REDD+ Safeguards under UNFCCC

Contents

1. What are safeguards?

2. Why apply safeguards to REDD+?

3. UNFCCC Requirements:
   1. Cancun safeguards
   2. Safeguard information system
   3. Summary of information

4. What does it mean to address and respect the Cancun safeguards?

5. What is Country Approach to Safeguard (CAS) and link to FCPF SESA/ESMF?

Key REDD+ requirements under UNFCCC

National Strategy/ Action Plan

Forest Reference Emission Level / Reference Level

Safeguards & Safeguard Information System

National Forest Monitoring System

What are safeguards?

- Technical measures to prevent accidents or reduce risks (e.g. protecting your computer from viruses)
- Precautionary measures, policies, laws or regulations (e.g. laws protecting the rights of citizens)
- 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

- Contributes to broader national development goals

- Ensures confidence that REDD+ is delivering benefits and avoiding/minimizing risks

Norway's submission to SBSTA

Being able to provide information on how these safeguards are addressed and respected will increase the confidence of the international community in REDD+ and thereby help attract long-term investments and payments for performance. Providing information on safeguards could in addition have an intrinsic value for developing country Parties by informing national policy making and strengthening the credibility of REDD+ among domestic constituents.
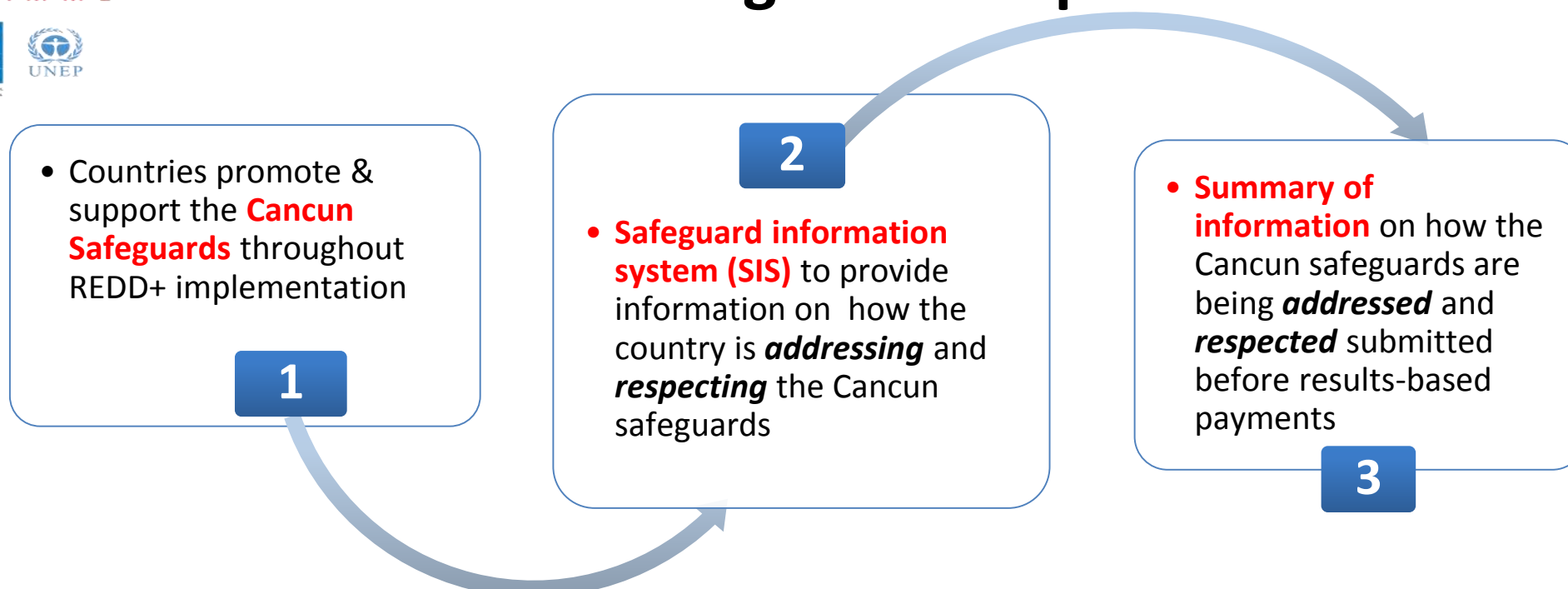
Examples of potential benefits and risks

	RISKS	BENEFITS
SOCIAL	• Contested land/resource rights • Inequitable sharing of benefits (elite benefit capture) • Exclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities from decision making	• Clarified/secured resource and tenure rights • More sustainable rural livelihoods • Improved governance
ENVIRON-MENTAL	• Replacement of natural forest with plantations • Displacement of deforestation/ degradation to areas important for biodiversity • Agricultural intensification and erosion of non-forest biodiversity	• Restoration, maintenance or enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services • More resilient forest landscapes contributing to climate change adaptation

UNFCCC Safeguards Requirements

- Countries promote & support the **Cancun Safeguards** throughout REDD+ implementation

1

2

- **Safeguard information system (SIS)** to provide information on how the country is *addressing* and *respecting* the Cancun safeguards

- **Summary of information** on how the Cancun safeguards are being *addressed* and *respected* submitted before results-based payments

3

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?

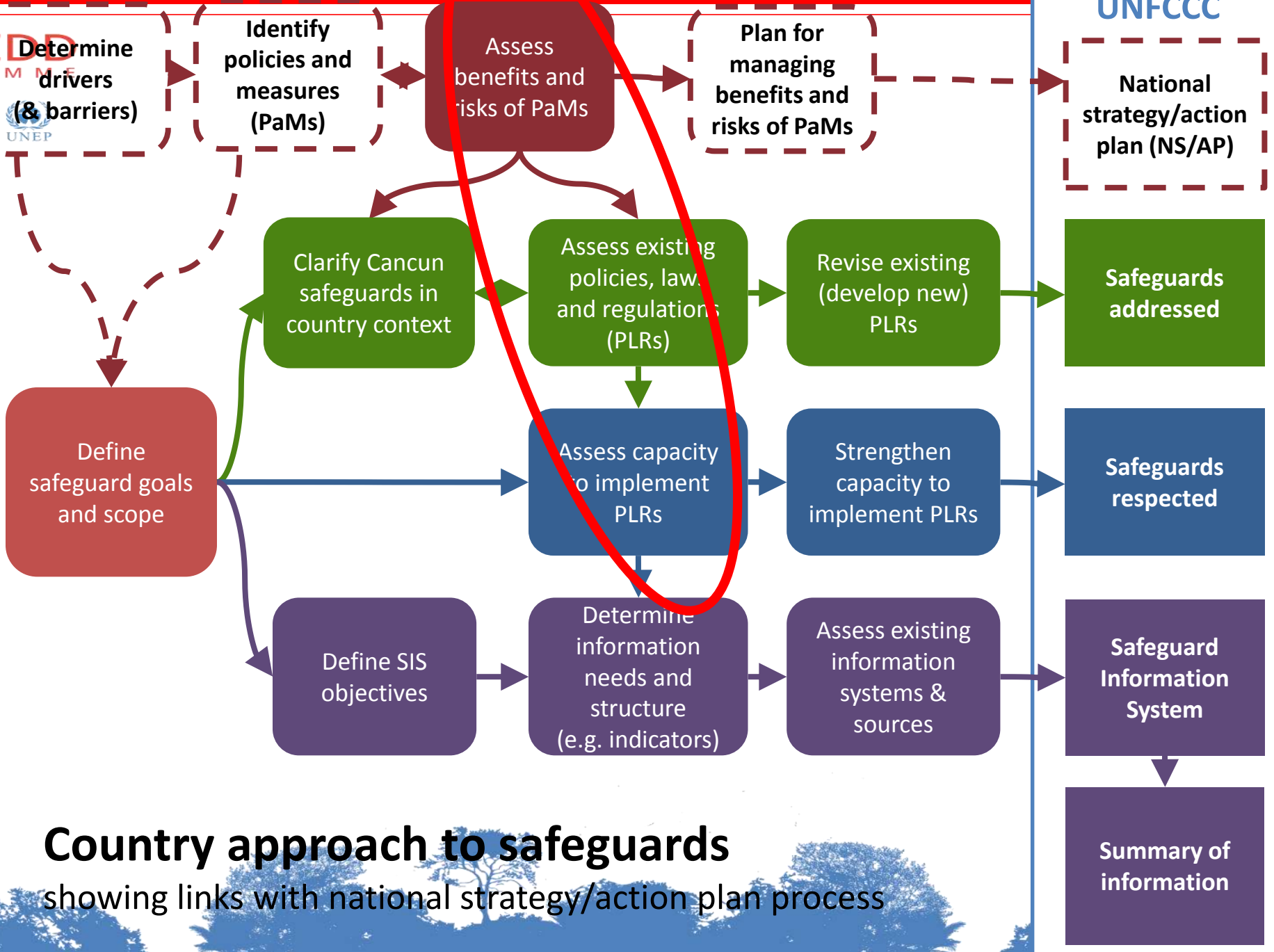| Applied to What?	How?	When?
All REDD+ actions in the **National Strategy or Action Plan** as defined by the government	Through application of **policies, laws, regulations,** and **institutions** to implement/enforce them	Throughout **implementation of REDD+** actions

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
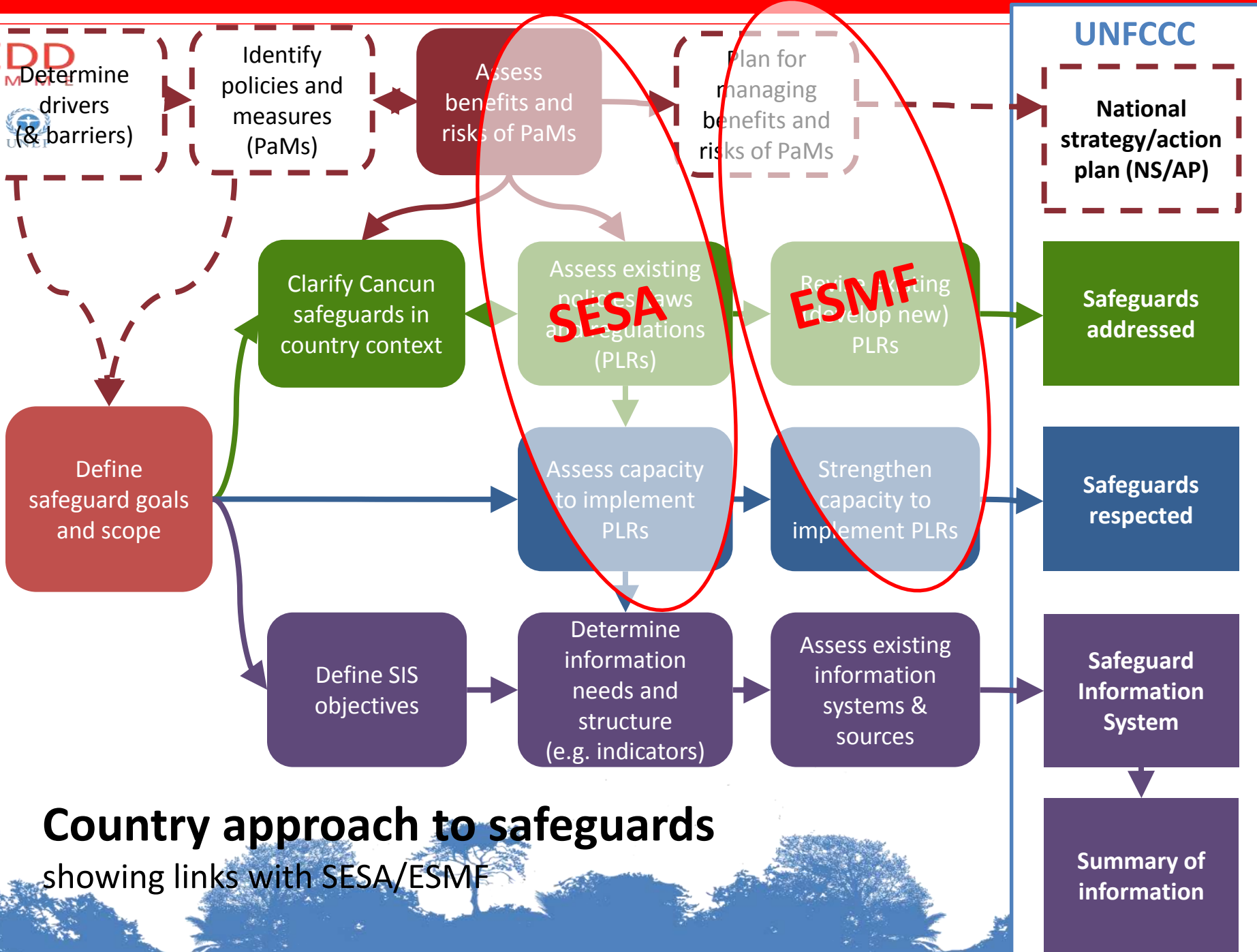
Country Approach to Safeguards

Determine drivers (& barriers) → **Identify policies and measures (PaMs)** → **Assess benefits and risks of PaMs** → **Plan for managing benefits and risks of PaMs** → **National strategy/action plan (NS/AP)**

UNFCCC

Clarify Cancun safeguards in country context → **Assess existing policies, laws and regulations (PLRs)** → **Revise existing (develop new) PLRs** → **Safeguards addressed**

Define safeguard goals and scope

Assess capacity to implement PLRs → **Strengthen capacity to implement PLRs** → **Safeguards respected**

Define SIS objectives → **Determine information needs and structure (e.g. indicators)** → **Assess existing information systems & sources** → **Safeguard Information System** → **Summary of information**

Country approach to safeguards
showing links with national strategy/action plan process

Key Considerations

o **NS/AP and Safeguards feedback loop**

o **Step-wise, iterative approach – learn from doing – build and refine as you go**

o **Building on existing PLRs, institutions, information systems – focus on gap filling**

o **Consultation and participation with stakeholders throughout the process** *(how does Bhutan plan to ensure ongoing stakeholder feedback?)*

Country approach to safeguards
showing links with SESA/ESMF

Safeguards Coordination Group

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Thank You