

This summary report aims to describe the country-led safeguard approach in Vietnam, what has been done and what remains to be done at the national level.

## What has been done at national level?

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development approved Decision No 2614/QĐ-BNN-LN, dated 16 September 2009, on the Establishment of the National Network and Working Group for REDD+. Consequently, the REDD+ Technical Working Group established 6 Sub-Technical Working Groups (STWG): REDD+ Governance, MRV, REDD+ Financing and BDS, Local implementation, Private sector engagement, and one dedicated to Safeguards.

The Sub-Technical Working Group on Safeguards (STWG-SG) was established as a multi-stakeholder platform to contribute coordinated technical assistance to in-country efforts to operationalize the Cancun safeguards and other relevant international and national policy commitments. The objective of the STWG-SG is to ensure that coordinated technical assistance is delivered to the Government of Vietnam (particularly, but not limited to, the Vietnam REDD+ Office (VRO), Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)), and other relevant stakeholders, in operationalization of safeguards to promote social and environmental co-benefits from REDD+ at national, subnational and local levels. Each STWG has chair and co-chair (generally GoV and NGOs). The STWG-SG is chaired by VNFOREST and co-chaired by SNV.

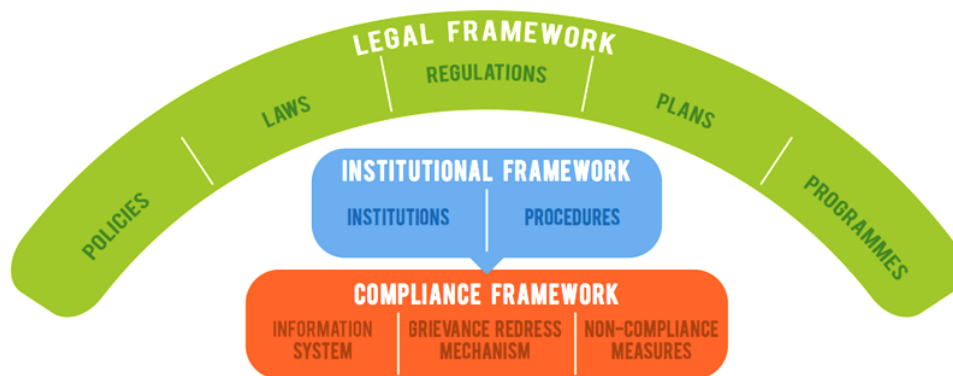
On June 2012 the Prime Minister approved the “National Action Program on Reduction of Green-house Gas Emission through Efforts to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Sustainable Management of Forest Resources and Conservation and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks” (NRAP) for 2011-2020, which has given express recognition of the primacy of the Cancun safeguards and associated UNFCCC requirements, and has begun to define a country-led approach for meeting the UNFCCC safeguards framework. The NRAP requires that *“solutions and measures applicable for implementing the NRAP should be ... consistent to the specific conditions of the country, the provisions of the UNFCCC, as well as the technical and financial support from the international community”*

Through the NRAP, Vietnam has decided to develop a phased approach to national REDD+ safeguard development. To this end, SNV’s MB-REDD project has responded with technical assistance on development of a PLRs gap analysis – a contribution to Vietnam Safeguard roadmap. To date, there have been 2 iterations of the PLRs gap analysis. The latest iteration has incorporated additional analytical findings together with feedback from stakeholders and was completed in June 2014. The identification and detailed analysis of Vietnam’s legal framework demonstrated that Vietnam’s PLRs are largely consistent with the Cancun safeguards. However, specific legal gaps were identified and recommendations provided. These gap-filling recommendations need to be addressed in order to ensure Vietnam’s legal framework is fully consistent with the Cancun safeguards and can therefore be utilized as Vietnam’s national policy response to international safeguards commitments.

## Elements of a country-led safeguard approach (CSA)

Regardless of the scope of a CSA that a country chooses, the CSA needs to be comprised of three main elements. These elements reflect the CSA approach towards ensuring a country-led safeguard response builds upon existing systems, and are shown below:





## Steps for a Country-led Safeguard Approach



Source: Rey et al. (2013c)

## What remains to be done?

With support from the UN-REDD Program phase II in Vietnam, the key activities on REDD+ Safeguards to be implemented include:

- **Scope of country safeguards approach finalized and safeguards information system (SIS) designed**
  - ⇒ Scope for national approach on REDD+ Safeguards
  - ⇒ System for providing information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected
- **Policies and measures to address and respect social and environmental safeguards operationalized (policies and measures to ensure that safeguards are being addressed and respected)**

For more information, please contact the writer and Vietnam Team:

**Ms. Phuong Le Ha**

E-mail: [lehaphuong2009@gmail.com](mailto:lehaphuong2009@gmail.com)



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