

Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria

UN-REDD Programme Eighth Policy Board
Meeting

26th March 2012





Endorsement of the SEPC as a guiding framework

It is proposed that the Policy Board

- Endorses the Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria as a guiding framework for the UN-REDD Programme.
(UNREDD/PB8/2012/V/1)

- Takes note of the ‘Supporting Document’ which provides information about: (UNREDD/PB8 2012/INF/9)
 - How the SEPC can provide a guiding framework
 - The links with other UN-REDD tools and processes
 - Links to FCPF SESA and other related initiatives
 - Proposed next steps



Outline

- Background
- Development of the SEPC
- SEPC Purpose
- SEPC Content
- Links with other UN REDD Tools & Instruments
- Links with FCPF and REDD+ SES
- Next Steps



Background

REDD+ has the potential to deliver substantial benefits beyond carbon. But some risks associated with REDD+.

The risks and benefits are addressed in the Cancun safeguards.

UN-REDD Programme 2011-2015 Strategy states: ‘will support...Developing framework principles and guidelines for safeguarding long-term supply of multiple benefits from forests’

The SEPC are coherent with and draw from the broader guidance provided by Cancun agreement.



Development of SEPC

- Nov 2010 Update on Social and Environmental Principles presented to **PB5**
- Mar 2011 SEPC Version 1 presented to **PB6**
- July 2011 SEPC Version 2 released for consultation
 - 32 sets of responses (c300 individual comments)
 - Facilitated consultations with countries
 - Presentation at UNFCCC side events and CBD workshops
- Oct 2011 SEPC Version 3 presented to **PB7** and released for consultation
- Dec 2011 Benefit and Risk Tool (BeRT) released for consultation
 - Further 31 sets of responses
- Feb 2012 SEPC workshop, Geneva
- Mar 2012 SEPC (Version 4) presented to **PB8** for endorsement as a guiding framework



SEPC Purpose

It is proposed that the SEPC will provide a guiding framework for the UN-REDD Programme to address two specific needs:

1. Addressing social and environmental issues in UN-REDD National Programmes and other UN-REDD funded activities.
 - In the formulation of national UN-REDD programmes
 - In the review, both internal and independent, of national programme documents
 - In the application of the planning, monitoring and reporting framework that guides national programme implementation
2. Supporting countries in developing national approaches to REDD+ safeguards in line with UNFCCC



SEPC – additional points

- Reflect a human-rights based approach to programming
- Uphold UN conventions, treaties and declarations
- Apply UN agencies' policies and procedures

- Principles are overarching statements about desired outcomes
- Criteria are conditions that would need to be met by UN-REDD Programme funded activities to contribute to the achievement of the principle
- Three principles on social issues, one on social and environmental policy coherence and three on environmental issues



Benefit and Risk Tool (BeRT)

- BeRT is being developed to help apply the SEPC
- In first instance, designed to assist national REDD+ teams to develop national programmes in accordance with SEPC
- Elaborates a series of questions under each criterion to assist in the identification of issues to be addressed.
- BeRT will be further developed to support other applications of the SEPC



Social and Environmental Principles

Principle 1 – Apply norms of democratic governance, as reflected in national commitments and Multilateral Agreements

Principle 2 - Respect and protect stakeholder rights in accordance with international obligations

Principle 3 - Promote sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction

Principle 4 - Contribute to low-carbon, climate-resilient sustainable development policy, consistent with national development strategies, national forest programmes, and commitments under international conventions and agreements

Principle 5 - Protect natural forest from degradation and/or conversion

Principle 6 - Maintain and enhance multiple functions of forest including conservation of biodiversity ~~conservation~~ and provision of ecosystem services

Principle 7 - Avoid or minimise adverse impacts on non-forest ecosystem services and biodiversity

Principle 1

Apply norms of democratic governance, as reflected in national commitments and Multilateral Agreements

Criterion 1 – Ensure the transparency and accountability of fiduciary and fund management systems linked to REDD+ activities

Criterion 2 – Ensure legitimacy and accountability of all bodies representing relevant stakeholders, including through establishing responsive feedback and grievance mechanisms

Criterion 3 – Ensure transparency and accessibility of information related to REDD+, including active dissemination among relevant stakeholders

Criterion 4 – Ensure the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders in design, planning and implementation of REDD+ activities, with particular attention to indigenous peoples, local communities and other vulnerable and marginalized groups

Criterion 5 – Promote coordination, efficiency and effectiveness among all agencies and implementing bodies relevant to REDD+

Criterion 6 – Promote and support the rule of law, access to justice and effective remedies

Principle 2

Respect and protect stakeholder rights in accordance with international obligations

Criterion 7 – Respect and promote the recognition and exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and other vulnerable and marginalized groups to land, territories and resources, including carbon

Criterion 8 – Promote and enhance gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment

Criterion 9 – Seek free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and respect and uphold the decision taken (whether consent is given or withheld)

Criterion 10 – Ensure there is no involuntary resettlement as a result of REDD+

Criterion 11 – Respect and protect traditional knowledge, and cultural heritage and practices

Principle 3

Promote sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction

- Criterion 12** – Ensure equitable, non-discriminatory and transparent benefit sharing among relevant stakeholders with special attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups
- Criterion 13** – Protect and enhance economic and social well-being of relevant stakeholders, with special attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups

Principle 4

Contribute to low-carbon, climate-resilient sustainable development policy, consistent with national development strategies, national forest programmes, and commitments under international conventions and agreements

Criterion 14 – Ensure consistency with and contribution to national climate policy objectives, including those of mitigation and adaptation strategies and international commitments on climate

Criterion 15 – Address the risk of reversals of REDD+ achievements, including potential future risks to forest carbon stocks and other benefits to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of REDD+

Criterion 16 – Ensure consistency with and contribution to national poverty reduction strategies and other sustainable development goals (including those outlined under the Millennium Development Goals framework), including alignment with ministries' and sub-national strategies and plans that may have an impact on, or be affected by the forest sector and/or land use change

Criterion 17 – Ensure consistency with and contribution to national biodiversity conservation policies (including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans), other environmental and natural resource management policy objectives, national forest programmes, and international commitments on the environment

Principle 5

Protect natural forest from degradation and/or conversion

Criterion 18 – Ensure that REDD+ activities do not cause the conversion of natural forest to planted forest, unless as part of forest restoration, and make reducing conversion of forests to other land uses (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure) a REDD+ priority

Criterion 19 – Avoid or minimise degradation of natural forest by REDD+ activities and make reducing degradation due to other causes (e.g. agriculture, extractive activities, infrastructure) a REDD+ priority

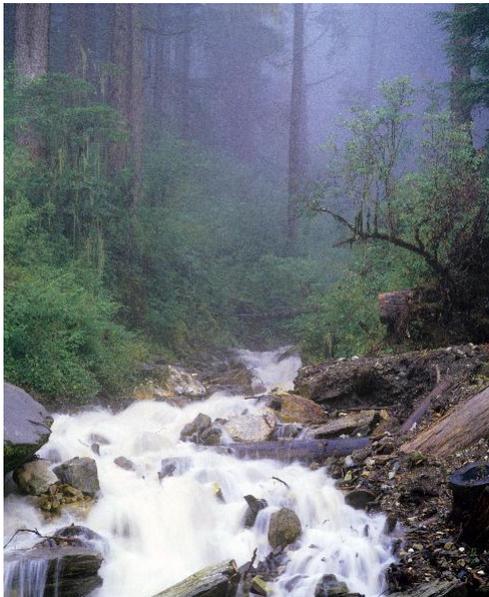
Criterion 20 – Avoid or minimise indirect land-use change impacts of REDD+ activities on forest carbon stocks, biodiversity and other ecosystem services



Source: FAO Kenichi Shono FO-5859

Principle 6

Maintain and enhance multiple functions of forest including conservation of biodiversity ~~conservation~~ and provision of ecosystem services



Source: FAO Masakazu Kashio FO-6793

Criterion 21 – Ensure that land-use planning for REDD+ explicitly takes account of potential synergies and trade-offs between the multiple functions of forest and the benefits they provide, respecting local and other stakeholders' values

Criterion 22 – Ensure that planted and natural forests are managed to maintain and enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity important in both local and national contexts

Principle 7

Avoid or minimise adverse impacts on non-forest ecosystem services and biodiversity

Criterion 23 – Avoid or minimise adverse impacts on carbon stocks, other ecosystem services and biodiversity of non-forest ecosystems resulting directly from REDD+ activities

Criterion 24 – Avoid or minimise adverse impacts on carbon stocks, other ecosystem services and biodiversity of non-forest ecosystems resulting indirectly from REDD+ activities (including those of indirect land-use change impacts and intensification of land use)



Links to UN REDD Tools & Instruments

- Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement and on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
 - Direct means to support implementation of SEPC Criterion 4 (Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders) and 9 (Seek free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples)
- Participatory Governance Assessments for REDD+ (PGA)
 - SEPC can provide a starting point to frame multi-stakeholder discussions to identify and prioritize governance issues
 - PGA can provide information on SEPC governance criteria
- Multiple Benefits
 - SEPC underpins this work by providing a framework to ensuring identification of potential opportunities and risks from REDD+ and action taken to address them.



Links to FCPF processes and the REDD+ SES

FCPF

Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) is required for FCPF funding and includes an Environmental and Social Management Framework as a distinct output. Used by UN Agencies that are FCPF Delivery Partners.

- SEPC can inform the SESA process by drawing attention to REDD+ specific issues
- Seek to ensure that in joint countries SEPC and SESA are coordinated in a complementary way

REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (SES)

- Joint UN REDD / SES meeting held in Cambridge (19 March)
- Potential for collaboration in connection with supporting the development of national approaches to safeguards
- Agreed to exploring ways to do this in three countries



Next Steps

- Update current version of BeRT to address revised SEPC
- Further tailor BeRT and develop other tools to support application of the SEPC, as needed
- Testing SEPC and BeRT for different applications
- Develop explicit guidance on joint application of the set of UN-REDD Programme tools described above
- Continue engagement to formalize linkages with FCPF and REDD+ SES

Thank you for listening!





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