

Non-carbon benefits (NCB), safeguards & REDD+: Some issues and questions

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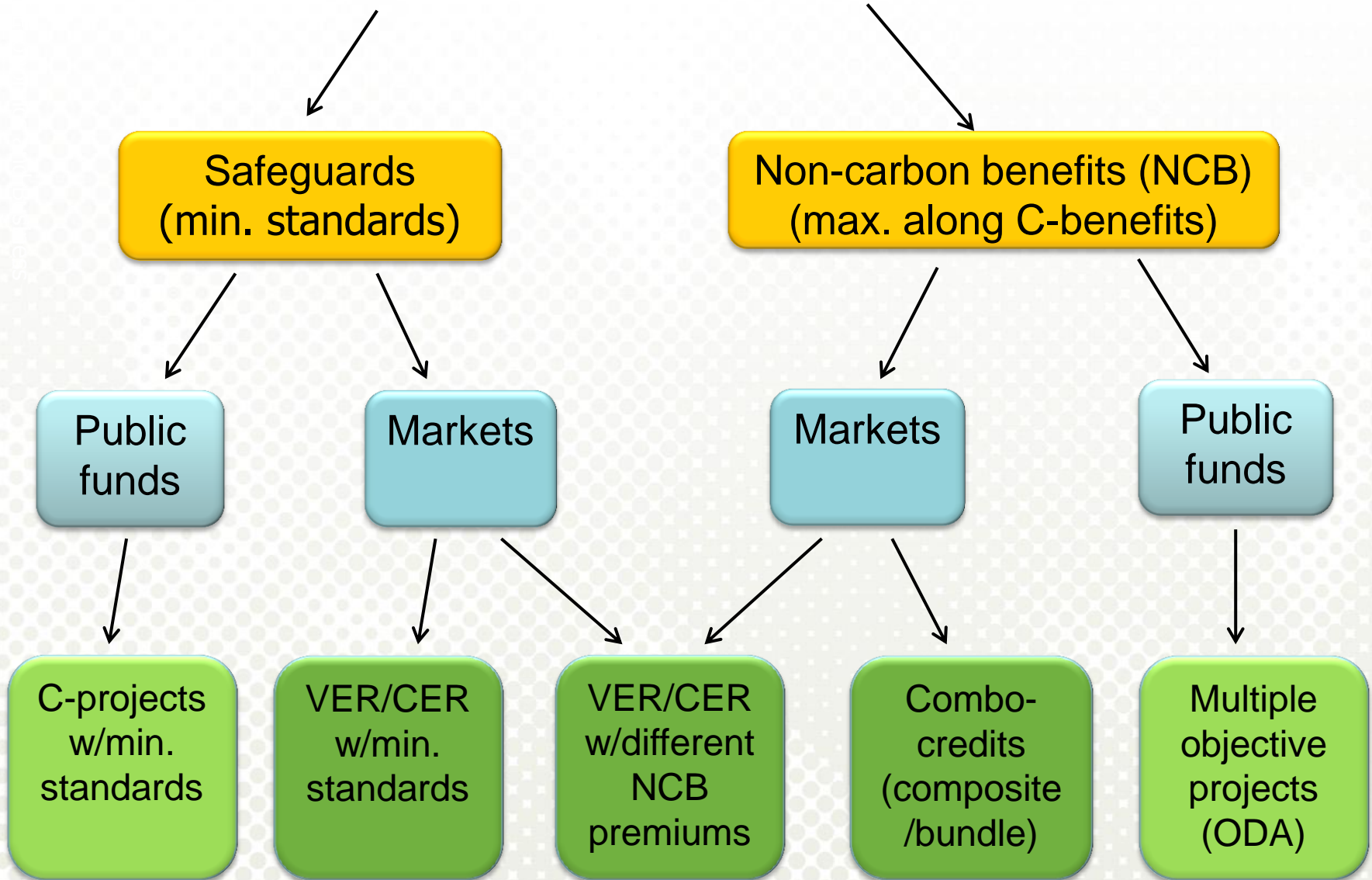
Safeguards *vs.* NCB

- Express the same concerns:
 - Socioeconomic, e.g. poverty, livelihoods
 - Environment, e.g. biodiversity
 - Governance & rights, e.g. transparency, land tenure
- **Safeguards:**
 - Defining minimum standards that should be met to be acceptable (e.g. for REDD+ credits)
 - Some: also active promotion of these
- **Non-carbon benefits:**
 - An active promotion of these beyond min. standards
- In mathematical terms:
 - Max C, s.t. constraints, *vs.*
 - Multi-objective maximization

The 7 safeguards in the Cancun agreement

Safe-guard	Govern. & rights	Env. & biodiv.	Social & poverty	C-effect. (direct)	Others
1.Consistency NFP & int.agreem.					X
2.Governance, nat.leg. & sov.	X				
3.Indigenous rights	X				
4.Stakeholder participation	X				
5.Env., biodiv. & social benefits		X	X		
6.Reversals (permanence)				X	
7.Displacement (leakage)				X	

Socioeconomic, environmental and governance/rights concerns

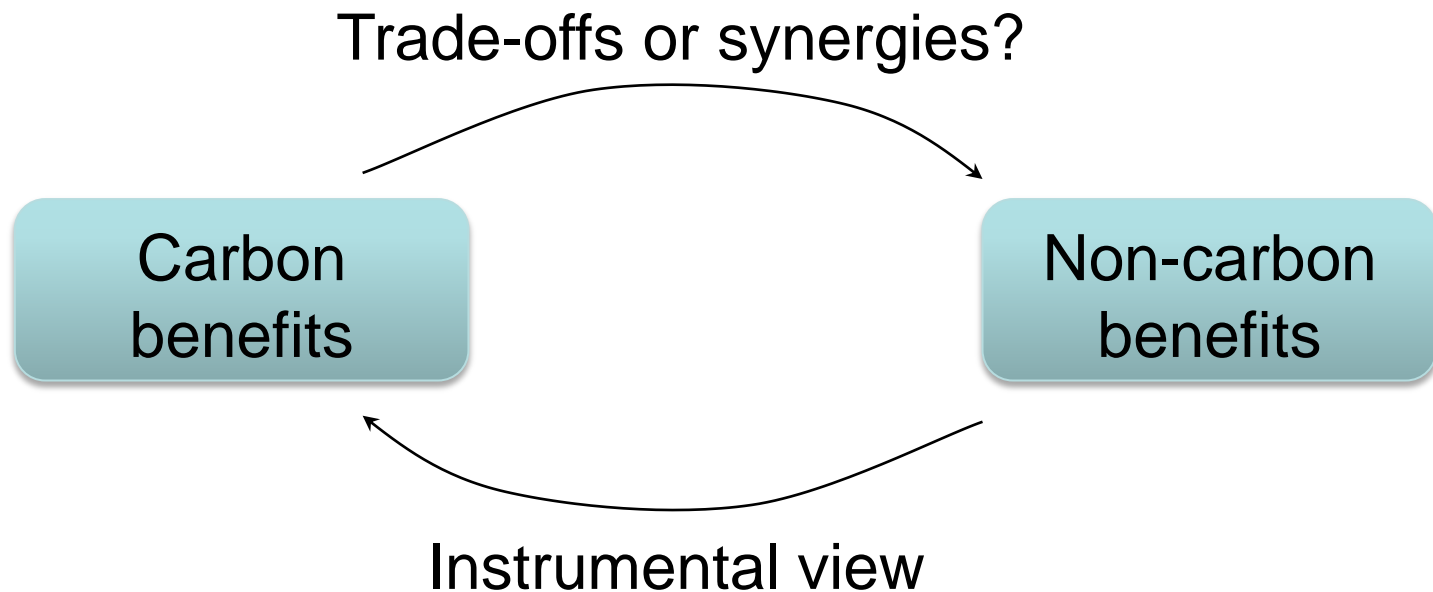


Which option?

- The safeguard is the simpler path:
 - agreeing on methods, MRV systems & transaction costs
- A combo-credit will be a new creation:
 - Measurements of NCB
 - Same unit: weighting C, biodiv., poverty & ind.rights
 - Buyers?
- VER/CER (or XER) with different NCB premiums:
 - Possible in both NCB and safeguards path
 - Already in voluntary markets
- 3 key questions to address before deciding on which route to take

Question 1: Are there trade-offs between C and NCB?

- If yes, then we need promotion of NCB or safeguards
- Promotion of many NCBs key to C-benefits
 - The instrumental view of NCB



Question 1: Trade-offs? (cont...)

- **Biodiversity:**

- For the DD part of REDD+: No trade-off, very compatible!
- For the '+' part: max C gives limited benefits (+/?/-)
- High biodiversity -> more carbon stored?

- **Governance & rights:**

- Good REDD+ institutions promote transparency & accountability
- Key for REDD+ project/policy (carbon) effectiveness

- **Socioeconomic benefits:**

- Depends on design
 - PES: who are compensated?
 - PAM/addressing drivers
- Key for long term sustainability and political support

Question 2: Can we measure NCB (outcomes/impacts)?

- Extremely difficult
- Impact assessment is very hard:
 - Attribution problem
 - Defining the counterfactual (BAU-baseline or reference level)
- A big difference between MRV-ing and measuring impact of REDD+
 - The difference is the reference level!
- The aid experience:
 - Evaluations are not impact assessments
 - Measuring inputs & activities rather than outcomes & impacts (phase 1 & partly 2 of REDD+)

Question 3: How comprehensive should the REDD+ mechanisms be?

- The Tinbergen rule: one instrument per objective
- The risk of overloading
 - High transaction costs
 - Poor communities/countries lose out
 - Less overall funding
 - Less C effectiveness?
- Examples:
 - ICDP, IRDP
 - The Comprehensive Development Framework (WB)
 - A/F CDM?
 - Aid in general: overloaded with good intentions

Summary

- The trend of broadening REDD+, driven by what?
- Some NCBs compatible with REDD+
 - Ecological services & biodiversity
- Other NCBs important for emission reductions:
 - Governance & rights
 - Development benefits
- Measuring NCB outcomes & impacts of specific interventions:
 - Is it feasible?
- The costs of overloading
- Very challenging in itself to achieve real emission reductions in REDD+, and major issues to resolve, e.g. reference (emission) levels

“Do things as simple as possible,
but not simpler”

(Albert Einstein)

“Seek complexity, and simplify”

(Clifford Geertz, anthropologist)