



## EXPERIENCE USING REDD+ SES

REDD+ SES consist of principles, criteria and indicators that define high social and environmental performance of government-led REDD+ programs. They provide a framework for country-led multi-stakeholder assessment of REDD+ program design, implementation and outcomes.

REDD+ SES were developed through a participatory and inclusive process from May 2009 through workshops in four developing countries and two public comment periods leading to publication of Version 1 in June 2010. An International Standards Committee representing a balance of interested parties including governments, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, community associations, social and environmental NGOs and the private sector oversees the initiative. The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and CARE International serve as the international secretariat of the REDD+ SES initiative with technical support from the Proforest Initiative.

Ecuador, the State of Acre in Brazil, Nepal, the Province of Central Kalimantan in Indonesia and Tanzania have started using the standards. They are all following the same country-led multi-stakeholder process, which involves three core elements: governance, interpretation and assessment.

### Key emerging issues from use of REDD+ SES:

- **The country-led multi-stakeholder process** for using REDD+ SES creates a **platform for constructive engagement** between government and other key stakeholder groups that may have been previously difficult due to mutual suspicion.
- **Country-specific interpretation** is key to ensuring the standards are relevant to the country context and building understanding and ownership of rights holders and stakeholders.
- Countries are facing challenges with multiple safeguards mechanisms. REDD+ SES and other safeguards processes need to raise awareness on complementarity and support development of a **unified country-led process for integration at country level**.
- Safeguards for REDD+ are complex, and difficult for stakeholders to understand. Drawing on emerging experience, the standards and guidelines of **REDD+ SES are being strengthened, streamlined and simplified** to the extent possible without "lowering the bar."
- REDD+ SES provides a platform for **peer to peer learning across countries on REDD+ safeguards**.
- There is growing interest in REDD+ SES as a key component of a **country-led, multi-stakeholder safeguards information system**. Other countries interested in using REDD+ SES include San Martin Department in Peru, Amazonas State in Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala and Liberia.

### GOVERNANCE

The institutional structures and decision-making processes that govern the use of REDD+ SES in each country ensure the participation of a balance of rights holders and stakeholders.

- A multi-stakeholder Standards Committee provides oversight
- A joint government and civil society Facilitation Team organizes the process

### INTERPRETATION

Country-specific interpretation adapts REDD+ SES to the country context, making the international REDD+SES locally-relevant, and includes:

- Creation of country-specific indicators (the principles and criteria remain the same across all countries)
- Design of the country-specific assessment process

### ASSESSMENT

The process for assessing performance of the REDD+ program against the country-specific indicators involves:

- **Monitoring** – A monitoring plan defines what specific information will be collected, where it is found, how it will be gathered and analyzed and who will be responsible.
- **Reviewing** - Consultations are organized to facilitate stakeholder review of the draft assessment report to enhance quality and credibility.
- **Reporting** – After approval by the country-level Standards Committee, the full report of performance against the indicators of the REDD+ SES is made publicly available.

# PROGRESS USING REDD+ SES IN ECUADOR

Ecuador is developing a National REDD+ Program and is participating in the UN-REDD Programme. In addition, Ecuador has started implementation of the Socio Bosque program, an incentive-based policy for forest conservation that is a component of the National REDD+ Program<sup>1</sup>. REDD+ SES is being applied to the Socio Bosque program in a pilot phase before scaling up to application to the National REDD+ Program.

## Governance

### *Standards Committee*

The terms of reference for the National Standards Committee were published on 20 December 2010 and nominations were invited until 25 January 2011. The committee is composed of three representatives from government, five from Indigenous Peoples and local communities (CONFENIAE, FECCHE, UNOCYPP, Rios Guacamayos and Nueva Tondolique) and five from NGOs and private sector (Cedenma, ARA, Profafor, Loja University and Geojuvenil). Meetings were held on 29 March and 17 May 2011 to raise awareness of the members and adopt its internal regulations. The Committee reviewed and approved the Ecuador-specific indicators at meetings on 27 June and 4 July 2011.

### *Facilitation Team*

The use of the REDD+ SES in Ecuador is being facilitated by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation International Ecuador and CARE Ecuador.

## Interpretation

A capacity building workshop was held with Indigenous Peoples 21-22 October 2010 followed by a national workshop 11-12 November 2010 with a broad range of stakeholders when draft indicators were developed. These were posted on the Ministry website and disseminated for public comment from 2 December to 28 February 2011. Two workshops were held with Indigenous Peoples to gather their feedback on the draft indicators 19-21 January and 3-4 March 2011.

## Assessment

A monitoring plan has been developed to collect information about the Socio Bosque program with respect to the country-specific indicators. A draft report will be prepared for review by stakeholders in early 2012.

## Benefits of using REDD+ SES in Ecuador

- Provides information for the UNFCCC safeguards information system, consistent with the progress of the National REDD+ Program, Ecuador's technical capacities and the level of resources available
- Builds a strong participation platform to strengthen information credibility and stakeholder ownership
- Provides an opportunity to build capacity and involve diverse stakeholders with some conflicting positions
- Strengthens the relationship between civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organizations and the Ministry of Environment

## Challenges

- Finding a balance between participation, time and costs constraints
- Collecting and updating information on safeguards and REDD+ SES requires financial resources and technical capacities
- Integrating with UN-REDD tools requires integrated processes between REDD+ SES, Participatory Governance Assessment and UN-REDD Principles and Criteria



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<sup>1</sup> www.ambiente.gob.ec

# PROGRESS USING REDD+ SES IN ACRE

The State of Acre in Brazil is developing a REDD+ program under the System of Incentives for Environmental Services (SISA) that was established by State Law in October 2010<sup>2</sup>. REDD+ SES is being used to assess the social and environmental quality of the design phase and the early implementation of the SISA.

## Governance

### *Standards Committee*

A State Commission for Validation and Monitoring of the SISA composed of four representatives from the State government and four representatives from civil society oversees the interpretation and application of the REDD+ SES in Acre state. The civil society members WWF Acre, GTA, ASSIMANEJO and CUT were elected on 18 October 2011 from the State Councils for Forests, Rural Development and Environment which together provide a joint government and civil society forum for review and approval of all State policies and laws.

### *Facilitation team*

The use of the REDD+ SES in Acre is being facilitated by the Institute of Climate Change and Environmental Services Regulation of the State of Acre and CARE Brasil.

## Interpretation of indicators

A small working group composed of the facilitation team and a local environmental expert developed a draft version of indicators for Acre which were posted and distributed to stakeholders for comment from 27 July to 27 September 2011. A workshop was held with small farmers and rubber tappers 17–19 August to discuss the indicators. A workshop with Indigenous Peoples 21–23 September provided an opportunity for capacity building and consultations on the indicators. A revised version of indicators responding to the comments received will be presented to the Commission for review and approval.

## Assessment

A monitoring plan is being developed and information is being collected in preparation for the compilation of an assessment of the performance of the SISA against the indicators, once they are finalized and approved.

## Benefits of using REDD+ SES in Acre

- Demonstrates and communicates the impacts and results of the SISA program
- Provides an instrument to monitor conformance with the safeguards developed by civil society in Brazil<sup>3</sup> and the principles of the SISA law
- Provides an instrument for the Commission to monitor and validate the SISA
- Helps to prioritize and identify key issues to address in regulations
- Interpretation of indicators creates an opportunity for capacity building of stakeholders
- The report can be used for a) conflict resolution (via an ombudsman), b) oversight by the Councils, c) quality assurance at international level, d) checking the quality of program within Brazil in collaboration with the safeguards monitoring platform Observatório do REDD<sup>4</sup>

## Challenges

- REDD+ SES needs to be institutionalized to ensure continuity
- The number of indicators creates a high cost and effort for monitoring
- Need to balance how much detail is needed to be effective



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<sup>2</sup> [www.ac.gov.br](http://www.ac.gov.br)

<sup>3</sup> [www.reddsocioambiental.org.br](http://www.reddsocioambiental.org.br)

<sup>4</sup> [www.observatoriodoredd.org.br](http://www.observatoriodoredd.org.br)



# PROGRESS USING REDD+ SES IN NEPAL

Nepal is developing a National REDD Strategy and is receiving support for the implementation of a Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) via the World Bank. Use of REDD+ SES was included in component 4b 'Other Benefits and Impacts' of the RPP. REDD+ SES is being used to assess the social and environmental performance of the design phase of the National REDD Strategy.

## Governance

### *Standards Committee*

The REDD Working Group is the Standards Committee in Nepal and is composed of nine government representatives, one donor representative and two civil society representatives (FECOFUN and NEFIN). The REDD Working Group met on 4 August 2011 to review a plan for interpretation and application of REDD+ SES and also 19 September 2011 to decide on the process for public consultations on the draft indicators.

### *Facilitation Team*

The use of the REDD+ SES in Nepal is being facilitated by the REDD Cell of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and FECOFUN.

## Interpretation of indicators

A technical working group composed of representatives from key stakeholder groups (REDD Cell, Department of Forests, FECOFUN, NEFIN, HIMWANTI, NIWE, DNF) developed draft indicators for Nepal at a workshop 12-14 September 2011. The indicators were published and comments were invited from the public 1 October-30 November 2011 through announcement in national newspapers and email dissemination. Consultation workshops are planned with Indigenous Peoples. A workshop was organized by NEFIN to seek comments from Indigenous Peoples on the draft indicators on 7 November 2011 and further workshops are planned with Dalits, women and at regional level.

## Assessment

Assessment is planned in 2012.

## Benefits of using REDD+ SES in Nepal

- REDD+ SES is integrated in Nepal's Readiness Preparation Proposal
- Helps to provide a forum for discussion and build consensus on safeguards across an ethnically diverse country
- Helps to develop a monitoring framework for preparation of a national safeguards assessment report

## Challenges

- Points of integration with the FCPF Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) process have been identified but using two safeguards mechanisms creates challenges of coordination and slows down the process
- Implementation requires significant financial resources and technical support
- There are high expectations of stakeholders and it is difficult to fulfill all the demands and interest

To learn more about the REDD+ SES initiative go to [www.REDD-standards.org](http://www.REDD-standards.org) or contact the international secretariat:

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