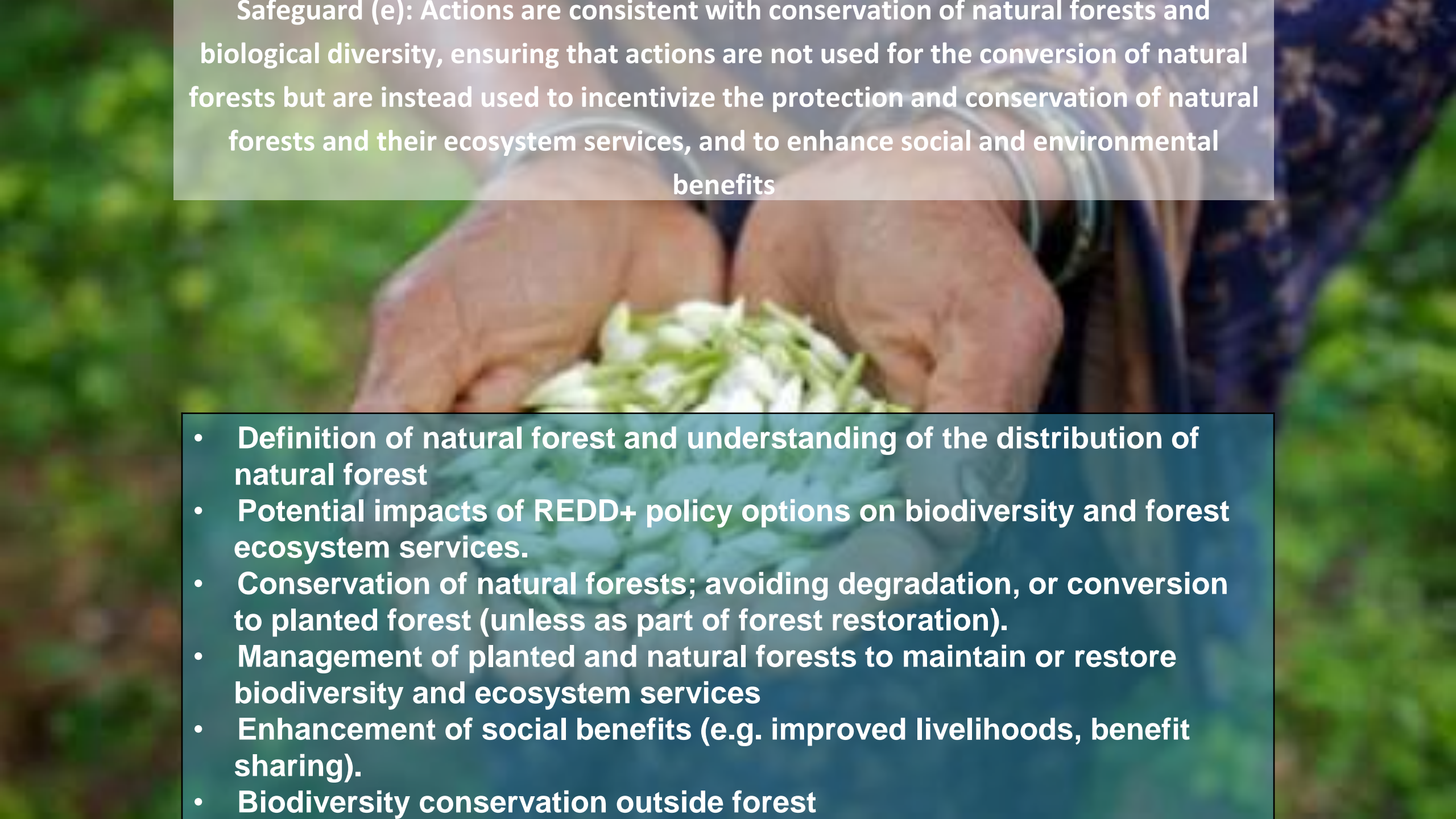
Recognition of rights to:

- Lands, territories and resources
- Self-determination
- Participate in decision making, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent when applicable
- Compensation and/or other remedies in case of involuntary resettlement and/or economic displacement
- Share in benefits when appropriate

## Safeguard (d)

The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities

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- Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders
  - Legitimacy and accountability of bodies representing relevant stakeholders
  - Participatory mechanisms or platforms
  - Access to justice, incl. grievance mechanisms
  - Transparency and accessibility of information related to REDD+



**Safeguard (e):** Actions are consistent with conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that actions are not used for the conversion of natural forests but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance social and environmental benefits

- **Definition of natural forest and understanding of the distribution of natural forest**
- **Potential impacts of REDD+ policy options on biodiversity and forest ecosystem services.**
- **Conservation of natural forests; avoiding degradation, or conversion to planted forest (unless as part of forest restoration).**
- **Management of planted and natural forests to maintain or restore biodiversity and ecosystem services**
- **Enhancement of social benefits (e.g. improved livelihoods, benefit sharing).**
- **Biodiversity conservation outside forest**

## **Safeguard (f)**

### **Actions to address the risks of reversals**

- **Analysis of the risk of reversals of emissions reductions**
- **NFMS may be able to detect and provide information on land use change and reversals**
- **Plausible reference scenarios for REDD+ that give a reasonable indication of the risk of deforestation in the absence of REDD+.**

## **Safeguard (g)**

### **Actions to reduce displacement of emissions**

- **Addressing direct and indirect drivers of land-use change.**
- **NFMS designed to detect and provide information on displacement at national, regional and local levels.**





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**Thank You**

