

Greening REDD+: Challenges and opportunities for forest biodiversity conservation

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Huánuco region, Peru © Schmitt

- **What are biodiversity safeguards and benefits?**
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What are safeguards and benefits?

Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention,
12th session, Tianjin, 4–9 Oct 2010; FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/14 – Chapter VI

“[Option 2:

2. (...) the following **safeguards** should be promoted and supported:
(...) (e) Actions that are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that actions (...) are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other **social and environmental benefits,]**”

Safeguards – definition and needs

Biodiversity safeguards:

- minimum requirements for avoiding apparent risks to biodiversity
- applicable to all countries
- international level

What is needed for successful implementation?

- adequate definitions for forest types and forest-related management activities
- sound concepts for SMF/SFM under REDD+
- safeguard to avoid inter-ecosystem leakage
- documentation of safeguards

Safeguards – policy options

Definitions for forest types and forest-related management activities

- consider FAO definitions for *primary forest*, *modified natural forest*, and *planted forest*

Concept for SMF/SFM under REDD+

- develop common understanding on what is *sustainable management* of forests

Addressing inter-ecosystem leakage

- include safeguard to avoid drainage / conversion of non-forest peatlands

Safeguards documentation

- specification by UNFCCC unlikely
- guidance by CBD

Additional benefits – definition and needs

Additional benefits

- improvement of the state of biodiversity
- through activities that contribute to both mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and the conservation of biodiversity
- specified according to national and local circumstances

 **National REDD+ strategies are key.**

What is needed for succesful implementation?

- integrated land-use planning
- setting sound biodiversity objectives
- documentation of safeguards and additional benefits

Additional benefits – policy options

Integrated land-use planning

- close cooperation at all levels between stakeholders from different sectors
- e.g., implementation of REDD+ activities in different forest types and selection of priority areas for forest conservation

Setting sound biodiversity objectives

- guidelines for integrated land-use planning
- framework of principles, objectives and indicators
- establishment of national biodiversity data base

Principle: No conversion of natural forests into plantations.

Objective: Maintenance of at least x% of each of the country's natural forest types.

Indicator: Spatial extent of each of the country's natural forest types in relation to a baseline year.

Documentation of safeguards and additional benefits

- take stock of biodiversity as a basis for subsequent monitoring
- integrate biodiversity monitoring into carbon monitoring schemes
- make use of ongoing activities, e.g., related to CBD and FAO

Additional benefits – support and tools

National Biodiversity Data Base

- facilitates development, assessment and monitoring of biodiversity objectives and indicators
- combines global, national and project data

International data bases and analyses

REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards

CBD

PoW Protected Areas, Protected Area Gap Analysis

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP)

PoW on Forest Biological Diversity

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

FAO Forest Resources Assessment

MRV for Carbon

High biodiversity areas

Centres of Plant Diversity

Important Bird Areas

Key Biodiversity Areas

High Conservation Values Forest

Carbon standards

Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS)

Plan Vivo Standard

Information from REDD+ pilot projects

Policy options

International level

- resolve pending issues regarding definitions, leakage and safeguards
- mandate for the CPF to develop forest-related definitions under FAO guidance
- CBD to take a proactive stance in addressing biodiversity issues under REDD+

National level

- develop country-specific solutions for biodiversity consideration under REDD+
- collate and use the existing wealth of expertise and data, in particular the reports and analyses prepared for the CBD
- ensure biodiversity consideration in REDD+ strategies through international programmes such as Interim REDD+ Partnership, UN-REDD and FCPF

Thank you very much for your attention.



Southern Cameroon © Schmitt

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