

Intervention for the Results-Based Finance Workshop
CAN / REDD-SWG
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Thank you chairs. We welcome the space to discuss Non-Carbon Benefits with you, which are essential to REDD+'s success and long-term sustainability.

My name is Allie Silverman and on behalf of Climate Action Network, we would first like to comment on the relationship between safeguards and Non-Carbon Benefits. We do NOT see these as two competing tracks between which you have to choose. Safeguards are not only necessary and required for REDD+, but also demonstrating that safeguards are met and respected is the only way to access results for payments.

When it comes to Non-Carbon Benefits, we believe that successful monitoring of REDD+ should encompass more than just measuring carbon. National forest monitoring systems should support holistic monitoring that can provide information on implementation of safeguards, additional benefits from REDD+, drivers of deforestation, as well as emissions. Noting the discussions that have taken place today, Parties need to leave adequate space for non-carbon elements to be incorporated into monitoring systems.

Now, I would like to briefly share three concrete recommendations on NCBs on behalf of the members of the Redd-Safeguards Working Group. The recommendations are more fully discussed in our briefing.

Our starting point is that Non-Carbon Benefits are crucial to achieving the permanent carbon benefits; thus, they are crucial to the long-term success of REDD+. Focusing on NCBs is not about diluting the aims of REDD+ or turning REDD+ into traditional official development assistance. Moreover, while the focus on REDD+ within the UNFCCC is still on climate change mitigation, we recognize that this mechanism also has a crucial adaptation component. In order to achieve long-lasting mitigation and adaptation effects, we know that REDD+ has to deliver a range of benefits. Non-Carbon Benefits are therefore not results that can be separated from the carbon results of REDD+, but rather important results to formally incentivize in order to achieve sustainable and permanent emission reductions. This is "good news," and there is more on the horizon!

1) Our first recommendation is to establish specific international criteria that will be used as basic guidance for defining non-carbon benefits at the national level. Coming up with criteria rather than an international definition is important in recognizing that each country has its own priorities and conditions, which will impact how NCBs are defined and which are specifically relevant.

International criteria will, however, be needed in order to ensure that nationally defined NCBs are related to what will be needed to achieve permanent emission reductions. Thus, elevating the link between SG and NCBs between now and COP 19 is very important.

2) The second recommendation is to make sure that NCBs are incentivized throughout all phases of REDD+. It is important to note some of the Parties' concerns yesterday related to incentives and funding for phases I and II. While this workshop is focused on results-based finance, NCBs can and should be incentivized throughout ALL phases of REDD+; and these incentives structures may change throughout the three different phases. Ex-ante financing of NCBs will be important to create the appropriate enabling conditions necessary to achieve real, long-lasting emission reductions.

Incentives may however also be non-monetary. In relation to the results-based phase of REDD+, one promising idea for incentivizing NCBs would be to use NCBs as a basis for assessing risk and prioritizing funding because greater NCBs will increase the longevity and reduce the risk of reversals of emission reductions.

3) Our third recommendation deals with monitoring. We believe that NCBs need to be monitored to determine whether they are actually achieved through REDD+ finance. The good news is that countries can use existing structures to monitor NCBs, so it should not be a huge burden. For example, countries are already developing safeguard information systems and national forest monitoring systems, which will likely generate most of the information needed to achieve NCBs.

IMPORTANTLY and NECESSARILY, in compliance with the obligatory safeguards outlined in the Cancun Agreement, Parties need to recognize local communities' and indigenous peoples' roles in NCBs. In fact, their full and effective participation must be ensured throughout. Parties are required to fully respect human rights, including those of indigenous peoples. More good news: Community-based monitoring has already proven to be successful.

In conclusion, access to results based payments should be tied to promoting these non-carbon benefits, in addition to the safeguards. The financing mechanism should support and sustain the enhancement of NCBs that are essential to achieving integrated sustainable development.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express these thoughts on the importance of defining, incentivizing and monitoring the tangible benefits that move REDD+ beyond carbon.