Designing a National Safeguards System in Mexico
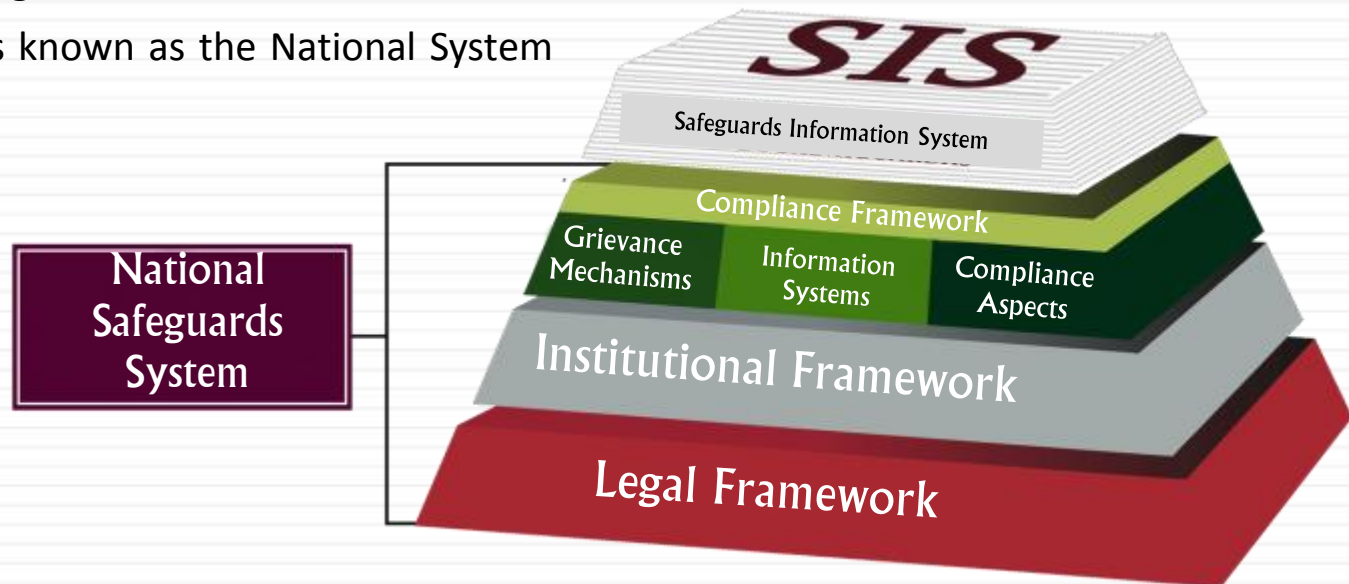
Nov 2015

The objective of the ENAREDD is to reduce the emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, while conserving and increasing forest carbon stocks, within the framework of sustainable rural development in Mexico, guaranteeing **the effective application and compliance with the safeguards and principles stipulated in the strategy and the legal framework.**

1. Public policies and legal framework

2. Financing schemes

3. Institutional arrangements

4. Reference levels

5. Monitoring, reporting and verification

6. Safeguards

7. Participation, communication and transparency

- The ENAREDD + includes among its objectives the **development of a national safeguards system (NSS) and Safeguards Information System (SIS)**, to implement, report and guarantee the application of the REDD+ safeguards adopted in the UNFCCC, as well as Articles 1 and 2 of the Mexican Constitution and Article 134 bis of the General Law of Sustainable Forestry Development.

- **Safeguards are a crosscutting theme of the draft ENAREDD+** in order to ensure their application and compliance, there are therefore principles and measures relevant to safeguards in other sections of the strategy
    - ✓ Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Building
    - ✓ Public Policy and Legal Framework
    - ✓ Communication, Social Participation and Transparency

- **Develop a SIS, building on existing national systems**

- Present information in an integrated manner and ensure compliance with safeguards.

- Necessary to have a system or support structure, which takes into account the existing system of governance in the country, particularly the **legal, institutional and compliance frameworks, which combined and linked will be used to implement safeguards**.

- This system or structure is known as the National System of Safeguards (NSS).
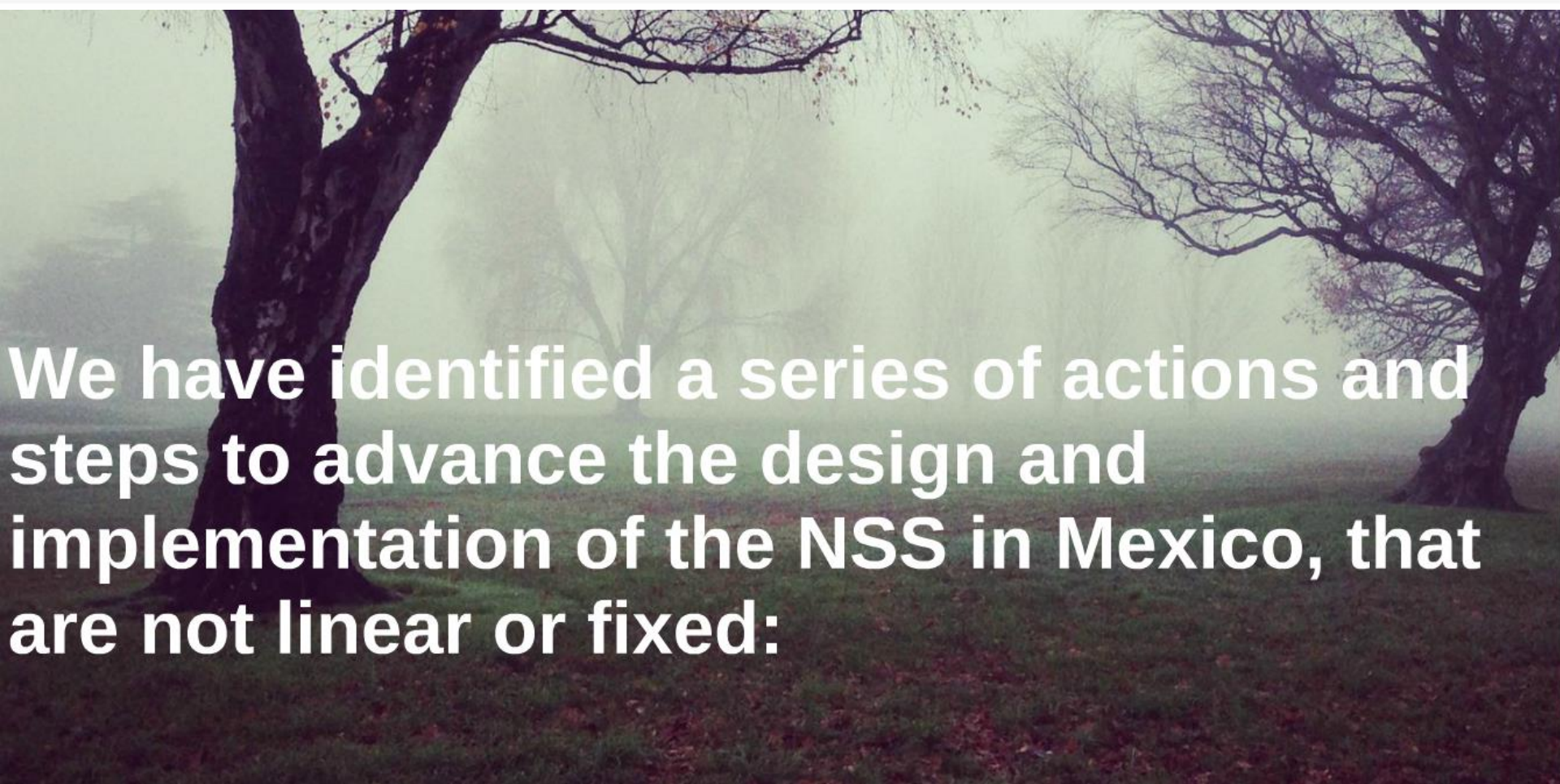
Participatory Process

- **Panel on the construction of the National System Safeguards (SNS) and the System Safeguards information (SIS) in Mexico**
    - ✓ create a space for information and dialogue on the construction of the SNS and SIS
    - ✓ 42 participants from various organizations: civil society , academia, government.
    - ✓ Feed back to the conceptual proposal for the SNS and SIS
    - ✓ Recommendations and more detail about the panel are available at: http://www.conafor.gob.mx/web/temas-forestales/bycc/redd-en-mexico/salvaguardas/

- Strengthened conceptual proposal for the National Safeguards System and Safeguards Information System including recommendations from the organizations that participated in the panel.

Document: "Designing a National Safeguards System" published on the website of CONAFOR: includes the next steps to develop the National Safeguards System:

http://www.conafor.gob.mx/web/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Designing-a-National-Safeguards-System.pdf

We have identified a series of actions and steps to advance the design and implementation of the NSS in Mexico, that are not linear or fixed:

Designing a National Safeguards System (NSS)

- Promote a process of participation and communication during the design and implementation of the NSS.

- Identification and analysis of the legal, institutional and compliance frameworks

- Definition/Interpretation of REDD+ Safeguards in Mexico

- Define the architecture and operation of the NSS:
  - ✓ The way in which the relevant aspects of the legal, institutional and compliance frameworks will be used to implement safeguards;
  - ✓ How existing information and reporting systems will be used to provide information on the implementation of safeguards;
  - ✓ How the mechanisms for resolving disputes and conflicts will be used

- Determine how the NSS and the SIS will operate between the national and state levels

- Designing the structure and operation of the Safeguards Information System (SIS)

- Key feature of the SIS includes providing feedback to the NSS with the aim of improving the system and identifying lessons learned.

- Information related to reporting how safeguards are being addressed and respected should be disseminated periodically, proactively and in a format accessible to different audiences.

Lessons learned so far:

- Definitions of the country´s approach on safeguards system and how existing initiatives can support this approach.

- Identify what already exists in the country in terms of regulation, policy, capacities and attributions.

- Engagement of different actors and institutions is key.

- Importance of systematizing, documenting and disseminating the process.

- Sharing experiences among institutions in the reporting of progress and results of national policies.

- Considering previous experiences in reporting information from different sectors - reporting system of the Special Climate Change Program

- Inter-institutional dialogue and development of the necessary institutional arrangements for the reporting of REDD + safeguards.