

# Applying REDD+ Safeguards

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# Safeguards and the Interim REDD+ Partnership

- The principles of the Interim REDD+ Partnership include to:
  - Seek to ensure the economic, social and environmental sustainability and integrity of our REDD+ efforts and to enhance social and environmental benefits.
  - Promote and support the safeguards provided by the AWG-LCA's draft decision text on REDD+[1], adjusted by any UNFCCC COP Decision on this matter, as well as existing programmatic safeguards, where relevant.

[1] As set out in [FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/14](#)

# Why are safeguards important

- REDD+ has the potential to help address climate change AND deliver social and environmental benefits
- REDD+ also poses a number of risks
  - Social risks such as loss of rights and loss of access to resources
  - Environmental risks such as replacement of natural forest with plantations and loss of biodiversity
  - Governance risks such as creation of contradictory policy frameworks and elite capture in the distribution of benefits.

# UNFCCC and Safeguards

- Importance of safeguards is already recognised within UNFCCC
- Seven general principles have been included in the AWG-LCA draft text
- Not yet agreed by all parties (still bracketed)

# Multilateral processes

- All approaches will have to address all UNFCCC safeguards.
- In addition:
  - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)
    - Implementation of the ten World Bank safeguard policies
  - UN-REDD
    - Delivery of UN obligations and commitments including UN policies and declarations and international law
  - REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards (SES)
    - Issues identified by an international multi-stakeholder group

# FCPF: SESA



- Implementation of World Bank Safeguard Policies
  - Particularly Environmental Assessment, Natural Habitats, Forests and Indigenous People
- Need to adapt policies developed for projects to national planning
- Approach adopted is the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)

# UN-REDD SEP Framework



- Ensure UN obligations and commitments are met in REDD + programmes
- Developing a Social and Environmental Principles Framework made up of:
  - A minimum standard risk assessment and mitigation framework
  - An assessment of impact magnitude

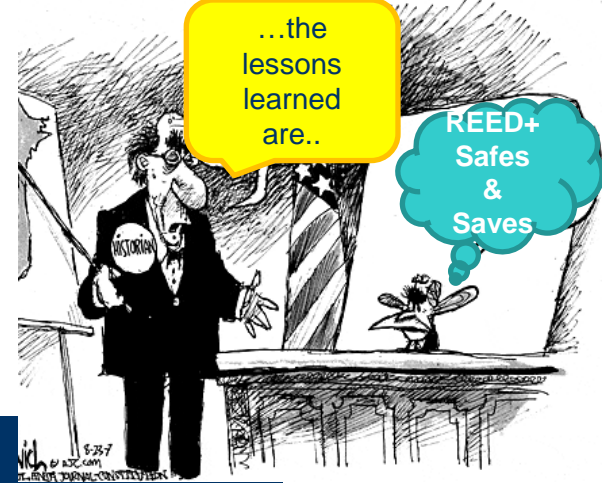
# REDD+ SE Standards



- Developed through an international multi-stakeholder process led by CARE and CCBA with technical support from Proforest
- Set of 8 Social and Environmental Principles together with associated criteria and a framework for developing national indicators
- Process for national interpretation of the international standard



# Lessons and challenges



- International principles
  - Crucial to have shared international principles to provide a common agenda. UNFCCC may provide this but they are still being negotiated and provide little detail.
- National interpretation
  - International requirements need to be interpreted for each national situation
- National legislation
  - An comprehensive national legal framework which addresses the relevant issues is important for effective implementation of safeguards

# Lessons and challenges

- Co-ordination
  - Development of different safeguard approaches risks duplication of effort and creation of confusion.
  - Nationally important to have a co-ordination mechanism which includes all important stakeholders
  - Internationally important for different initiatives to work together to reinforce synergies and identify differences.
- Participation
  - Effective definition and implementation of safeguards requires effective involvement of all relevant stakeholders including vulnerable and marginalised groups
  - Many groups may need training and support in order to be able to participate effectively – this takes time and resources.
  - Other groups can participate but will quickly become overloaded if several initiatives operate in parallel – co-ordination is crucial
- Capacity
  - There is a huge lack of capacity to understand or effectively implement safeguards in many REDD+ countries

# Lessons and challenges

- Monitoring, reporting and verification
  - Risk of duplication of effort to monitor different safeguard approaches
- Enforcement and means of recourse
  - Some scope for enforcement and recourse if safeguards are not implemented adequately, but this is often limited at a national level.
- Stage of application
  - There are big differences in the issues at different stages of REDD+ - planning, early action, full implementation. Ensuring appropriate application of safeguards to each stage is essential.

# Next steps

- **Information and capacity building**

- Create a **voluntary learning platform on safeguards**, standards and their implementation.
- Develop a **web page on the interim partnership site** > provide the most recent information on safeguards (and their impacts)
- Promote **regional stakeholder consultations** on safeguards
- Multilateral initiatives could **organize joint sessions** to demonstrate how countries may use more than one standard or approach in a synergistic way for REDD readiness,

# Next steps

- **Exchanging experience**

- **Dissemination of lessons learnt** from the first countries that apply safeguards in REDD readiness including case studies of real experience with safeguards
- A **dedicated side event at COP 17** to share experiences on safeguards among the major initiatives
- **Promote exchange and learning** about approaches to ensure effective stakeholder participation in interpretation and implementation of safeguards at national level, including the most vulnerable and marginalised groups

# Next steps

- **Reviewing effectiveness**
  - Undertake **impact studies** on the **effectiveness** of the implementation of safeguards including differential **impacts** where comparisons are possible