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UN-REDD support to countries on safeguards and safeguards information systems

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Structuring of UN-REDD work on safeguards

Three main areas for UN-REDD safeguards work:

1. Provision of a framework for supporting countries on safeguards
   - Clarifying the role of all existing UN-REDD tools linked to safeguards
2. Support on defining or developing safeguards goals, policies, laws and regulations
   - Help countries to assess their existing policies and compare these to the UNFCCC Cancun safeguards
3. Development and structuring of Safeguard Information Systems (SIS)
   - Help countries to assess their existing systems that may already fulfill some of the functions of a REDD+ SIS

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1. Framework for supporting the development of country approaches to safeguards

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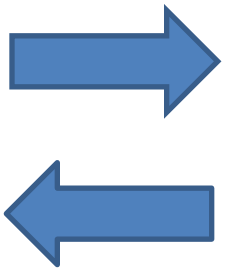
Core Elements of a Country Approach to Safeguards

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

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Safeguard Policies, Laws and 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

Stakeholder analysis, awareness raising and capacity-building

Planning the development of the country approach to safeguards

Defining or developing safeguard policies, laws and regulations

Collecting information on safeguards

Providing / sharing information on safeguards

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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2. Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC)

Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC)

The SEPC provides a guiding framework to help support countries in developing their approaches to safeguards:

- provides more detailed criteria that can be used to "unpack" the UNFCCC safeguards
- particularly useful at the stage of a country defining the objectives of its approach to safeguards

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Social and Environmental Principles

- Apply norms of **democratic governance**, as reflected in national commitments and Multilateral Agreements
- Respect and protect **stakeholder rights** in accordance with international obligations
- Promote **sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction**
- Contribute to **low-carbon, climate-resilient sustainable development policy**, consistent with national development strategies, national forest programmes, and commitments under international conventions and agreements
- Protect natural forest from degradation and/or conversion
- Maintain and enhance multiple functions of forest including **conservation of biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services**
- Avoid or minimize **adverse impacts** on non-forest ecosystem services and biodiversity

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Thank You

Website: http://www.un-redd.org