

OPERATIONALIZING REDD+ SAFEGUARDS: Options for Vietnam

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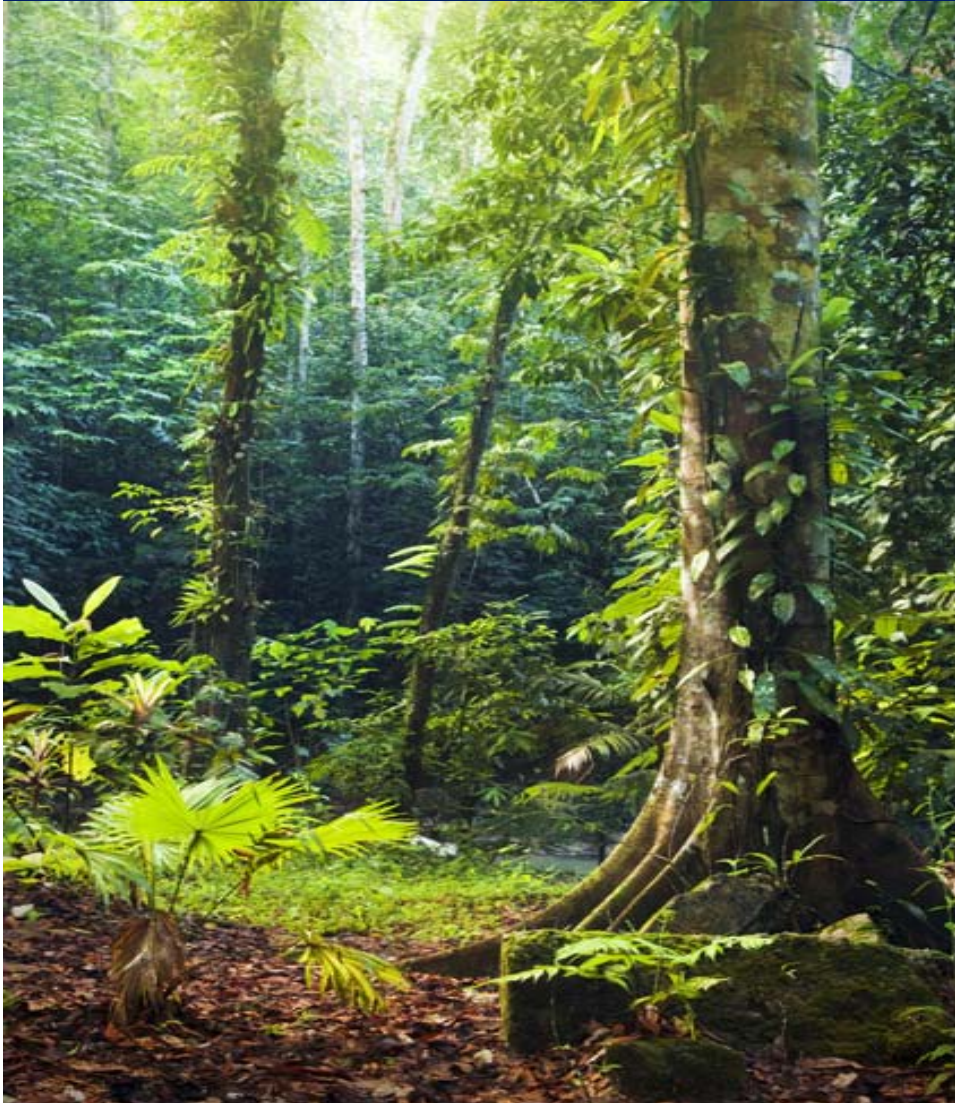


1. Cancun safeguards - 1-/CP.16

- 1. Actions complement/ consistent with objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions**
- 2. Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation/sovereignty**
- 3. Respect knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities (IPLCs)**
- 4. Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities**
- 5. Conservation of natural forests and biological diversity (no conversion of natural forests; incentivize protection)**
- 6. Address the risks of reversals**
- 7. Reduce displacement of emissions**



2. Vietnam's commitments under UNFCCC



UNFCCC CoP 16, 2010, Decision 1-
/CP.16

- Safeguards should be promoted and supported (Para. 69)
- Develop a system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected (Para. 71d)
- Address the safeguards when developing and implementing national strategies or action plans (Para. 72)

3. Options for Vietnam on the safeguards

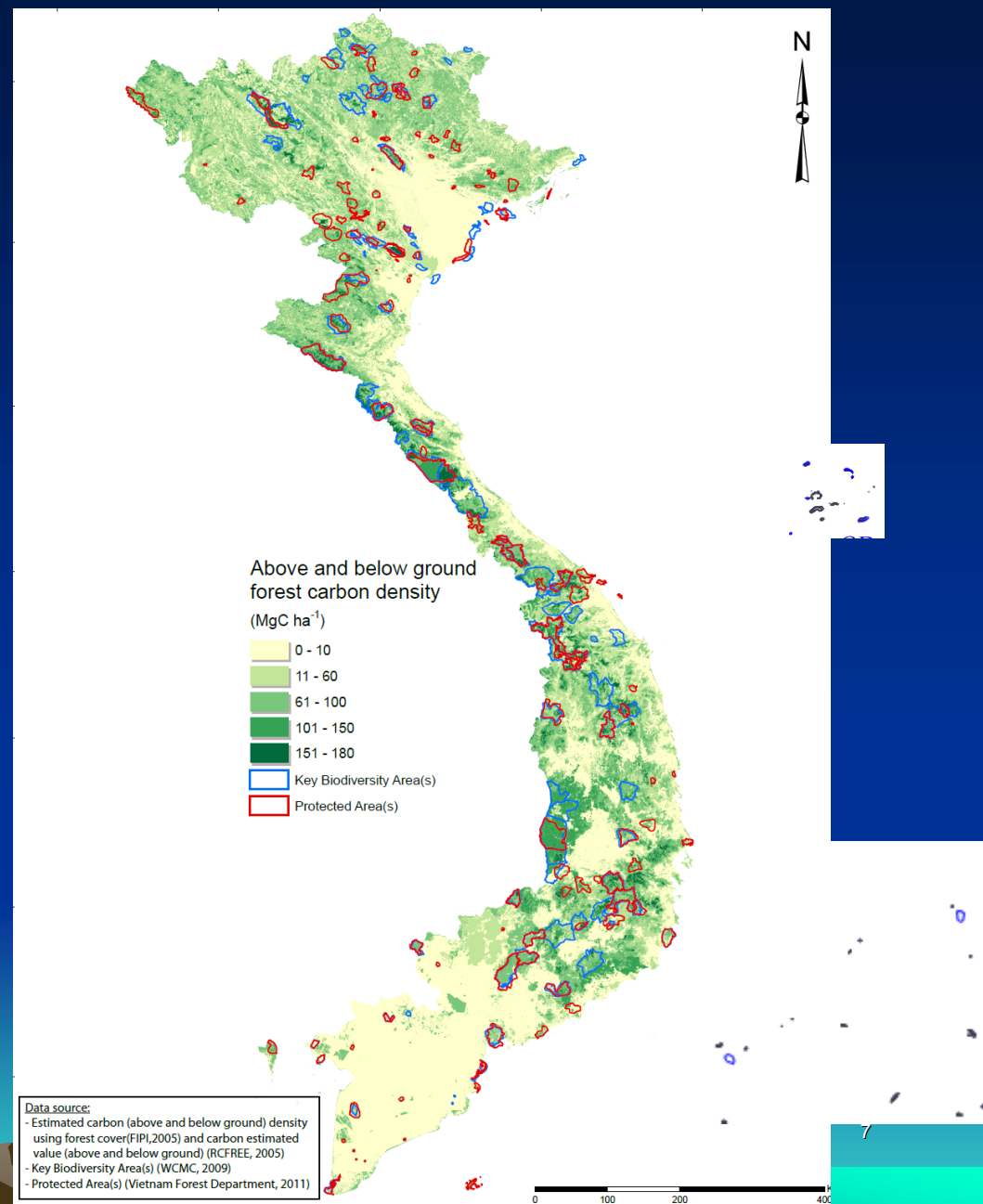


1. Strengthening existing policy and improve policy coherence
 - mainstreaming REDD+ and co-benefits into cross-sectoral national policy reform
2. Integrated spatial and socio-economic planning
 - mainstreaming REDD+ and co-benefits into sub-national planning processes
3. Regulatory instruments
 - particularly adoption/adaption programatic standards (e.g. UN-REDD P&Cs; FCPF SESA; REDD+ SES)
4. Economic instruments – reducing costs of co-benefit delivery

3.1 Strengthening existing policy and improve policy coherence

- Ensuring REDD+ programme coherent with existing national & international policy commitments
- e.g. existing CBD and UNCCD commitments:
 - 2nd generation National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans to meet 2020 targets
 - National gap analyses protected areas systems, identifying priority sites (MoNRE-VEA-BCA has plans for 2011)
 - National ecosystem assessments (*cf.* MEA, 2005) highlighting state of different ecosystem services and where conservation priorities are
 - National action program on combating desertification for 2006-2020
 - National policies related to local communities empowerment and poverty reduction
- Planning at an early stage for positive co-benefit outcomes
 - priority setting analysis - identify areas of high biodiversity/poverty
- e.g. high-biodiversity REDD+ mapping:
 - With technical assistance from SNV and UNEP-WCMC...

Draft high-biodiversity REDD+ map for Vietnam



3.2 Integrated spatial and socio-economic planning

- **REDD+ in Vietnam needs to integrate into sub-national planning:**
 - Land use
 - Forest protection & development
 - Socio-economic development
- **LULUCF emissions need to be integrated into improved local planning processes**
- **Co-benefit considerations could be integrated with REDD+ into local planning processes**
- **Conceptually, no different to previous attempts to integrate social & environmental performance into productive landscapes**
- **This is the same as the ecosystem approach of the CBD...**

3.3 Regulatory instruments: REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards

- Programmatic Standards: the 'Big Three'
 - UN-REDD Principles & Criteria (P&C)
 - FCPF Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)
 - CCBA-CARE REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards (SES)
- Project-/Forest Management Unit-level mechanisms
 - Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS)
 - Carbon Fix Standard
 - Plan Vivo Standard
 - Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification
 - Principles, criteria & indicators
 - High Conservation Value Forests (Vietnam has national toolkit)
 - Wildlife Standard (in prep.)



3.4 *Economic instruments*

- Who covers the costs of safeguard compliance?
- Who covers the costs of co-benefit performance?
- Supply country options – reducing the costs:
 - Differential taxes (tax breaks for REDD+ co-benefits)
 - Risk mitigation discounts (downward adjustment for co-benefits)
 - National government co-financing (public spending on co-benefits)
 - Hybrid options (with demand-side countries - shared commitment)
- Demand countries options – incentivising quality :
 - International levy on REDD+ transactions (*cf.* CDM adaptation fund)
 - Price premiums for high-biodiversity REDD+ credits (*cf.* FSC)
 - REDD+ import reserves (minimum % of ‘high-biodiversity’ credits)
 - Buyer country co-financing (as a % of REDD+ transaction)



3.4 Economic instruments (con't)

Participatory processes & measures

- **Full and effective participation of stakeholders, with particular attention to indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs):**
 - Participatory processes of national REDD+ programme development (e.g. trial FPIC under UN-REDD)
 - Participatory practices implementing sub-national REDD+ measures
- **e.g. Participatory Forest Monitoring (PFM):**
 - Building on Vietnam's experiences with 327, 661, 380, 99...
 - Socialization of forest protection functions
 - State forest owners working with IPLCs and forest protection rangers
 - REDD+ applications - SIS, MRV, BDS, PaMs (adaptive management)
 - NFI applications...?



4. Challenges of operationalizing safeguards for Vietnam?

- **What are Vietnam's aspirations towards safeguards:**
 - minimum compliance – 'do no harm'?
 - demonstrate co-benefit performance – 'do more good'?
- **Which mechanisms are appropriate for the Vietnam context?**
 - how to integrate REDD+ and co-benefits into policy and planning?
 - what is the right balance of regulatory vs economic intervention?
- **Should Vietnam adopt/adapt programmatic standards?**
 - off-the-shelf or bespoke?
- **What degree of monitoring should be attempted?**
 - process-based reporting of systems put in place?
 - impact monitoring demonstrating co-benefit performance?

5. How to maximize co-benefits? – beyond minimum compliance

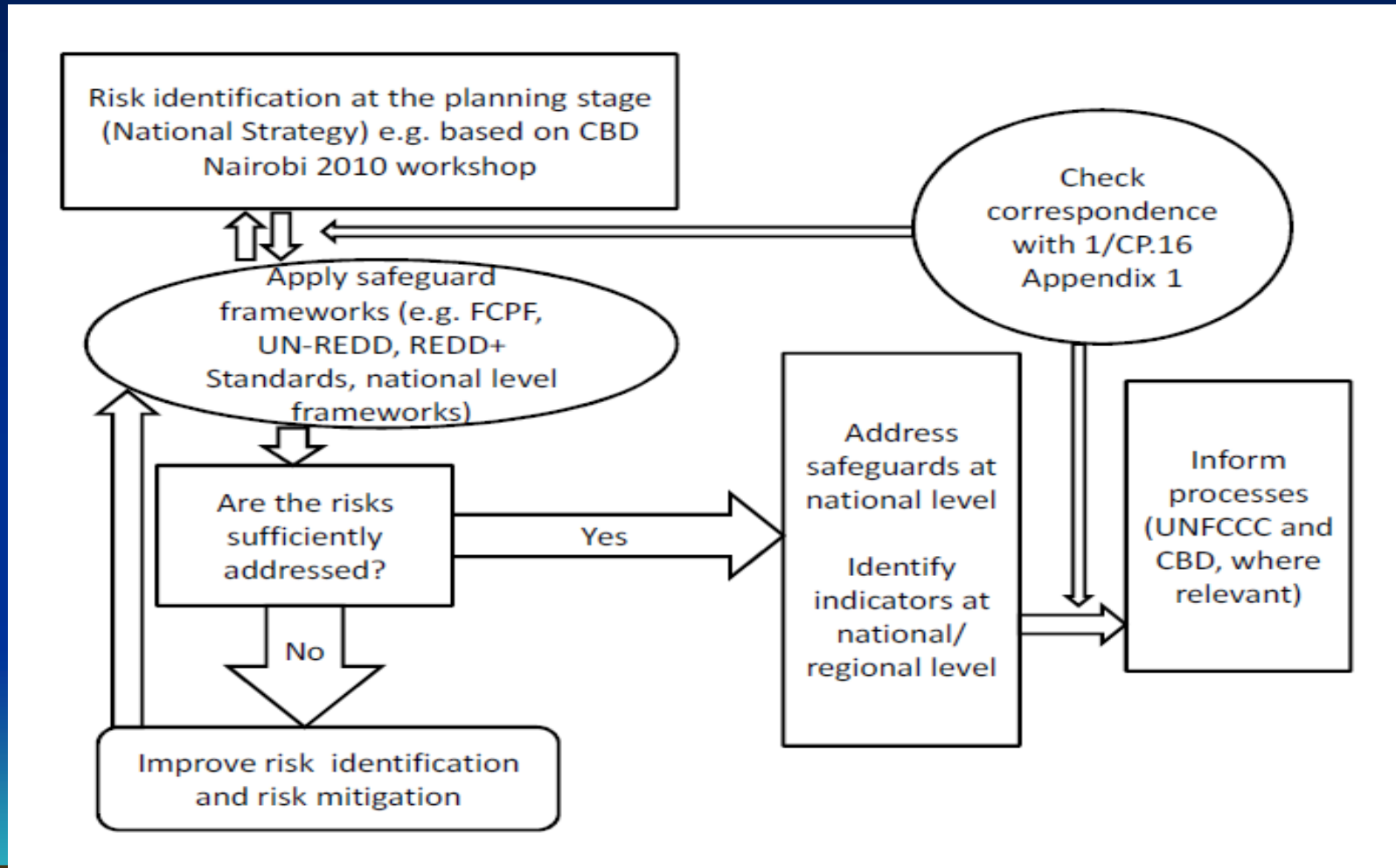
- Mainstream co-benefits management into cross-sector policy, planning
- Cost-effective approaches to simple monitoring co-benefits and safeguards,
- REDD+ Partnership countries to update and contribute to REDD+ Database
- Provide generic categories for non-carbon impacts that left to country-specific definition
- Provide guidance on operationalizing safeguards and managing co-benefits
- Strengthen existing structures/mechanisms for maximizing co-benefits involving multi-stakeholder approaches
- Encourage on-going efforts on harmonization of co-benefit management and safeguard standards
- Support dialogue with industries driving deforestation in order to stimulate compliance with safeguards



6. Recommendations

- It is important that countries address safeguards as early as possible when undertaking REDD+ readiness activities
- There is a need to further enhance capacity integrate safeguards into the planning and implementation of REDD+
- Countries will need to take into account international obligations and build on existing policies and legislation
- Intersectoral co-ordination between/within Ministries is of utmost importance to ensure effective application of safeguards
- Clarifying tenure issues remains an urgent challenge for many aspects of REDD+ including for applying safeguards
- Effective land zoning and land use planning would facilitate and ensure that risks to biodiversity and IPLCs are addressed

6. Recommendations (con't)



Technical assistance:



and partners



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Thank you for your attention!

