

REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards

Need for the Standards

While activities that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and contribute to conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) have the potential to deliver significant social and environmental co-benefits, many have also highlighted the serious risks, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Recognizing growing awareness at both international and national levels of the need for effective social and environmental safeguards, this initiative aims to define and build support for a higher level of social and environmental performance from REDD+ programs.

Role of the Standards

These standards can be used by governments, NGOs, financing agencies and other stakeholders to support the design and implementation of REDD+ programs that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and generate significant social and environmental co-benefits. The standards are designed for government-led REDD+ programs implemented at national or state/provincial/regional level and for all forms of fund-based or market-based financing. The standards can be used to:

- Provide good practice guidance for design of REDD+ policies and measures;
- Assess the process of development of REDD+ policies and measures;
- Assess the quality and impacts of implementation of REDD+ policies and measures.

If these standards are successful, they will:

- help the early adopters to build support for their programs both nationally and internationally, for example enabling preferential access to funds;
- encourage improved social and environmental performance for REDD and other forest carbon programs in other countries and sub-national states/provinces;
- build enhanced global support for effective and equitable REDD+ action.

Components of the Standards

A set of principles provide the key objectives that define high social and environmental performance of REDD+ programs. For each principle, a series of criteria define the conditions that must be met related to processes, impacts and policies in order to deliver the principles. Indicators define the information needed to show that the criteria are met and are being developed in each country. While the principles and criteria apply across all countries, the indicators are tailored to the country context.

To learn more about the REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards go to www.climate-standards.org/REDD+ or contact the facilitators of the initiative:

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Goal of the Standards

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

Principles

1. Rights to lands, territories and resources are recognized and respected by the REDD+ program.
2. The benefits of the REDD+ program are shared equitably among all relevant rights holders and stakeholders.
3. The REDD+ program improves long-term livelihood security and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with special attention to the most vulnerable people.
4. The REDD+ program contributes to broader sustainable development, respect and protection of human rights and good governance objectives.
5. The REDD+ program maintains and enhances biodiversity and ecosystem services.
6. All relevant rights holders and stakeholders participate fully and effectively in the REDD+ program.
7. All rights holders and stakeholders have timely access to appropriate and accurate information to enable informed decision-making and good governance of the REDD+ program.
8. The REDD+ program complies with applicable local and national laws and international treaties, conventions and other instruments.

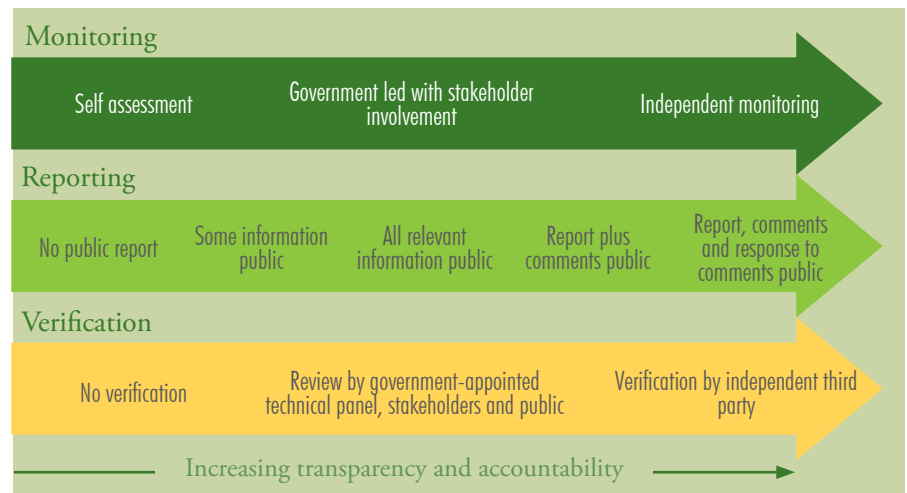
Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

The monitoring, reporting and verification process must balance participation and ownership by stakeholders with enhanced transparency and accountability while also encouraging improved performance. MRV processes are being developed in each country tailored to the country context while remaining consistent with the overall approach of the initiative.

An inclusive and participatory process for development of the standards

The standards have been developed through an inclusive process engaging governments, NGOs and other civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples organizations, international policy and research institutions and the private sector. A Standards Committee representing a balance of interested parties is overseeing the standards initiative. The majority of committee members are from countries where REDD would be implemented recognizing that developing country governments and civil society should lead the adoption of the standards. The standards development process is being facilitated by the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and CARE International.

Options for Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification



The following process has been adopted for the development and application of the standards:

A multi-stakeholder workshop in Copenhagen to provide initial input for the design and content of the standards	May 2009
Draft principles and criteria circulated to interested parties, stakeholders and advisors for comments	Jun-Aug 2009
Consultation meetings with diverse stakeholders in 3 pilot countries interested in early adoption (Ecuador, Nepal and Tanzania)	Jul-Oct 2009
A draft version of the standards posted on-line for public comments during 60 days	Oct-Nov 2009
Comments addressed in a new draft version of the standards for presentation at UNFCCC COP15	Dec 2009
A second 90-day public comment period and consultations in Liberia	Jan-Apr 2010
Standards finalized for testing	Jun 2010
Applying the standards in pilot countries (including Ecuador, Liberia, Nepal, Tanzania, Province of Central Kalimantan in Indonesia, State of Acre in Brazil): creation of country-level standards committee; development of country-specific indicators; compilation of a report of progress with respect to the standards; review, validation and publication of the report, etc.	From July 2010