

Summary report of meeting between UN-REDD Programme (SEPC and PGA teams) and REDD+ SES – Cambridge 19th March 2012

Attendees

- Barney Dickson, UN-REDD (UNEP-WCMC)
- Valerie Kapos, UN-REDD (UNEP-WCMC)
- Lucy Goodman, UN-REDD (UNEP-WCMC)
- Julia Thorley, UN-REDD (UNEP-WCMC)
- Joanna Durbin, REDD+ SES
- Phil Franks, REDD+ SES
- Leo Peskett, UN-REDD (UNDP)
- Emelyne Cheney, UN-REDD (FAO)

The UN-REDD Policy Board recommended in its [seventh meeting](#) (October 2011) that the relationship between the UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC) and the standards developed by the FCPF and other relevant bodies be clarified. One such standard, the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES), is a voluntary standard for national REDD+ programmes that provides a mechanism for multi-stakeholder assessment of social and environmental performance.

Following discussions at the UN-REDD Programme workshop on the SEPC in Geneva (February 2012) the SEPC team organised a meeting with REDD+ SES in Cambridge to develop and explore a shared understanding of:

- Country needs surrounding approaches to safeguards and tools for addressing those needs.
- Similarities and differences in purpose/ objectives, in content and in process for using UN-REDD Programme tools, including SEPC, the Benefits and Risks Tool (BeRT) and Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA), and REDD+ SES
- Potential for collaboration/synergies between UN-REDD tools and REDD+ SES, including at the country level

The meeting was a constructive discussion which contributed to a clearer understanding of relationships between the UN-REDD Programme tools and the REDD+ SES and their major objectives. The SEPC is a guiding framework which aims to 1) support countries to address social and environmental issues in UN-REDD National Programmes 2) support countries in developing their national approaches to REDD+ safeguards in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The REDD+ SES objectives are 1) to define high social and environmental performance of government-led REDD+ programmes and 2) to provide a mechanism for country-led multi-stakeholder assessment of REDD+ programme design, implementation and outcomes to enable countries to report on how internationally and nationally defined safeguards, including the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards, are being addressed and respected.

The discussions also covered the PGA, an approach helping countries to generate robust information on governance issues related to REDD+ through nationally-led, inclusive and participatory processes, with the view to feeding into safeguards information systems and to strengthening accountability systems of both governments and civil society.

The meeting participants shared in-country experiences and countries' requests for tools to help them to address safeguards and to provide information on how they are addressed.

Broadly, countries have been developing national safeguard approaches that involve:

1. Formulating national safeguards and ensuring that the safeguards are addressed
2. Providing information on and monitoring and reporting how safeguards (Cancun and national) are addressed
3. Establishing governance of the safeguards mechanism, defining who is involved and how decisions are made with respect to addressing safeguards for the REDD+ programme

SEPC and BeRT could provide a support tool for 1) and BeRT can contribute to 2); REDD+SES provides support to 2) and 3) as well as being a voluntary best practice standard and may contribute to 1). PGAs can contribute to all three, although they focus only on governance issues related to safeguards.

The participants explored opportunities for greater collaboration at country level, especially in those countries both engaging with the UN-REDD Programme and applying REDD+ SES. It was agreed that discussions would continue.

Agreed next steps

- Noting that Tanzania and Ecuador are both receiving UN-REDD national Programme support and Ecuador is a PGA pilot country and both are engaging in REDD+ SES, it was agreed to seek opportunities to coordinate in supporting the development of national approaches to safeguards in these countries.
- UNEP-WCMC is currently in discussion with the members of the Sub-Technical Working Group on REDD+ Environmental and Social Safeguards in Viet Nam on providing technical support to development of national safeguard approaches. If this is agreed, then UNEP-WCMC will seek input from the rest of the UN-REDD SEPC team and REDD+ SES colleagues.
- Noting that the REDD+ SES version 2 is currently open for comment, the SEPC team will comment before the 9th April.
- It was agreed to make use of further opportunities at upcoming conferences and workshops for face to face meetings.
- It was agreed to aim to meet in 6 months time, possibly on the side of PB 9, at which point we will review progress. The conclusions of these discussions will be documented.