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Supporting the Application of Biodiversity Safeguards for REDD+ - Needs and options -

*Combined safeguards and sub-regional capacity
building workshop on REDD-plus, Singapore,
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Work on Biodiversity Safeguards has to take account of:

Risks and Opportunities to Biodiversity

Cancun Agreement on Safeguards

Practical Requirements for Implementation

Opportunities and Co-benefits for Biodiversity from REDD+

- Reduced loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitat for forest biodiversity, and reduced disruption of ecological interlinkages within the landscape
- Increase in forest area, restoration of habitat quality or connectivity for forest biodiversity, and restoration of ecological interlinkages

Risks to Biodiversity from REDD+

- Displacement of land use pressures to ecosystems of high biodiversity value
 - e.g. agricultural expansion may be shifted towards non-forest ecosystems; forest use may shift to low-carbon forests or forests outside area covered by REDD+
- Introduction / expansion of intensive agriculture or forestry methods harmful to biodiversity (incl. plantations)
- Conversion of high biodiversity value non-forest ecosystems through afforestation or reforestation
- Risks to indigenous people / local communities – including loss of traditional ecological knowledge



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The Cancun Agreements

- Contain **REDD+ guidance and safeguards** including activities to conserve natural forests, biological diversity and ecosystem services
- Countries aiming to participate in REDD+ are asked to develop “**a system for providing information on how the safeguards (...) are being addressed**”; and UNFCCC **SBSTA** mandated to **develop further guidance** by COP17.



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- ➡ **Further specification and advice** are needed to help REDD+ and biodiversity actors interpret and apply the safeguards
- ➡ This will help fulfil the mandates agreed at **Cancun and Nagoya**

Experiences from Existing Safeguard Initiatives

An analysis of ongoing initiatives developing biodiversity-relevant guidance or standards for REDD+ or related contexts (e.g. forest certification) shows:

- **Some elements are traditionally more developed**, e.g. provisions on avoiding conversion of priority ecosystems are stronger than provisions on avoiding degradation or enhancing positive impacts
- There is often a **lack of indicators** to establish when safeguards are met
- There is currently a **lack of incentives** for delivery of co-benefits

Experiences from Existing Safeguard Initiatives (2)

- There are **different approaches** to allow for the need to specify goals at relevant scales, e.g.:
 - making use of **procedural safeguards** in addition to outcome-oriented safeguards
 - providing a **process for national interpretation** of the safeguards,
 - providing **guidance and definitions**



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Developing Specific Interpretation of the Safeguards

Need to address **specific risks and opportunities for biodiversity from different types of REDD+ activities**

e.g. addressing **opportunities** for habitat restoration associated with carbon stock enhancement, or **risks** to high biodiversity non-forest areas associated with measures to reduce deforestation

Developing Specific Interpretation of the Safeguards (2)

Make provision for further national interpretation, especially with regard to desired biodiversity outcomes

- Need for **definition of goals for biodiversity impacts from REDD+ at appropriate scales**, addressing both risks and opportunities
- There is a role for safeguards in **all types and phases of REDD+ activities**
- **Further definition of REDD+ activities** could help to ensure implementation covers biodiversity impacts

Developing Specific Interpretation of the Safeguards (3)

Provide for development of **monitoring methods** and indicators to identify whether goals are being achieved

- This links to development of the **CBD Strategic Plan** indicators.
- Use and linkage of **effective monitoring systems** – **remote (such as GFOI)** and **ground-based** – will be key.

Requirements for Implementation of Safeguards

Capacity requirements for implementation of safeguards may include:

- **Generation of data and knowledge on biodiversity values**, their interaction with socio-economic factors (N.B. natural valuation) and the likely impacts of REDD+ activities on both
- Capacity for **data analysis** (including spatial analysis, cost-benefit analysis and scenario development)
- Capacity for **planning and implementation of measures, e.g. spatial planning, design of incentives** etc.
- Capacity for **monitoring of achieved outcomes**

Options to take the process further

- More **specific interpretation of the requirements spelled out in the Cancun Agreements**, based on analysis of the opportunities and risks
- Avoid **proliferation of standards** and conflicting interpretations of the Cancun Agreements
- Development of **indicators and monitoring methods** that can be adapted for use at the national level
- **Support to Parties**, including through capacity-building and the development of further guidance

thank you!
merci!
¡gracias!

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