Ministry of Climate Change
Government of Pakistan

REDD+
Pakistan

FRAMEWORK FOR DESIGN OF A SAFEGUARD INFORMATION SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN

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DESIGN OF A SAFEGUARD INFORMATION
SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN

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ABBREVIATIONS

AJK	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
COP	Conference of the Party
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FATA	Federally Administration Administered Tribal Areas
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
GCF	Global Climate Fund
IGF	Inspector General of Forests
IPP	Indigenous People Plan
IPPF	Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework
IPs	Implementing Partners
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MDP	Ministry for Planning and Development
MoCC	Ministry of Climate Change
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRO	National REDD+ Office
NRS	National REDD+ Strategy
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSS	National SIS Specialist
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
P&D	Planning and Development
PAMs	Policies and Measures
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PFI	Pakistan Forest Institute
PLRs	Policies, Laws and Regulations
PRAP	Provincial REDD+ Action Plan
PRMC	Provincial REDD+ Management Committee

PRMU	Provincial REDD+ Management Unit
QC	Quality Control
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Fforest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
R-PP	Readiness Prepaeration Proposal
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessement
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SOI	Summary of Information
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
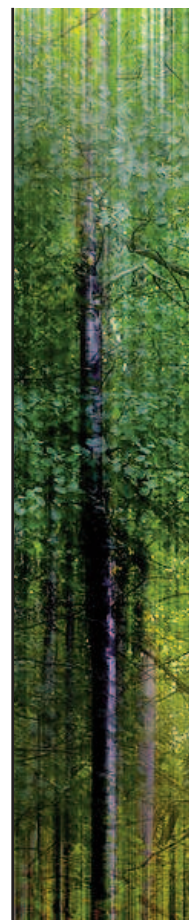
1 | INTRODUCTION

The development of a safeguard information system (SIS) is one of the three safeguard-related requirements[1] outlined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is linked to the delivery of results-based payments[2]. The SIS is generally understood to be a domestic institutional arrangement for providing information as to how the country specific safeguards[3] are being addressed and respected in the context of the implementation of the its proposed REDD+ actions (referred to as Policies and Measures or PAMs). According to UNFCCC guidance, the SIS should:[4]

- Provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis;
- Be transparent and flexible to allow for improvements over time;
- Provide information on how all of the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are being addressed and respected;
- Be country-driven and implemented at the national level; and
- Build upon existing systems, as appropriate.

One of the key messages to draw from this guidance is that, although countries are expected to build upon existing systems and sources to develop their SIS, this may not be appropriate or feasible in all countries. In addition, its scope of coverage should be national, and its development is expected to be iterative, progressively being improved over time. The development of the SIS, therefore, involves a process of examination, assessment and tailoring of existing information systems and sources to meet the various safeguard reporting needs of the country.

1.1   Objectives and Structure of this Document

It must be remembered that the SIS is a domestic institutional arrangement to demonstrate how safeguards are being addressed and respected and will not on its own be able to ensure that REDD+ PAMs are implemented in a manner that is consistent with the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards (hereafter referred to as the Cancun safeguards).

The **objective of this document is to outline the design element of Pakistan' SIS.** This document provides recommendations concerning the objective, functions and institutional arrangements for the SIS, along with the identification of SIS information needs and relevant sources of information.

Recommendations and considerations draw on the analysis of existing and relevant information systems and sources and on the inputs gathered through consultations with relevant stakeholders. It must be reiterated that the development of the SIS is an iterative process and initial arrangements can be supplemented as the information needs and assessment of information systems and sources are refined.

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1. The other two being: 1) ensuring consistency of the REDD+ interventions with the Cancun safeguards throughout the implementation of REDD+, and 2) the provision of a summary of information demonstrating how the safeguards have been addressed and respected to the UNFCCC.
2. Decision 2/CP. 17, paragraph 64.
3. The country-specifc safeguards is what will be produced as the outcome of the process of clarifying the Cancun safeguards in accordance with the national context.
4. UNFCCC Decision 12/CP.17 paragraph 2.
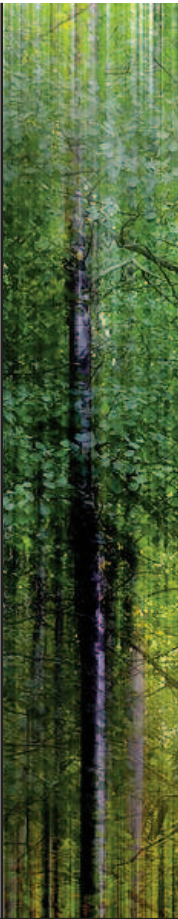
2 | DESIGN ELEMENTS OF THE SIS IN PAKISTAN

The SIS is generally understood to be a domestic institutional arrangement responsible for providing information as to how the Cancun (or country specific safeguards) are being addressed and respected in the context of the implementation of the proposed REDD+ actions.

The SIS is expected to be designed and developed according to each country's national circumstances, and be built upon existing national information systems and sources. The SIS does not necessarily require establishing novel and tailored information systems, but rather deciding how to utilise existing information systems and sources. The main new aspect that may need to be put in place, is an institutional arrangement that is to be responsible for collecting, aggregating and providing the relevant information and presenting it to meet the different reporting needs of the relevant national and international stakeholders.

It is important to note that at the moment many countries (including Pakistan), are still in the early stages of designing their national REDD+ strategies (through which REDD+ actions should be defined), which means that there is currently a lack of clarity regarding the specific REDD+ actions due to be implemented. Therefore, the design and construction of the SIS is likely to be an iterative process that evolves as greater clarity is reached regarding the specific REDD+ actions planned in each country.

Five main design aspects are emerging from countries' initial experiences in defining their SIS design framework. Pakistan's SIS design elements provided in this section are categorised in relation to these five main design aspects:
1). Objectives of the SIS
2). Safeguard information needs for the SIS
3). Sources of information for the SIS
4). Functions of the SIS
5). Institutional arrangements for the SIS

2.1 Objectives of the SIS

The objective of a SIS, from a UNFCCC requirement perspective, is to provide information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders to demonstrate that the seven Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout REDD+ implementation. Reliable safeguards information is important not only for achieving REDD+ in a sustainable manner, but can serve possible broader sustainable development, and other national policy, goals (as well as other international reporting obligations). We also note that for countries who have embarked in multiple reporting commitments associated with the safeguards (e.g. bilateral commitments, through FCPF Carbon Fund) an SIS that is able to provide information to all of them, is likely a very cost effective approach.

Adopted Objectives for the SIS in Pakistan

Pakistan considers that the design of a SIS is an iterative undertaking. Over time, Pakistan may wish to consider additional objectives for their SIS. Commitment for allowing expansions over time will be reflected in the SIS ToR.

The adopted objectives are:

a)   Reporting to Domestic Stakeholders

Proposed SIS is expected to provide information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders to demonstrate that the seven Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout REDD+ implementation.

b)   Reporting to the UNFCCC

Pakistan intends to utilise the information gathered and managed by the SIS as the basis for the preparation of their summary of information to the UNFCCC.

c)   Reporting to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

Information managed by the SIS would also be used to report to the FCPF with regards to the implementation of Pakistan's safeguards plans and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

d)   Multiple Domestic Purposes

In addition, the system is expected to serve to:

- Build domestic support for REDD+. By making SIS a part of the curriculum, foresters will get to know SIS as much as the entire forestry discipline.
- Contribute to a range of domestic objectives, such as law enforcement, policy development and governance. The collection of updated information will help to facilitate the decisions and policies.
- Provide a transparent and accessible space for all levels of forest department officials for giving their valuable inputs.
- Facilitate conceptual and philosophical discussions to improve understanding and definition of new concepts, such as indigenous and tribal populations and local wisdom/indigenous knowledge as well as eradication of confusing, contradictory and non-scientific approaches.
- Contribute to a transparent coordination between provincial and national REDD+ offices.

2.2 Safeguard Information Needs of the SIS

The key SIS design consideration that countries have identified is determining 'what type' of information is needed to demonstrate whether the Cancun safeguards (or country specific safeguards) are being addressed and respected. This is usually referred to as the process of determining the 'information needs'.

Pakistan has undertaken a clarification of the Cancun safeguards and an identification of the SIS information needs, both prepared under this assignment.
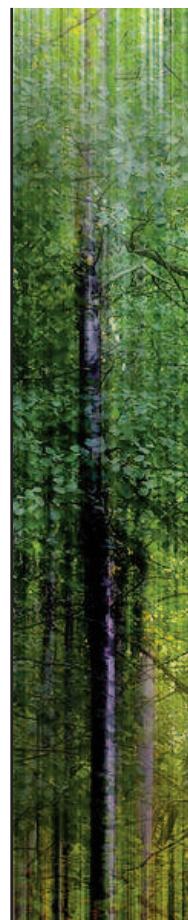
Over time and once the Provincial PAMs are developed, Pakistan may consider revising and expanding the SIS information needs to give due consideration to the need of linking the information needs to the specific provincial PAMs, which may differ from one province to another as per each REDD+ intervention plan. The advantage of doing this is that the SIS will be able to offer not only macro level national information, but also detailed information about how each province is addressing and respecting the safeguards.

The safeguard information needs of the SIS are outlined below:

Safeguard A

Pakistan's Clarification of Safeguard A

"The REDD+ Strategy is designed in compliance with the objectives of the national forest policy, and consistent with the provisions of the relevant treaties and international conventions Pakistan is party to."

Table 1: Types of Information to be Provided for Safeguard A
Qualitative
a. Description of how the implementation of the REDD+ strategy ensured consistency with the objectives of national forest programmes.
b. Description of how the implementation of the REDD+ strategy is consistent with the objectives of the various international agreements to which Pakistan is a party.

Safeguard B

Pakistan's Clarification of Safeguard B

"Transparency and effectiveness of forest governance structures, including the right of access to information, accountability, access to justice, gender equality and land use rights / benefits are recognised, promoted and regulated in the scope of the application of the National REDD+ strategy through the relevant policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) of the country and customary laws and practices."

Table 2: Types of Information to be Provided for Safeguard B

Qualitative

a. Description of information sharing/dissemination activities undertaken, including requests for access to information and how these were dealt with

b. Records of requests for information made by the public (including description of information requested)

c. Description of improvements in the legal framework and processes concerning access to information

d. Records of any REDD+ related denunciation of public officials for corruption, any corruption related investigations and/or prosecutions by the mandated agencies as well as their outcomes

e. Description of how REDD+ finance (readiness, implementation and results) has been spent

f. Description of transparency of procurement processes (outcomes)

g. Description of REDD+ related grievances received, process followed to adjudicate and outcomes

h. Measures taken for equitable sharing of benefits, gender equity and dealing with social discrepancies

i. Description/evidence of how existing land use rights have been recognised and protected during the implementation of REDD+

j. If applicable, description of any resettlement process (including procedures followed and compensation provided) for each REDD+ intervention area

Quantitative

a) Number of requests for information received and numbers dealt with (percentage rejected and granted)

b) Number of women with meaningful involvement in design/implementation of REDD+ PAMs and number of women benefited

c) Evidence of how REDD+ finance (readiness, implementation and results) has been spent (internal and external annual audits, projected budgets, audited spending reports)

d) Number of applications received against implementing authorities (number accepted, number dealt with, and number of REDD+ related grievances received, resolved, number of appeals)

e) Number of customary rights holders in the area before and after REDD+ interventions

f) Number of resettlements (if and as applicable)

g) Amount of compensation awarded (if and as applicable)
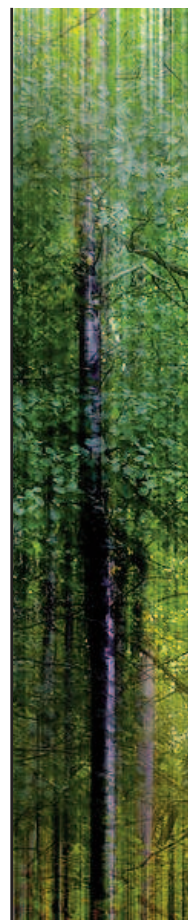
Safeguard C

Pakistan's Clarification of Safeguard C

"The recognition of, and respect for the rights of indigenous, native and tribal communities in accordance with the relevant proposed PLRs is applicable to the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy; including the rights to non-discrimination, traditional knowledge and culture, self-determination, benefit sharing, accessibility and participation, and collective tenure rights."

Table 3: Types of Information to be Provided for Safeguard C

Qualitative
a. Description of how indigenous (when applicable) and tribal populations were included in the design and implementation of the REDD+ Strategy
b. Evidence that indigenous (when applicable), tribal and vulnerable local communities were not excluded from the benefits of REDD+ or are not left worse off.
c. If applicable, description of how (if at all) traditional knowledge has been used/has contributed to REDD+ implementation
Quantitative
a) If applicable, number of sources of sacred knowledge/practices in REDD+ intervention areas (before and after implementation)

Safeguard D

Pakistan's Clarification of Safeguard D

"The right to participate, in particular for relevant native communities and vulnerable groups, is recognised, protected and promoted in a meaningful way under the National REDD+ Strategy through the relevant PLRs of the country, which include the promotion of the right to free, prior and informed consent."

Table 4: Types of Information to be Provided for Safeguard D

Qualitative
a. Description of the general categories of stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of the REDD+ Strategy (documentation and mapping of stakeholders) and how they were involved (information shared, feedback gathered, in what format was it gathered)
b. Description of the outcomes of the participation processes (for example, how the implementation changed/was influenced by considering the views of the relevant stakeholders)
c. Description of any conflicts linked to participation (or perceived exclusion from) and outcomes

d. Strategy for designing, implementing and monitoring of participation activities (culturally appropriate information produced, capacity building, specific meetings organised for vulnerable groups)

e. PLRs for protection and promotion of participation rights

f. If applicable, description of how Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes were followed in intervention areas that include indigenous peoples, on customary land

g. If applicable, description of outcomes of these processes (FPIC granted/withheld) and whether they affected the implementation of REDD+ (interventions cancelled where FPIC withheld)

Quantitative

a) Number of meetings held, number of participants (organised according to categories of participant)

b) Number of views gathered (feedback forms, interviews, votes, minutes recorded and disseminated)

c) Number of complaints lodged in relation to participation (cases accepted/rejected/resolved

d) Number of representatives/members from IPs, community forests/associations, local communities and other vulnerable groups involved in REDD+ process in each intervention area

e) If applicable, number of FPIC processes followed (FPIC granted, FPIC withheld - resulting in intervention not going ahead)
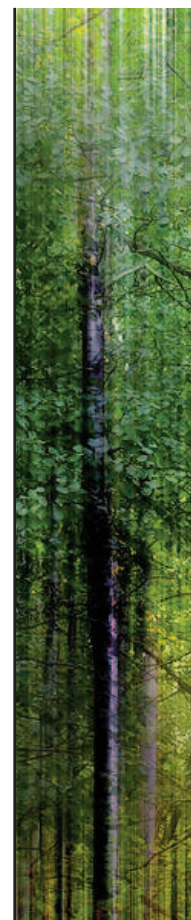
Safeguard E

Pakistan's Clarification of Safeguard E

"REDD+ activities under the National REDD+ Strategy will promote the conservation and development of natural forests and biodiversity, the enhancement of environmental, recreational, cultural and socio-economic benefits, and will not result in the conversion of natural/untouched forests, in accordance with the relevant PLRs in the country."

Table 5: Types of Information to be Provided for Safeguard E

Qualitative

a. Information on how the implementation of REDD+ interventions have impacted natural forests and/or biodiversity if at all and to the extent possible (loss or gain in biodiversity)

b. Description of how the implementation of each REDD+ intervention has not resulted in the conversion of natural forests

c. Description of whether and how the projected socio-cultural, economic and environmental benefits of the REDD+ interventions were realised following implementation

d. Description of how benefit sharing arrangements functioned in practice

Qualitative

a) Information on the country's natural forest cover before and after REDD+ implementation (e.g. forest inventory, land cover change map of REDD+ intervention sites, confirming no conversion of natural forests to plantations and other land uses has taken place)

b) Statistics on jobs or businesses created, improved incomes, access to social services etc

Safeguard F & G

Pakistan's Clarification of Safeguard F & G

"Risks of reversals and displacement of emissions of the proposed REDD+ actions are addressed in the REDD+ Strategy through Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and national forest monitoring system and addressed through the provision of alternative options."

Table 6: Types of Information to be Provided for Safeguards F & G

Qualitative

a. Description of how measures to reduce the risk of reversals were implemented

b. Description of how measures to reduce the risk of displacement were implemented

c. Emission reductions reduced/captured from REDD+ intervention implementation

d. Rates of deforestation in neighbouring areas before and after the REDD+ intervention implementation

2.3   Sources of Information for the SIS

According to the UNFCCC guidance on SIS design, countries should, as appropriate, build upon existing systems that are deemed relevant for providing information on the REDD+ safeguards. In order to determine the extent to which it is possible to build on existing systems, countries are, therefore, expected to identify existing information systems and sources that are potentially relevant to the SIS, and assess the extent to which they can provide the necessary information to respond to the SIS information needs.

Most countries (including Pakistan) already have information systems in place to gather and report information on how their PLRs are being implemented. In order to demonstrate how REDD+ safeguards are being *respected*, countries are identifying and assessing information systems and sources that provide information about the implementation of the relevant PLRs. The advantage of focusing on such information systems and sources is that they have an existing legal basis, mandate, allocated budget and institutional support. Otherwise, there is a risk of building the SIS on systems and sources that have no long-term sustainability, as they may have no legal mandate, allocated budget and institutional support to maintain the continued operations of the SIS.

It was concluded that the P&D statistics department which gathers information on all development works in the province (reports from agriculture, law department, social welfare, forest and wildlife), should be utilised by the Provincial REDD+ Management Units to gather information about the application of the REDD+ safeguards.
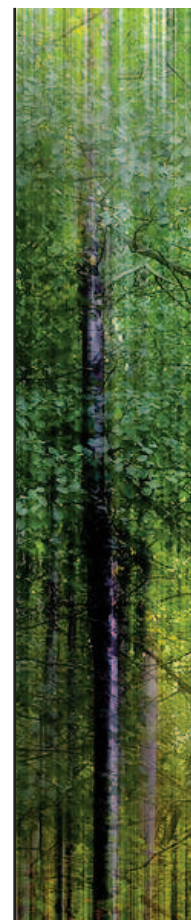
It is important to note that the UNFCCC acknowledges that the country's national forest monitoring system (NFMS)[5] may provide relevant information for the purposes of the SIS. As such the UNFCCC encourages countries to explore synergies and efficiencies between these systems. It is, therefore, relevant to consider the extent to which the NFMS can be a source of information for the SIS. As seen above, the NFMS in Pakistan is expected to provide information concerning Cancun safeguards E, F, and G. The SIS can also exploit the information technology infrastructure of the NFMS and will hence be able to provide geospatial data, especially time series datasets such as biodiversity maps.

2.4   Functions and Institutional Arrangements of the SIS

The UNFCCC does not offer any guidance on what specific functions the SIS should perform, e.g. information compilation, analysis, validation, dissemination, etc., beyond the need to 'provide transparent and consistent information' on how all the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected 'that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis'.

Defining the functions of the SIS is likely to be an iterative undertaking, with an initial definition of 'core functions', which can be expanded, as appropriate, depending on the chosen objectives of the SIS. The functions of the SIS are closely linked to the institutional

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5.   Decision 11/CP.19 paragraph 5.

arrangements, as the functions may be carried out by a single, or multiple agencies/institutions. Core functions that countries have been considering for their SIS include:

- **Collection**: Process of collecting raw data by relevant information systems. For the purposes of the SIS, enabling this function requires identifying relevant information sources and tasking them with the responsibility of collecting and providing information for the purposes of the SIS.
- **Compilation**: Process of acquiring requested information from the relevant systems and sources. For the purposes of the SIS, enabling this function requires defining the specific information required by the SIS, and agreeing on the information sharing arrangements.
- **Aggregation**: Process of aggregating, into a central repository/database, the information provided by the relevant sources and systems for the purpose of analysis.
- **Analysis**: Process of undertaking a qualitative assessment of the information in order to determine to what extent the safeguards are being addressed and respected.
- **Dissemination of Information**: Process of disseminating, both internally (national level) and externally (international reporting) through appropriate means (e.g. website, reports, meetings with relevant stakeholders, etc.)

It is possible that some existing information systems and sources already perform one or more of the functions that are being considered for the SIS. For example, in many countries, information systems and sources have quality control (QC) procedures to measure and control the quality of information as it is being compiled, managed and analysed. Consequently, it might not be necessary to include a QC function for the SIS.

As previously stated, UNFCCC guidance on the SIS provides that countries should, as appropriate "build upon existing systems" when developing their SIS. In accordance with this guidance, countries may wish to develop their SIS by allocating responsibility for the different functions to one or more existing institutions. Determining the institutional arrangements for the SIS is, therefore, closely linked to the identification/assessment of existing systems, as it is only by following this assessment that it will be possible to identify and determine which existing systems are able to provide the necessary information and which agencies responsible for such systems should be involved. If this is not the case, additional REDD+ specific institutional arrangement(s) may need to be developed.

Pakistan has already made significant progress on this component. Drawing on the analysis of existing and relevant information systems and sources and through consultations with relevant stakeholders, the following institutional arrangements are proposed for each core function of the SIS. (See Figure 1 for an overview of the functions and required institutional arrangements. See Figure 2 for the SIS process).

Figure 1: Institutional Arrangements of SIS in Pakistan

SIS Design Framework

Provincial REDD+ Management Unit

Provide completed report on safeguards implementation (information already analyzed). Coordinates with gov agencies part of PRMC

Functions of the SIS

Collection

Compilation and Aggregation — SIS database created and managed by National REDD+ Office

Analysis — Carried out by National Safeguard/SIS specialist at macro level (noting detailed analysis has been done by REDD+ cells)

Dissemination — National Report prepared by National REDD+ Office (published on the REDD+ website); International reports prepared by MOCC

SOI to UNFCCC

MOCC REDD+ Office

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Framework for Design of a Safeguard Information System in Pakistan

Figure 2: SIS Process

Actors

National REDD+ Office/MOCC

- Craft report templates
- Report templates
- Create SIS database
- Aggregate information into SIS Database
- SIS Database
- REDD+ Office/MOCC prepare reports
- National Report
- International Report (SOI)

Provincial REDD+ focal points

- Sent to REDD+ focal points
- Compile and analyze information Complete templates
- Completed templates returned
- Published on REDD+ *website*
- Published on UNFCCC *website*

External

- Observations made by NSC

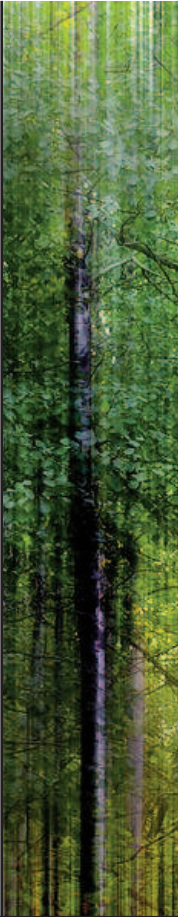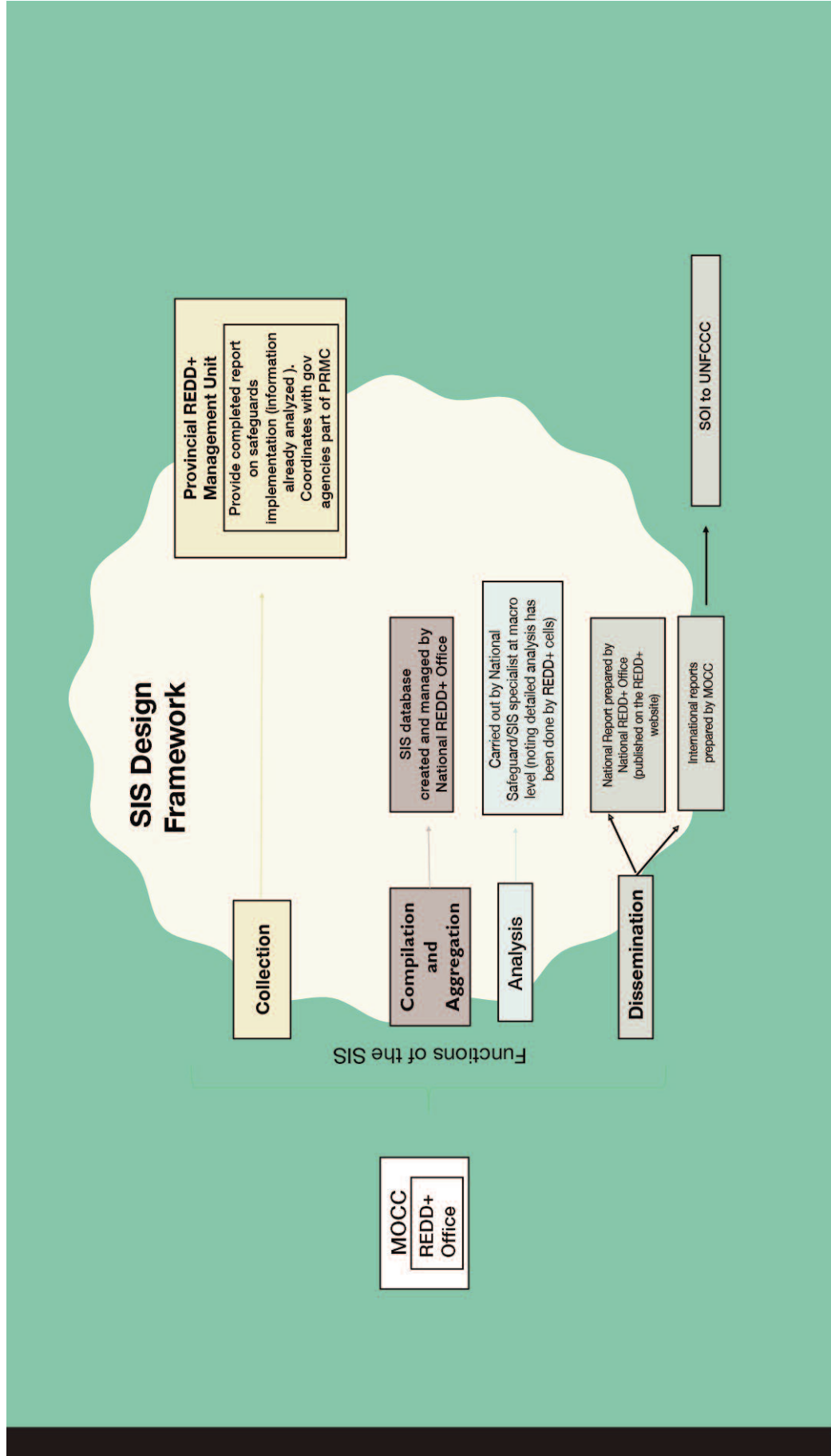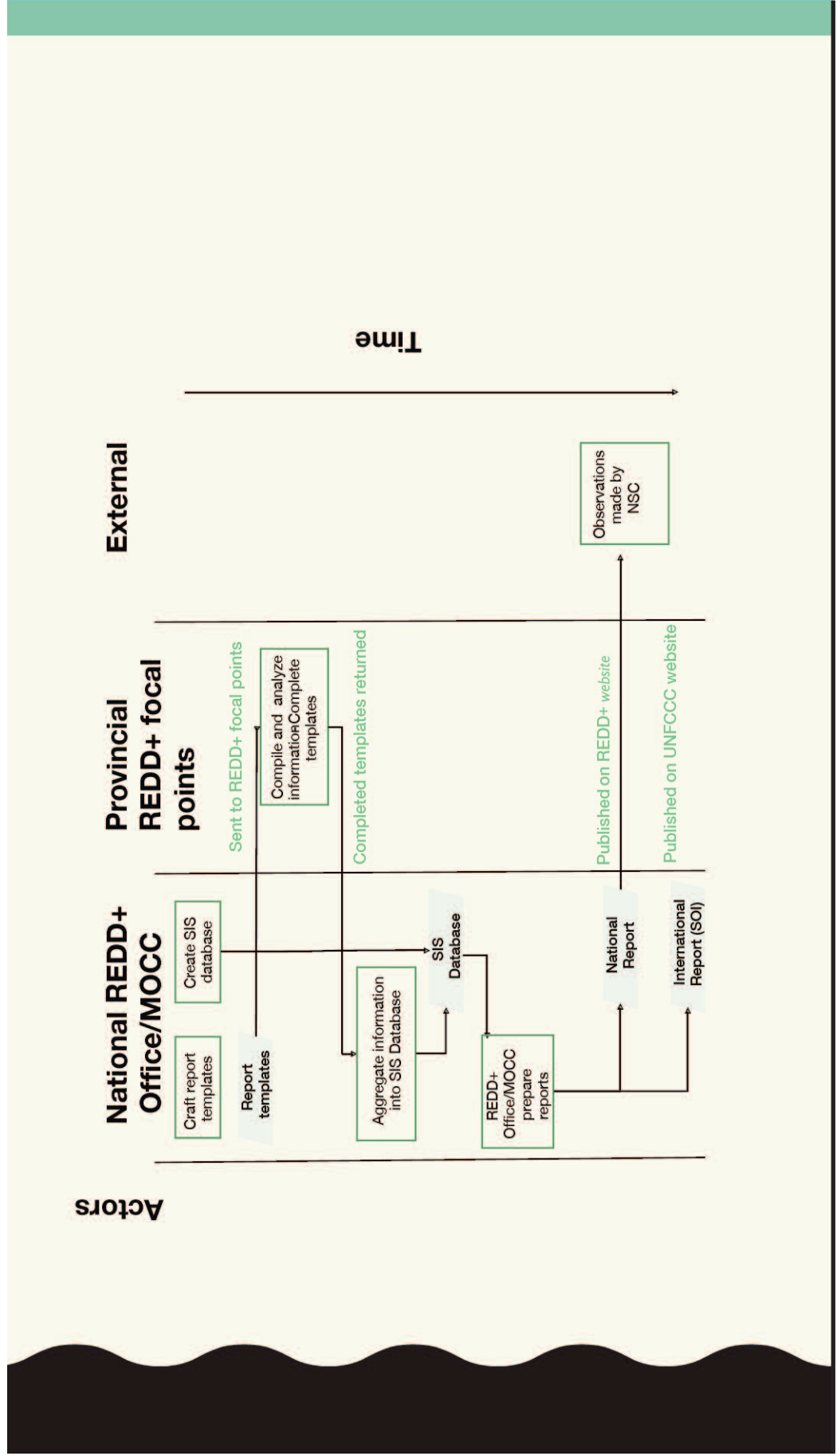Time

a)   Function 1: Collection of Information

As noted above, this function alludes to the process of collecting information on the ground by the relevant existing (or possibly new) information systems and sources.

The relevant systems and sources have been assessed (see section 3 above). In accordance with this analysis and the views of relevant stakeholders, the relevant government institutions responsible for collection of information should be the following:

Collection of data is to be carried out by the provincial REDD+ management unit. This unit is expected to provide periodical evaluation reports concerning the implementation of REDD+ activities at the provincial levels. The scope of these reports could be expanded to include a chapter on the safeguards based on a template.

This unit is expected to coordinate the collection of information with the relevant provincial government agencies. Our recommendation is that Provincial REDD+ Management Units coordinate with P&D statistics office, requesting them to provide the required information.

The reports are to be presented to the provincial participation platform for comments and to Provincial REDD+ Management Committees (PRMC) for comments and validation.

## b)   Function 2: Compilation and Aggregation of Information

As noted above, this function alludes to the process of acquiring and aggregating the requested information from multiple relevant systems and sources at the federal level.

Specific recommendations for the compilation function of Pakistan's SIS are outlined below:

● The compilation of information from the different relevant systems and sources on how the safeguards are being 'respected'[6] should be carried out by the National REDD+ Office. We note that for an effective implementation and governance, the National REDD+ office requires to be integrated as a permanent unit or component of the Ministry of Climate Change. For this purpose, it could be made an extended part (unit) of the Inspector General of Forests (IGF) Office which could coordinate with National REDD+ office[7] as an integral part of IGF office.

● In terms of institutional arrangements, it is recommended that information sharing arrangements be secured between National REDD+ office and provincial REDD+ management units.

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6.   As noted above, information linked to how the safeguards are being 'addressed' generally encompasses a description of the relevant governance arrangements in place to ensure consistency with the safeguards. This information is purely descriptive and not analysed. For this reason, the 'compilation' function, which leads to the analysis, focuses on information that demonstrates the extent to which the safeguards have been 'respected'.

7.   The functions of the NRO will be taken over by the the Pakistan Climate Change Authority established under Section 5 of the Climate Change Act, 2017.
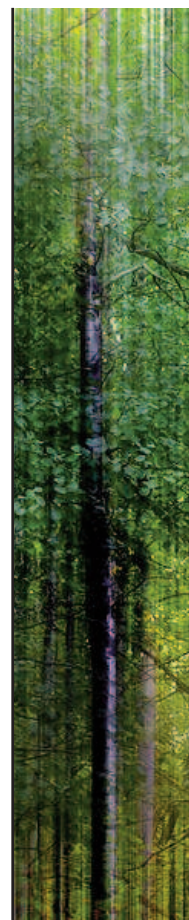
- To be able to compile the necessary information for purposes of the SIS, it is recommended that the National REDD+ Office prepare specific template reports for the provincial REDD+ management units. The template should ideally be added as a safeguards component to the periodical evaluation reports concerning the implementation of REDD+ activities.

- The expectation is that these template reports would provide guidance to the relevant institutions regarding the specific information that is required from them for the purposes of the SIS. These template reports will need to be linked to, and ideally based on, the relevant SIS information needs. See Box 1 below for some detailed recommendations concerning these template reports.

Box 1: **Recommendations for the Preparation of the Template Report for the Provincial REDD+ Management Units**

A template report should be developed for each provincial REDD+ management unit. The template report should consider the inclusion of:

a) Introductory section requesting the preparation of a report and explanation on how to follow the template provided for the preparation of the report.

b) General information about the Provincial REDD+ activities/ interventions, what are the proposed PAMs, etc.

c) The SIS information needs applicable to the Province and identification of specific requests of information in relation to each. For each identified SIS information need, the template report should outline and specify further what type of information it requires. For example, in the case of safeguard D concerning demonstrating 'how the proposed REDD+ actions in all PAMs were carried out recognising the right to full and effective participation', the template report can require a description as to how relevant stakeholders have participated in the implementation of the relevant PAMs. It may also require the submission of supporting documents, such as minutes of participation platforms, minutes of relevant participation/assembly events, etc.

When specifying the type of information required in relation to each province, it will be important to also consider and require that information is provided concerning the application of the ESMF measures (dealing with the specific risks and enhancement of the benefits of the PAMs). For example, in the case of safeguard D concerning demonstrating 'how the proposed REDD+ actions in all PAMs were carried out recognising the right to full and effective participation', the template report can require a description as to how relevant stakeholders have participated in the implementation of the relevant PAMs and how the relevant management measures have been applied (if applicable).

d) Process followed to collect and analyse information. In this section, it would be required to provide information as to how the REDD+ management unit collected and analysed its information.

e) Proposed improvement measures. In this section, the template report would require the provincial REDD+ management unit to identify and describe any proposed improvement measures for addressing any gaps or weaknesses in the application of the safeguards.

c) Function 3: Analysis of Information

As noted above, the analysis process aims to offer a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the information in order to determine the extent to which the safeguards are being addressed and respected at the national level. Specific recommendations on how to achieve this are outlined below:

- It is recommended that the REDD+ office, through its SIS Specialist, lead the analysis of the information provided by all Provincial REDD+ Management Units with a view to determining the extent to which the safeguards are being addressed and respected at the national level.

- In terms of quality control, within the institutional arrangements of the SIS, quality control of information should, in the interests of cost-effectiveness, be the responsibility of each one of the institutions providing the information (e.g. Provincial REDD+ Management Units). As noted above, each report by Provincial REDD+ Management Units will already have been analysed at provincial level.

- However, we additionally recommend:

  ○ The involvement of third parties in this process. Third parties could be an NGO or CSO or an academic/research institute, who could provide pro-community, pro-marginalised perspectives or inputs to the National SIS Specialist (NSS).

  ○ National level findings are shared with the NSC for further inputs/feedback.
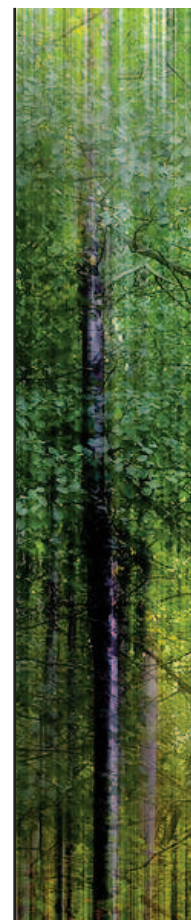
d) Function 4: Dissemination of Information

As noted above, this function alludes to the process of disseminating the information produced by the SIS. Although UNFCCC guidance is not detailed in relation to this function, it requested that the SIS should: "Provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders."[8] This means that there is an expectation that SIS information be disseminated both internally (national level) and externally (international reporting) through appropriate means (e.g. website, reports, meetings with relevant stakeholders, etc.).

Specific recommendations on how to achieve this are outlined below, and include recommendations concerning the technological solutions for the SIS.

Concerning National Level Reporting:
- Based on our analysis and views of relevant stakeholders, we recommend that preparation of national reports be the responsibility of National REDD+ office.
- The reports should be published on the REDD+ Safeguards Website every two years.

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8.   UNFCCC Decision 12/CP.17 paragraph 2(b).

- In terms of quality assurance of the information and the interests of cost effectiveness, we recommend the National REDD+ Steering Committee is given a two-month period to provide observations over the national reports (reports on safeguard implementation that provide the basis for the Summary of Information - SOI).

Concerning International Reporting:
- Based on our analysis and views of relevant stakeholders, we recommend that the REDD+ office be responsible for the preparation of the SOI in coordination with the Ministry of Climate Change as it is the entity responsible for submission of national communications to the UNFCCC.

3 | METHODOLOGY

This framework SIS design document was developed by drawing on the outputs of four distinct but related processes. Each of these processes has included extensive consultations with the REDD+ working groups.

1) The **clarification of the Cancun safeguards** in accordance with Pakistan's national circumstances (i.e. the outcome of the process of clarifying the Cancun safeguards in accordance with the national context hereinafter 'country specific safeguards'): Drawing on the analysis of safeguard-relevant PLRs in Pakistan, this document was developed and refined through regular consultations with the REDD+ working groups. The objective of this clarification, in addition to responding to UNFCCC guidance,[9] is to clarify how the broad principles embodied in the Cancun safeguards are translated into rights and obligations anchored to Pakistan's existing legal framework.

Clarifying the Cancun safeguards in accordance with national circumstances is key and central to SIS design and the preparation of the summary of information. In particular, the clarification is the main input for determining the information needs for the country's SIS (i.e. the specific information that is to be provided to demonstrate that REDD+ has been implemented in a manner consistent with each safeguard). Without the determination of information needs, the identification and assessment of relevant existing information systems and sources, that form the basis for the SIS, cannot be undertaken.

2) The **identification of the SIS information needs**: Important for the design of the SIS, the definition of information needs, serves to determine what information the SIS will provide to demonstrate how the country-specific safeguards are being addressed and respected. This process draws extensively on the clarification of the Cancun safeguards in accordance with Pakistan's national circumstances and is key to identifying and assessing the extent to which existing information systems can be used to build the SIS in Pakistan. The other key input for determining the information needs of the SIS are the specific benefits and risks of proposed REDD+ PAMs.

3) **The identification and assessment of relevant information systems and sources**: Drawing on the preliminary SIS information needs defined in the previous activity, the objective of this exercise was to examine the extent to which Pakistan's relevant information systems and sources (i.e. those that gather and report information related to the substantive content of each country specific safeguard) can be used to provide information on how they are being addressed and respected throughout REDD+ PAMs implementation. This assessment also aims to identify gaps in the existing information systems and provide recommendations for dealing with such gaps and weaknesses.

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9.   UNFCCC Decision 17/CP.21 paragraph 5.
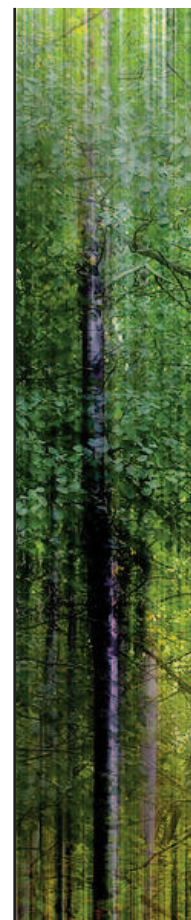
4 ANNEX: ANNOTATED TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR AN INDICATIVE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Despite the lack of guidance from the UNFCCC, and the absence of a one-size-fits-all model for the development of a Summary of Information (SOI) on how the Cancun safeguards have been addressed and respected, a growing body of international best practices has emerged.[10] Based on this international best practice, it is suggested that Pakistan structure its SOI as follows:

Part 1: National Circumstances and REDD+ Approach

a) A description of the National REDD+ strategy, including the strategic options and any further detail available on the PAMs/interventions, that will be developed from these options

b) Goals of the country's safeguard management approach/framework (to meet UNFCCC and World Bank safeguard requirements)

c) Scope of safeguard application (REDD+ actions included in the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS)/PRAPs)

d) Main environmental and social risks/benefits linked to the strategic options/PAMs

e) Interpretation of the Cancun safeguards in accordance with the country context, including the components/elements identified for each of the Cancun safeguards

Part 2: Measures in Place to Address the Safeguards

a) Description of the relevant PLRs for each safeguard component/element

b) Description of the institutional arrangements for ensuring that the safeguards are implemented and enforced (institutional arrangements in the ESMF)

c) Description of how REDD+ related conflicts will be dealt with (the FGRM)

d) SIS design framework and how safeguard information will be collected and analysed

Part 3: How the Safeguards have been Respected

a) Description of gaps (see legal assessment) and planned gap-filling measures (protocols to be developed, operational guidelines for safeguard implementers)

b) Outcomes of safeguard implementation

c) Complaints, grievances or disputes raised in relation to application of the Cancun safeguards and how they were resolved

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10. See in particular: Braña Varela, J., Lee, D., Rey Christen, D., and Swan, S. (2014) REDD+ Safeguards: Practical Considerations for Developing a Summary of Information. Prepared with support from the Government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative; and UN REDD Programme Safeguards Coordination Group (2016) Summaries of Information: How to demonstrate REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected. UN REDD Programme Info Brief 5.

Part 4: Complementary Information

a) Process followed for preparing the summary of information (people involved, consultations, meetings, etc.)

b) How the SIS was designed (phases, institutional coordination)

c) Selected examples of safeguard implementation at the sub-national/project level (example of screening process, development of EIA/safeguard mitigation plan, example of safeguard project report)

d) Information on how non-governmental stakeholders were involved (in the preparation of NRS, PRAP, projects, reporting, scrutiny of reports) where relevant