National Approaches to Safeguards
UN-REDD Support to countries

Safeguards Coordination Group
The 3rd Regional UN-REDD Information Exchange Meeting on Social and Environmental Safeguards
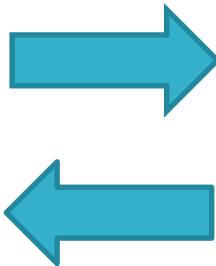5-6 March 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

Core Elements of a National Approach to Safeguards

Institutions

1.Identification / development of relevant safeguards to be addressed and respected: Policies, laws and regulations (PLRs), either existing or those created for REDD+	2. Safeguard Information System (SIS): Existing or new indicators, methodologies for collecting information, and framework for provision of information

Processes and Procedures

Framing the Work on Safeguards

Three main functional areas identified for UN-REDD safeguards work:

1. Conceptualize framework for overarching country approaches to safeguards
   - Clarifying the role of all existing UN-REDD tools linked to safeguards

2. Identification of relevant safeguards to be addressed/respected
   - Developing approaches to help countries to assess their existing policies and compare these to Cancun requirements

3. Development and Structuring of SIS
   - Develop approaches to help countries to assess their existing systems that may already fulfill some of the functions of a REDD+ SIS

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Safeguard Policies, Laws, Regulations (PLRs)

- Addressing and respecting the safeguards through the implementation of PLRs
  - Depends on the country-defined objectives
  - Considering the specific potential REDD+ risks and benefits in the country

- Legal framework may not be required
  - E.g., national-level guidelines to promote/support a safeguard as opposed to a policy/law

- May already exist or need to be created

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Safeguard Information Systems (SIS)

- Approach for collecting and providing information on how REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout REDD+ implementation

- Likely components:
  - Indicators
  - Methodologies for collection of information (e.g., household surveys)
  - Framework for provision of information

- Should build on existing systems to the extent possible

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Development of a Country approach to safeguards

- Not a fixed, linear path for design
- Will depend on:
  - what's in place
  - objectives defined by that country
- Throughout the process, effective participation will be essential

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Determining the Goals of the Country Approach to Safeguards

- Clearly define what the safeguards approach is supposed to do:

    - interpreting what is contained in the UNFCCC decisions from the country perspective

    - consideration of the specific social and environmental risks as well as benefits that might be associated with REDD+ in the country

    - Responding to any other goals identified by the country

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Developing Safeguard PLRs

- Gap analysis of existing country PLRs
  - consider what, if any, PLRs need to be in place to achieve the country's goals

- Determine the effectiveness of existing systems
  - Existing tools can be helpful to assess gaps

- Safeguard policy framework
  - Provides the basis for the country's response to UNFCCC and broader needs

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Developing the SIS

- Ideally follows the objective setting and PLR gap analysis
- National assessment of existing information sources and systems for information-sharing
- Development of indicators
- Information/data methodologies and approaches that address:
  - What data is to be collected (e.g. income data)
  - Methodologies to be used (e.g. household surveys; participatory approaches, such as participatory biodiversity monitoring)
  - Who collects the data
  - Frequency of data collection
  - The scale at which data is collected (e.g. at the country, local or project level)

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UN-REDD Support to National Work on Safeguards

The UN-REDD Programme frames its support on safeguards around the following two objectives:

1. To address social and environmental issues in UN-REDD National Programmes and other UN-REDD funded activities

2. To support countries in developing national approaches to safeguards in line with the UNFCCC

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SEPC and safeguards: Nigeria

- Nigeria (2011)
  - Reviewed the Nigeria NPD in conjunction with the draft UN-REDD SEPC
  - Discussed aspects of social and environmental safeguards for REDD+ in Nigeria;
  - Identified key strengths and potential improvements in both of the documents they reviewed

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SEPC and safeguards: Nigeria

- Nigeria (2011)
  - Joint review process reinforced relevance and applicability of the draft Principles & Criteria.
  - Clear indications that the National REDD Programme satisfies the criteria, while in others new wording and clarification added, some activities were modified
  - Some modifications to institutional arrangements to respond to needs identified in the light of the SEPC

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SEPC and safeguards: DRC

- DRC
  - Inputs to framework strategy on environmental REDD+ safeguards
  - Commentary on the DRC national standards based on the SEPC as a guiding framework
  - Further worked planned in 2013

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Targeted support on safeguards 2013

Costa Rica

- Design of a single safeguard information system that takes into account different safeguard approaches (e.g. UN-REDD, FCPF, REDD+SES)

Argentina

- Design of a single safeguard information system that takes into account different safeguard approaches (e.g. UN-REDD, FCPF) Consultations in four different regions will take place.

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Discussion