

Stakeholder Engagement in the
**REDD+ Social & Environmental
Standards Initiative**

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REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards

What are they?

- Consist of ***principles, criteria and indicators*** which define the necessary conditions to achieve high social and environmental performance
- Provide a ***framework for assessment*** of social and environmental performance using a **multi-stakeholder process**
- Support the ***design, implementation and evaluation of government-led REDD+ programs***, enabling consistent assessment irrespective of funding source
- Aim to ***enhance benefits*** as well as ***avoid harm***.



Principles

1. Rights to land, territories and resources are recognized and respected
2. The benefits of the REDD+ program are shared equitably among all relevant rights holders and stakeholders
3. The REDD+ program contributes to long-term livelihood security and enhances well-being of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with special attention to the most vulnerable people
4. The REDD+ program contributes to broader sustainable development, respect and protection of human rights and good governance objectives.
5. The REDD+ program maintains and enhances biodiversity and ecosystem services
6. All relevant rights holders and stakeholders participate fully and effectively in the REDD+ program
7. All rights holders and stakeholders and have timely access to appropriate and accurate information to enable informed decision-making and good governance of the REDD+ program
8. The REDD+ program complies with applicable local and national laws and international treaties and other instruments

How the standards can be used

1. Provide good practice guidance
2. Provide a framework for reporting on performance
3. Assess conformance with respect to requirements of standards (a true standard)

REDD+ SES is currently focusing on #2.



Participating countries

Criteria:

- Significant progress towards a government-led REDD+ program
- Government commitment to demonstrating social and environmental performance of REDD

Participating	Interested
Ecuador	Mexico
State of Acre (Brazil)	Peru
Province of Central Kalimantan (Indonesia)	Guatemala
Nepal	Amazonas (Brazil)
Tanzania	Liberia
	Democratic Republic Congo



Stakeholder engagement – International level

- **Multi-stakeholder governance:** International Standards Committee approves standards, guidelines, and use of standards. Membership:
 - Governments
 - Indigenous Peoples organizations
 - Community forestry associations
 - Social and environmental NGOs
 - Private sector
- **Participatory and inclusive process**
 - International workshop in May 2009 to develop initial draft involved all major stakeholder groups
 - A series of workshops and consultations in REDD countries (Nepal, Tanzania, Ecuador, Liberia) from June 2009
 - Two 60-day public comment periods
 - Version 1 in June 2010
 - Revision currently underway to align with Cancun safeguards and simplify – c. 5 principles, c. 30 criteria, max 75 indicators
 - Version 2 in April 2012 after 60 days public comment

Stakeholder engagement – jurisdictional level

- **Multi-stakeholder governance:** Standards/safeguards committee involving major stakeholder groups
- **Participatory and inclusive process:**
 1. Create facilitation team
 2. Conduct awareness raising and capacity building
 3. Develop a plan for implementing the REDD+ SES process
 4. Create the jurisdiction-level Standards Committee
 5. Develop draft indicators adapted to the country context
 6. Organize consultations on draft indicators
 7. Prepare a monitoring plan (defining what, where and how information is to be gathered for each indicator)
 8. Organize the first performance assessment
 9. Organize stakeholder review of the assessment report
 10. Finalize and publish the assessment report

Challenges: *Complexity*

- **Broad scope of issues** generated by participatory process has led to large number of indicators (currently 98) – maybe un-manageable
 - ⇒ *Need to simplify: thorough, transparent assessment based on 50 indicators better than weak assessment using 100*
- **Lengthy, technical language** needed for indicators to get necessary clarity and precision - difficult to translate/understand
 - ⇒ *Produce a simpler version of indicators (“essence”) for community consultations but with full version for reference*
- **Multiple safeguards mechanisms:** REDD+ SES, FCPF, UNREDD, national safeguards with different approaches and priority issues
 - ⇒ *unified process for integrating safeguards mechanisms at country level*

Challenges: *Participation*

- Government agencies in some countries reluctant to enable full and effective participation of CSOs/IPOs
 - ⇒ *More investment in awareness raising and building stakeholder ownership of the process at the start*
 - ⇒ *Share experience with countries/provinces/states where this has been a very positive experience (e.g. Ecuador, Acre)*
- Safeguards are urgently needed but effective participation takes time and more resources than may be available
 - ⇒ *Safeguards planning with stakeholders must address this trade-off upfront and find consensus on the right balance*

Challenges: *Monitoring*

- Most indicators can't be directly monitored – need to also specify “means of verification” (what, where, how, who to do it) which is a technical task requiring specialist expertise.
 - ⇒ *Develop a monitoring plan for each indicator (see below)*
 - ⇒ *Ensure indicators developed with enough specificity so full stakeholder participation in monitoring plan development not essential (i.e. separate substantive input from technical procedure)*

Jurisdiction-specific Indicator	Specific Monitoring Information (<i>what</i>)	Source of Monitoring Information (<i>where</i>)	Methods (<i>how</i>)	Responsibility (<i>who</i>)

For more information:

www.REDD-standards.org

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