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Integrated Solutions: Water, Biodiversity and Terrestrial Carbon in West Africa

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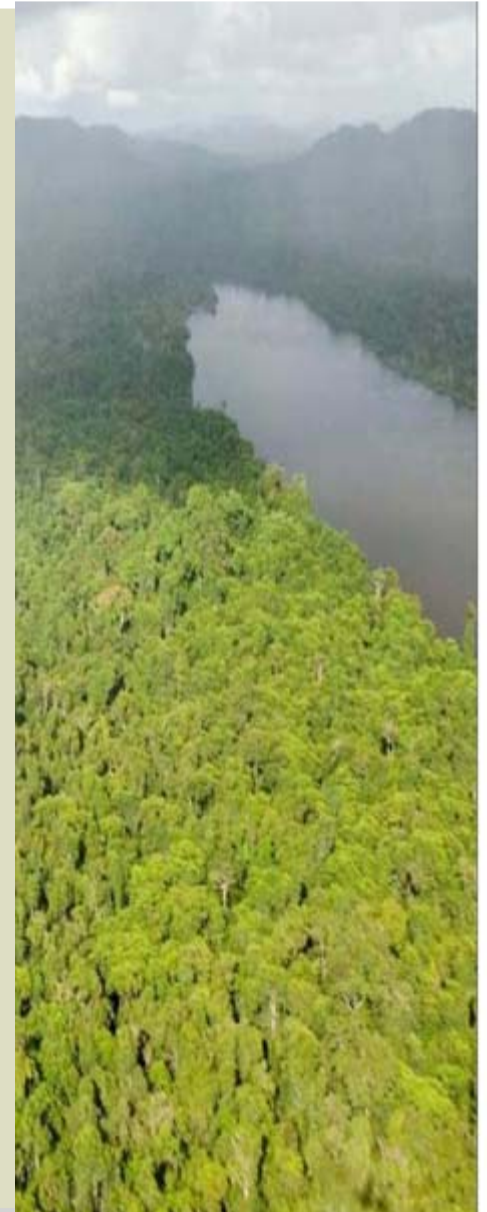
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Social and Environmental Standards for REDD+

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Context

- Growing support to include REDD and other forest carbon in post 2012 climate agreement
- Potential for significant social and environmental co-benefits
- BUT serious risks, particularly for indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities
- Increasing support for forest carbon accounting at a national level
- Increasing interest and experience in the use of voluntary standards



Standards for REDD+

- A set of principles, criteria & indicators and a process for monitoring, reporting and verification
- In contrast to existing CCB Standards for forest carbon projects, will evaluate programs of policies and measures across broader landscapes rather than site-based projects
- Provide guidance to help design, implement and identify good practice
- Of use to governments, NGOs, financing agencies and local stakeholders
- Designed to be useful for any form of financing - funds or markets

Role of REDD+SE standards

- Define & build support for a higher level of social and environmental performance from REDD and other forest carbon programs
- Voluntary standards not required by policy framework or a conditionality of funding
- A tool to demonstrate and communicate transparent, inclusive and equitable process and clear social and environmental benefits
- Help early adopters build support nationally and internationally including preferential access to funds
- Encourage improved performance in others
- Build enhanced global support for REDD+ action

Goal

Effective social and environmental standards for REDD and other forest carbon programs make a substantial contribution to human rights, poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation goals whilst avoiding social or environmental harm.



Process for standards development

- Phase I: 2009

Develop social and environmental quality standards for REDD and other forest carbon programs and policies through a broadly inclusive and participatory process.

- Phase II: 2010-11

Pilot the standards in 3-6 countries, and promote and support their voluntary adoption by policy/market innovators

REDD+ S&E Standards development: process

- Standards development workshop (May 2009)
- Draft principles and criteria circulated to interested parties, stakeholders and advisers for comments (Jun-Aug 2009)
- Consultation meetings with diverse stakeholders and advisors including 3 countries interested in early adoption (Jul-Oct 2009)
- A draft version of the standards posted for on-line public comments during 60 days (Oct-Nov 2009)
- Comments addressed in a new draft version presented at COP15 (December 2009)
- A second public comment period and additional consultations with stakeholders (Jan-March 2010)
- Standards finalised for piloting (March 2010)
- Piloting and testing the standards (April 2010-)

REDD+ SES Principles

1. Rights to land, territories and resources are recognized and respected.
2. The benefits of the REDD+ program are shared equitably among all stakeholders and rights holders.
3. The REDD+ program contributes to sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation for forest-dependent peoples.
4. The REDD+ program contributes to broader sustainable development and good governance objectives
5. Biodiversity and ecosystem services are maintained and enhanced.
6. All relevant stakeholders and rights holders are able to participate fully and effectively in the REDD+ program.
7. All stakeholders and rights holders have timely access to appropriate and accurate information to enable good governance of the REDD+ program.
8. The REDD+ program complies with applicable local and national laws and international treaties and agreements

REDD+ SE Standards: what to assess?

- Processes for development of plans & policies
- Plans
- Implementation of plans & policies
- Combination of plans and implementation
- Outcomes on the ground
- Combination of planning, implementation & outcome

REDD+ S&E Standards development: governance

- A participatory and inclusive process
- A 'standards committee' is being created (20-25 people) to oversee standards development and approve each draft of the standards
- Standards committee will ensure a balance of interested parties with a majority from the south, including:
 - REDD governments, IP organisations, community associations, social NGOs, environmental NGOs, private sector, developed country governments
- CCBA and CARE are facilitators

For more information:

www.climate-standards.org/REDD+

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Principle 1: Rights to land, territories and resources are recognized and respected.

Criteria address:

- Identification of rights-holders and their rights
- Recognition of customary rights
- Free, prior informed consent
- Process to resolve disputes over land/resource rights related to the REDD+ program

Principle 2: The benefits of the REDD+ program are shared equitably among all stakeholders and rights holders

Criteria address:

- Identification of costs, benefits and risks of REDD+ for different stakeholders
- Transparency, participation and efficiency of the benefit sharing process
- Monitoring of benefits and their distribution

Principle 3: The REDD+ program contributes to sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation for forest- dependent peoples

Criteria address:

- Poverty alleviation benefits emphasizing the poor and marginalised.
- Decision making process on the form benefits take
- Assessment of positive and negative social impacts
- Measures to mitigate negative, and enhance positive social impacts

Principle 4: The REDD+ program contributes to broader sustainable development and good governance objectives.

Criteria address:

- Coherence with sustainable development policies and strategies.
- Ownership of the program by key stakeholders
- Coordination between relevant government agencies
- Contribution to sector-wide improvements in forest governance.

Principle 5: Biodiversity and ecosystem services are maintained and enhanced

Criteria address:

- Maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Assessment of positive and negative impacts on ecosystem services and biodiversity
- How the REDD+ program design addresses maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Principle 6: All relevant stakeholders and rights holders are able to participate fully and effectively in the REDD+ program

Criteria address:

- Stakeholder identification and characterisation
- Stakeholder participation in program design, implementation and evaluation
- Grievance/dispute mechanisms
- Building on stakeholders' knowledge, skills and management systems

Principle 7: All stakeholders and rights holders have timely access to appropriate and accurate information to enable good governance of the REDD+ program

Criteria address:

- Types of information that should be accessible
- Dissemination of information by stakeholder representatives to their constituencies
- Support for information access in national policy
- Understanding of legal aspects and access to legal advice

Principle 8: The REDD+ program complies with applicable local and national laws and international treaties and agreements.

Criteria address:

- Compliance with relevant local law, national law and international treaties and agreements
- Process for resolving inconsistencies
- Capacity of stakeholders to implement and monitor legal requirements.