

UNFCCC Context: REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems

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NOTE: *This presentation is a synoptic version of the slides distributed to participants. Further details are to be found in such distributed materials*



1. Background: Understanding Safeguards

What are Safeguards?

- A set of measures to identify, prevent, monitor and mitigate **risks** associated with policies, investments and projects

e.g. policies, procedures, monitoring schemes, redress mechanism

Relevance for REDD+?

- REDD+ provides a unique opportunity for both forest conservation and tapping into climate finance, but entails social & environmental **risks**

Social risks: ignoring livelihoods, social exclusion, involuntary resettlements, *et al.*

Environmental risks: conversion of natural forests, ignoring biodiversity values, leakage, displacement of C emissions, *et al.*

➔ *Therefore, safeguards represent a risk management tool **to ensure delivery of anticipated outcomes of REDD+ policies and measures***



2. The Bali Action Plan (COP13, 2007): REDD+ on the international agenda

- **REDD is formally added/anchored to the UNFCCC agenda** through explicit inclusion in **the Bali Action Plan (COP13, 2007)**
 - acknowledging the urgent need for addressing emissions from deforestation **as a part of international climate change mitigation efforts**
- Recognized the role for REDD+ under the agenda item(Ib(iii)):
policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest C stocks in developing countries



3. The Cancun Agreement (COP16, 2010)

(1) Cancun Safeguards: Issues Addressed

1. Policy alignment (nat'l & int'l)

7. Carbon leakage risks

2. Forest governance (transparency & effectiveness)

The Elements of Cancun Safeguards

6. Permanence

3. Knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples & local communities

5. Conservation, biodiversity, social & environmental benefits

4. Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders



3. The Cancun Agreements (COP16, 2010)

(2) Decision on SIS

- ***SIS recognized as one of the 4 core elements*** for Parties aiming to achieve REDD+ readiness:

1. National REDD+ strategy or action plan

2. National forest reference emission level and/or reference level (sub-national in interim if appropriate)

3. National forest monitoring system (sub-national in interim)

4. SIS: System for providing information on how the REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities

4. Durban decision(COP17, 2011): Decision on SIS

- Agreed on **the SIS principles**, drawing on the Expert Meeting discussion at Panama prior to COP

Consistency	- Be consistent with Cancun guidance
Accessibility & Periodic Reporting	- Provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis;
Improvement over Time	- Be transparent and flexible to allow for improvements over time;
Comprehensiveness	- Provide information on how all of Cancun safeguard elements are being addressed and respected;
Country Driven-ness	- Be country-driven and implemented at the national level;
Utilizing Existing Systems	- Build upon existing systems, as appropriate;

...and SIS to consider following elements in implementation

National Circumstances	- Take into account national circumstances and respective capabilities
National Sovereignty	- Recognize national sovereignty and legislation, as well as relevant international obligations and agreements
Gender	-Respect gender considerations

4. Durban decision (COP17, 2011, 12/CP.17): Consolidating REDD+ safeguards modality

What

- **Summary of information** on how all of the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities

When and How

- **Periodic submission** of information
- To be included in **National Communications**, consistent with relevant decisions of the COP on guidelines on national communications from non Annex I Parties to the Convention, or **communication channels agreed by the COP**

- **Durban agreement identified the need to consider**
 - 1) **Time and frequency** of the summary of information on safeguards
 - 2) **Further guidance** to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the summary of information of safeguards



5. Doha Gateway (COP18, 2012): Not Substantive Progress on the Safeguards/SIS

- agreed to resume consideration on the remaining aspects (time and frequency, further guidance) under SBSTA, with a view to conclude on this work by COP19 (end of 2013)
- Called for submissions in Sept. 2014 on experiences/lessons learned on SIS



6. Current Status/Progress of REDD+ Safeguards in run-up to COP19 (2013)

- **SBSTA 38/Bonn (June 2013) outcomes:**
 - **Draft decision text (FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.12/Add.2)** developed and forwarded to COP19 for possible adoption
- **Provision of a summary of information** on how all of the safeguards ... are being addressed and respected
 - **Periodic submission** of the summary of info by National Communications, or communication channels agreed by the COP
 - **Possible provision of a summary of info via the Web platform** on the UNFCCC website on a voluntary basis
 - **Timing** : Start providing information (Nov 2013)
 - Consistency of subsequent presentation of the summary of info with the submissions of the NATCOM

➔ Increasingly becoming requirements for countries undertaking REDD+



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