

# **Social and Environmental Standards for REDD and Other Forest Carbon Programs**

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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



# Standards

- A set of principles & criteria and a process for monitoring, reporting and verification
- Address respect for rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and significant social and biodiversity benefits
- 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 voluntary standards

- UNFCCC agreement will focus on emissions reductions and basic safeguards
- Not just 'no harm' but a complementary process to define and build support for a higher level of performance
- 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
- Generate 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

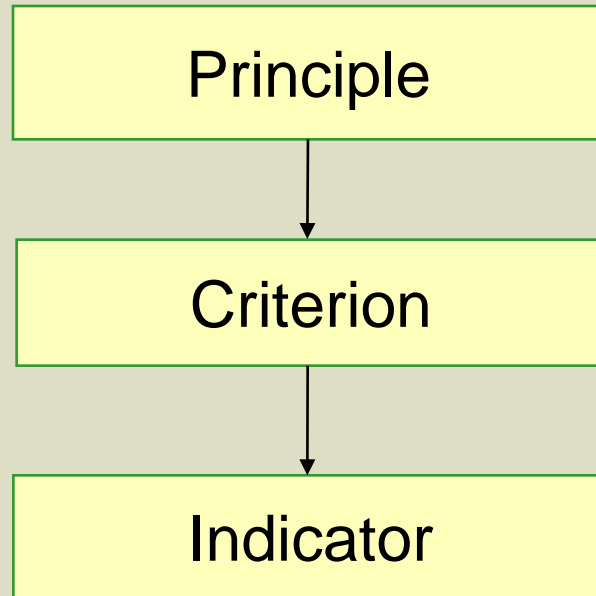
- Phase I: 2009

*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*

# Hierarchical framework of standards



The intent level – clarifying objectives

The content level – conditions that need to be met

A quantitative or qualitative parameter, which can be assessed in relation to a criterion.

# Draft principles

- 1: Rights to land, territories and resources are recognized and respected.
- 2: The benefits of REDD and other forest carbon programmes are shared equitably among all stakeholders and rights holders.
- 3: The program contributes to sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation for forest-dependent peoples.
- 4: The programme contributes to and is coherent with broader sustainable development objectives.
- 5: Ecosystem services and biodiversity are maintained and enhanced.
- 6: All relevant stakeholders are able to participate fully and effectively in the program
- 7: All stakeholders have timely access to appropriate and accurate information to enable transparency, accountability and full and effective participation.
- 8: The program complies with applicable local and national laws and international treaties and agreements.

# Options for monitoring, reporting and verification

## Monitoring

Self-assessment  
by government

Government-led with  
stakeholder  
involvement

Independent  
monitoring

## Reporting

No public  
report

Some  
information  
public

All relevant  
information  
public

Report plus  
comments  
public

Report and  
comments verified  
and public

## Verification

No  
verification

Review by  
government-appointed  
technical panel

Verification by  
independent  
third-party

— <transparency and accountability> +

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## REDD+ S&E Standards: potential uses

- Define best practice guidelines for REDD+ programs, design and implementation of policies and measures
- Assess the process of policy development of REDD+ policies and measures, notably the level and quality of stakeholder involvement
- Assess the quality and impacts of implementation of REDD+ policies and measures

# For more information:

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