

NATIONAL LEVEL SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR REDD+

Parameters and methodological considerations

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Why the concern about social issues?

- REDD+ focuses on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation “plus” (C & GHG)
 - REDD+ potentially will have profound impacts on use of land and resources in developing countries, thus affecting millions of people
 - It is vital to ensure that REDD+ “does no harm” and “does good” for these people, i.e., minimizes negative social impacts and maximizes positive social impacts
- potential for contributions towards broader social transformation & development

Social dimensions of REDD+

- **Social safeguard policies and processes**
- **Social (performance) standards**
- **Safeguard information systems (MRV of social dimensions and impacts)**
- **Stakeholder engagement**
- **Social impact assessment (SIA) of REDD+ projects and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of REDD+ programs**

Role of SIA and SESA in REDD+

- **With respect to REDD+, social (impact) assessment and strategic social assessment are:**
 - **Vital for ensuring that safeguards and/or standards are being met, or identifying shortfalls needing to be addressed**
 - **Tools or approaches for working towards larger social and related development objectives**
 - **Means for management, accountability, evaluation, and transparency**

Project level vs. national/program level

- Project level SIA – *ex ante* to improve project design and set up baseline data; *ex post* to assess actual impacts (sometimes years later)
- Program, sector, or national level – broader, more strategic, focusing on assessing policies, enabling conditions, i.e., *Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESAs)* to assess safeguard compliance, risks, lay groundwork for risk management frameworks

Challenges of broader assessments

- **Who are the stakeholders? How to do meaningful and representative consultations?**
- **Given the complexity of policy and other factors, how to identify impacts of broader programs (attribution challenges)?**
- **Given site-specificity, what methods and tools are most useful?**
- **How do we make tradeoffs among time, resources, participation and capacities in undertaking assessments?**

Assessment Guidance Framework

Purpose	Target	Audience(s)	Cost	Human resources/ Complexity	Scale	Scope	Methodological considerations

Purpose

**Risk and
feasibility**

**Assess and
design**

**Evaluate
process**

**Evaluate
impact**

**Monitor
impact**

**Contribute to
science**

Target

All REDD+
stakeholders

Enabling
environment:
Institutions,
governance,
economics

Social
category
(e.g.,
indigenous
people)

Specific
impact (e.g.,
land tenure)

Specific
role
(e.g.,
private
sector)

Audience(s)

Donor(s)	Govern-ment	Research community	Local stake-holders	International convention	NGO/ civil society	Initiative (e.g., RRI)
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Cost

**High cost
over long
term**

**High cost
start up;
moderate
cost over
time**

**Moderate
cost**

Low cost

Human resources/ complexity

Need for comparative international guidance

Need for comparative international input

Need for high level national expertise

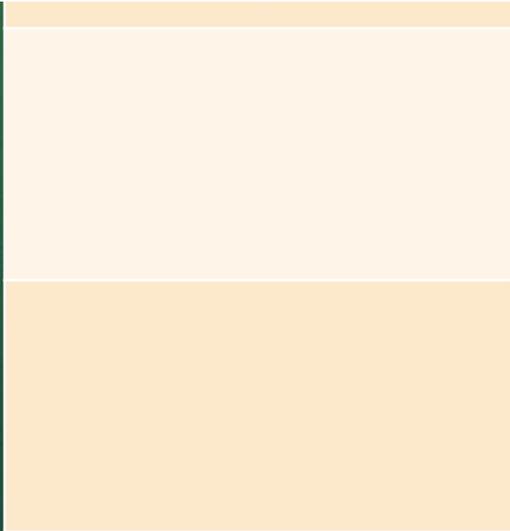
Need for high level national input

Local experts

Communities/
Local actors

Scale

Transboundary	National	Sub-national	Landscape	Selected areas	Site	“Terroir” indigenous ethnic area
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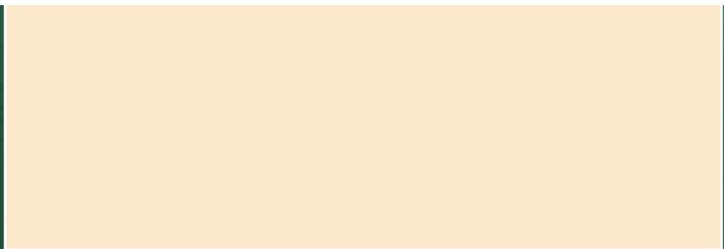


Scope

Whole system (e.g., SLF+)	Enabling environment	Poverty reduction	Social, cultural and territorial rights dimensions	Livelihoods broadly defined	Livelihoods narrowly defined	Negative benefits
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Methodological considerations

Discipline and experience of PI/team	Conformance with standard	Attribution	Sensitivity to conflict and differential vulnerability	Logistics	Institutionalization	Leverage for social change
Philosophy (e.g., rights based)						



Match methods to parameters in AGM

- Participatory/reflective
- Participatory/adaptive management
- Process/qualitative
- Case study/comparative
- Impact/quantitative/indicators
- Impact/fine-grained/ethnographic
- GIS/map based
- Multi-sectoral

Consider REDD+ elements

- Drivers of deforestation hypothesis testing
- Stakeholder mapping, participation, capacity
- International reporting protocol/standards
- Safeguards monitoring
- Standards verification and monitoring
- Independent watchdog monitoring
- Integration/harmonization with MRV?

Take a systems approach

- Envision “whole system” before narrowing
- Map social-biophysical impact pathways (causal model)
- Factor in “externalities”
- Test and retest assumptions

Be responsive and responsible

- Identify most vulnerable
- Plan jointly and “return results”
- Integrate “grassroots indicators”
- Build local capacity

Consider data quality

- **Assess quality of stakeholder mapping**
- **Beware of GIGO (e.g., base data in GIS)**
- **Match methodology to question**
 - **Sensitive information**
 - **Information that needs geo-referencing**

Integrate into adaptive management system

- Disseminate via local communication outlets
- Use research systems (e.g., ASB) linked to extension and policy networks
- Monitor adaptive capacity!