



Ministry of Climate Change
Government of Pakistan



STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT (SESA) IN PAKISTAN





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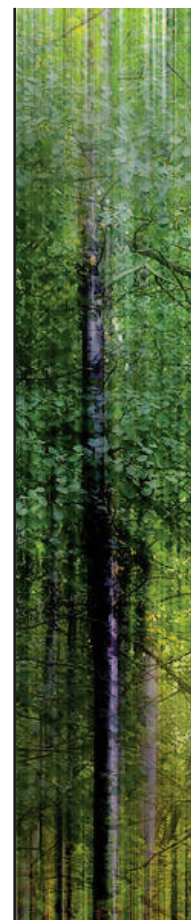
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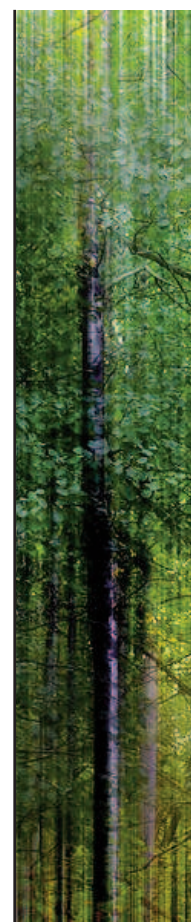
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ABBREVIATIONS

AJK	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
COP	Conference of the Party
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
GCF	Global Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IPP	Indigenous People Plan
IPPF	Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework
JFMCs	Joint Forest Management Committees
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MDP	Ministry for Planning and Development
MoCC	Ministry of Climate Change
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRO	National REDD+ Office
NSC	National Steering Committee
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
OPs	Operational Policies
P&D	Planning and Development
PEECH	Promotion of Energy Efficient Cooking, Heating and Housing Technologies, a project financed by GEF which ended in 2013.
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PFI	Pakistan Forest Institute
PRAP	Provincial REDD+ Action Plan
PRMC	Provincial REDD+ Management Committee
PRMU	Provincial REDD+ Management Unit
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIS	Safeguard Information System





1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

In recognition of the role forests can play in efforts to mitigate and adapt to global climate change, parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) developed a policy mechanism to contribute to the reduction of global carbon emissions from deforestation and enhance their resilience by providing financial incentives, in the form of ‘results-based payments’, to developing countries that successfully slow or reverse forest loss. This mechanism is known as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), and conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stock (+). The UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) has articulated five REDD+ activities that developing countries can implement to be eligible to receive these payments:¹

- Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- Sustainable management of forests;
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks; and
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

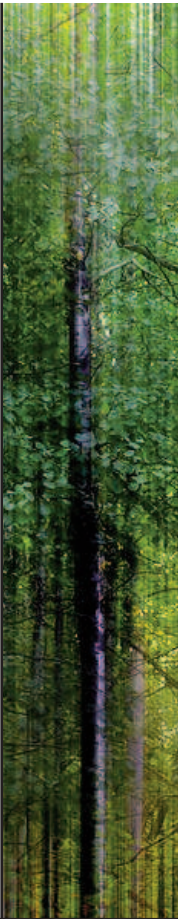
After several years of negotiations and discussions at the international level, the UNFCCC COP adopted the ‘Warsaw Framework for REDD+’ at its 19th meeting in December 2013.² This officially anchored REDD+ to the UNFCCC regime. The Warsaw Framework builds on previous COP decisions and clarifies and consolidates the requirements and methodological guidance countries must meet in order to access results-based finance.³ According to the Warsaw Framework, developing country parties aiming to receive results-based finance for REDD+ must:

Ensure that the anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals, resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities, are fully measured, reported and verified (MRV) in accordance with UNFCCC guidance;⁴

Have in place:⁵

- a. A national strategy or action plan (a link to which is shared on the UNFCCC REDD+ Web Portal);
- b. A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level, or if appropriate, as an interim measure, subnational forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference level (that has undergone a UNFCCC-coordinated technical assessment process);
- c. A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of REDD+ activities; and

1. UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 70
2. UNFCCC Decisions 9/CP.19; 10/CP.19; 11/CP.19; 12/CP.19; 13/CP.19; 14/CP.19 and 15/CP.19
3. UNFCCC Decision 2/CP.17 paragraph 63
4. UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 73
5. UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 71



- d. A system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected (SIS);
- e. A system to ensure that REDD+ activities, regardless of the source and type of funding, are implemented in a manner consistent with the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards;⁶ and
- f. Provide the most recent summary of information on how all the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards have been addressed and respected before they can receive results-based payments.⁷

REDD+ is based on a three-phased approach, which includes: Readiness (Phase I), implementation (Phase II) and results-based actions (Phase III).⁸ However, due to the significant time-frame between REDD+'s initial conception and introduction as a UNFCCC negotiation topic at COP 13 in Bali⁹ and its finalisation at COP 19 in Warsaw, several multilateral institutions and bilateral agreements were established to fund initial REDD+ readiness activities, including the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), which was set up in 2010 "to assist eligible REDD countries in their efforts to achieve emission reductions from deforestation and/or forest degradation by providing them with financial and technical assistance in building their capacity to benefit from possible future systems of positive incentives for REDD."¹⁰

As a participating country to the FCPF, Pakistan has so far received US\$3.8 million from the FCPF to support its REDD+ Readiness activities detailed in its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP).¹¹ This means that to meet its contractual agreement with the FCPF and benefit from the international REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC, Pakistan must meet both UNFCCC and FCPF requirements, which also include requirements on safeguards.

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1.2 FCPF Safeguard Requirements

Once sufficient progress has been made in the implementation of their R-PPs, countries may apply, or authorise an entity within their country to apply, to the Carbon Fund by submitting an Emission Reductions Program Idea Note (ER PIN), as a step towards the completion of an Emission Reduction Programme (ER Programme) and ultimately, results-based payments.¹² Countries are also expected to submit a Readiness Package, a document that summarises its Readiness process and outcomes from development of activities outlined in its R-PP (including safeguards).¹³

6. UNFCCC Decision 2/CP.17 paragraph 63

7. UNFCCC Decision 9/CP.19 paragraph 4

8. UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 73

9. UNFCCC Decision 2/CP.13

10. The other stated objectives of the FCPF are: To pilot a performance-based payment system for Emission Reductions generated from REDD activities, with a view to ensuring equitable benefit sharing and promoting future large scale positive incentives for REDD; to test ways to sustain or enhance livelihoods of local communities and to conserve biodiversity; and to disseminate broadly the knowledge gained in the development of the Facility and implementation of Readiness Preparation Proposals and Emission Reductions Programs. FCPF, (2010) Charter Establishing the FCPF. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). Available: http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Sep2010/FCPF_Charter-August_2010_clean.pdf

11. <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/pakistan>

12. bid

13. Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Carbon Fund (2012) Process Guidelines for the Carbon Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. FMT Note CF-2012-1-Rev p.2 : <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/Documents/tagged/FMT%20Note%20CF-2012-1%20CF%20Process%20guidelines%20rev%20after%20CF4%20-%20final.pdf>



The FCPF safeguard requirements under Readiness and Carbon Fund, have two dimensions: substantive, and procedural.

1.2.1 Substantive Requirements

Readiness Fund

Countries receiving FCPF funding for readiness preparation through the World Bank are required to ensure compliance with the FCPF Readiness Fund's common approach to environmental and social safeguards for multiple delivery partners (Common Approach).¹⁴ According to the Common Approach, participating countries are expected to achieve "substantial equivalence" to the "material elements" of the World Bank's environmental and social safeguard policies and procedures applicable to the FCPF Readiness Fund.¹⁵

Carbon Fund

Countries seeking to obtain payments from the Carbon Fund must ensure that their ER Programme is consistent with the Methodological Framework (CF MF),¹⁶ which states that in order to qualify for results-based payments, all ER Programmes will not only need to meet all applicable World Bank policies, (which is no different from the Readiness Fund requirements) but also promote and support the Cancun Safeguards.¹⁷

1.2.2 Procedural Requirements

Readiness Fund

The Readiness Fund has two procedural safeguard requirements, namely the:

1. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, or SESA, and
2. Environmental and Social Management Framework, or ESMF.

The SESA stems from environmental assessment (EA) requirements of the World Bank.¹⁸ It is intended to be an inclusive process whereby the REDD+ country, with the participation of all potentially affected stakeholders, seeks to "identify likely impacts and risks, as well as opportunities," among different strategic REDD+ options. During the SESA process, these impacts, risks and opportunities are assessed and weighed by the various stakeholders. Activities that form part of the SESA include:¹⁹

- Identifying and prioritising the drivers of deforestation and the key social and environmental issues associated with the drivers. This assessment also includes looking at how issues, such as land tenure, benefit-sharing and access to resources, are dealt with in Pakistan. A preliminary examination of the likely social and environmental impacts of the REDD+ strategy options identified in the R-PP is also necessary;
- Analysing the legal, policy and institutional "aspects" of REDD+ readiness

14. UN REDD FCPF (2012) R-PP Template Annexes Version 6, for Country Use p. 44

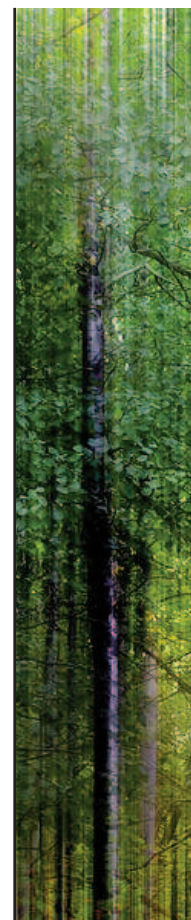
15. FCPF (2011) Readiness Fund Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners. https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Nov2011/FCPF%20Readiness%20Fund%20Common%20Approach%20_Final_%2010-Aug-2011_Revised.pdf

16. Which outlines the requirements that must be met by ER Programmes in order to qualify for results-based payments from the Carbon Fund. Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (2013) Carbon Fund Methodological Framework. Available: <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2014/January/FCPF%20Carbon%20Fund%20Meth%20Framework%20-%20Final%20Dec%202013%20posted%20January%202014.pdf>

17. FCPF Carbon Fund Methodological Framework.

18. See OP 4.01 – Environmental Assessment, para. 7; and Annex A, para. 10.

19. Ibid



- Assessing existing capacities and gaps to address the environmental and social issues identified; and
- Establishing outreach, communication and consultative mechanisms with relevant stakeholders throughout the process.

The SESA should conclude with the production of an ESMF as a means for managing environmental and social risks as REDD+ countries develop their REDD+ national strategies.

All REDD+ countries must produce an ESMF as a direct output of the SESA process.²⁰ The ESMF lays out principles, rules, guidelines and procedures for assessing issues and impacts associated with planned REDD+ activities that may occur in the future but are not presently known or are uncertain.²¹ It largely provides a framework for REDD+ countries to address environmental and social issues in their REDD+ Strategy as it is implemented.

The ESMF is completed and presented, to the extent possible, as part of the REDD+ country's Readiness Package (R-Package). However, if REDD+ investments have not yet been specifically identified, the ESMF remains a general principles-based document, leaving specific details for later.

1.3 Objectives of this Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to help meet international safeguard requirements under UNFCCC and FCPF, and ensure the social and ecological sustainability of REDD+ in Pakistan by:

- Conducting a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to (i) ensure the integration of environmental and social considerations during the formulation of the National REDD+ Strategy, and that REDD+ Readiness activities comply with all applicable safeguards, and (ii) strengthen the space for policy dialogue already opened through the preparation of a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), supporting a more effective understanding by various stakeholders of issues such as land and territory, drivers and causes of deforestation, risks and impacts, institutional capacity, and also identify transparent and precise methodologies for measuring carbon reserves and stocks among other necessary factors for the National REDD+ Strategy to function;
- Developing an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to manage the residual impacts of REDD+ strategy implementation and the management of future projects, policies and activities through which the REDD+ strategy will be implemented;
- Developing a Safeguards Information System (SIS) that serves multiple objectives at different levels, including reporting internationally for results-based financing, and providing information within the country to improve the implementation of the REDD+ strategy (adaptive management) and to build and maintain stakeholder and political support for REDD+; and
- Developing a Feedback and Grievance Redressal Mechanism (FGRM) to address the complexity of issues and diversity of stakeholders, especially those of forest-dependent ethnic groups and local communities that may lead to numerous questions, inquiries, and potential grievances regarding the REDD+ strategy or process.

20. R-PP Template, Component 2d, p. 44.

21. Common Approach, p. 47, para. 23.



Pakistan's intention is to engage in REDD+ activities both under the FCPF and the UNFCCC, meaning that both sets of requirements will need to be complied with, including on safeguards. This consultancy will strive to carry out a strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) and develop the ESMF and SIS in a manner that will contribute to meeting these multiple requirements in a coordinated, efficient and cost-effective manner.

1.4 Objective of the Report

This report displays the results of the SESA process, in terms of presenting:

- Prioritisation of potential social and environmental risks associated with the REDD+ strategy options.
- Prioritisation of potential benefits associated with the REDD+ strategy options.
- Identification of potential conflicts and grievances associated with the REDD+ strategy options.

1.5 Methodology

This analysis was guided by the 'Preliminary identification of social and environmental risks', the 'Prioritisation of social and environmental risks', as well as drawing on and with due consideration of the REDD+ strategy options proposed to date.

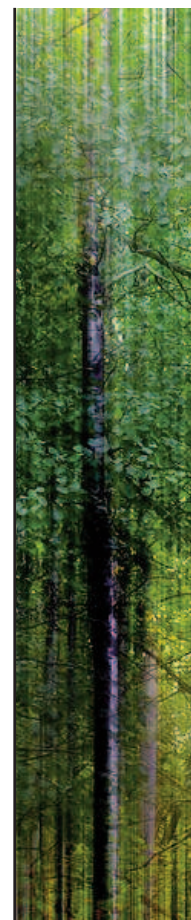
The preliminary identification of risks was based on the inputs gathered through provincial consultations in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, AJK, FATA, KP and GB; as well as on complementary assessments carried out²², and with due consideration of the REDD+ strategy options proposed to date. Drawing on the findings of consultations, in combination with those of relevant thematic assessments carried out,²³ the social and environmental risks were prioritised and listed as seen below in the main SESA document.

We note that ideally the SESA should have started after the REDD+ Strategy options were identified, but due to time constraints this assessment was carried out in parallel to the preparation of the REDD+ Strategy. Therefore, because the REDD+ Strategy options have evolved throughout the REDD+ Strategy development process, the inputs gathered for this assessment through provincial consultations were, in many cases, based on previous iterations of the REDD+ Strategy options. We have, however, used our expertise to extrapolate the views gathered during the consultations and apply them to the more recent version of the REDD+ Strategy options.

Further inputs were gathered through the National Safeguards workshop that took place on the 17th- 18th January 2018.

22. Such as the 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' and 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and governance capacity to address safeguards' prepared by CLP and HBP.

23. Ibid.



1.6 Structure of the Report

The analysis is structured according to the proposed seven REDD+ Strategy options to be able to present an adequate representation at national level of the potential and prioritised risks linked to these options.

We highlight that since the objective of this analysis was to systematise the potential social and environmental risks that may arise from the implementation of the National REDD + Strategy options, this analysis does not identify, nor considers the challenges that may affect the successful implementation of said options.

The report is structured in the following manner:

- Section 1 provides an overview of the scope of the REDD+ Strategy, including an overview of the REDD+ Strategy options.
- Section 2, in accordance with the proposed seven REDD+ Strategy options, presents the SESA results, in terms of:
 - prioritised social and environmental risks to offer an adequate representation at national level of the potential and prioritised risks linked to these REDD+ Strategy options.
 - prioritisation of potential benefits associated with the REDD+ Strategy options, and
 - an early identification of the potential grievances that may arise, which will be considered for the design of the FGRM.



2

OVERVIEW OF THE SCOPE OF THE REDD+ STRATEGY

The ultimate goal of a National REDD+ Strategy is the effective reduction of greenhouse gases emissions coming from deforestation and forest degradation, the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks, and the promotion of sustainable forest management. To achieve such a goal, the efforts should be circumscribed in a broad policy framework, which at the same time, is integral and has a long-term scope. In this sense, a national vision for REDD+ should be oriented to incorporate these characteristics.

Vision 2025 (Ministry of Planning Development & Reform 2014)²⁴ is a document that provides the vision for Pakistan for the coming decades. Pakistan's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (Paki-INDC) is also based on the Vision 2025. Vision 2025 sets out important elements that prioritise people, inclusive growth, governance, water, energy and food, as well as recognises the high priorities of developing knowledge economy, regional connectivity and having the private sector participate in the economy. In this sense, there is a strong alignment between Pakistan's Vision 2025 with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Ministry of Planning Development & Reform 2014).

Pakistan's forests can play an important part in the country's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Pakistan has been working on REDD+ readiness for several years, different stakeholders have been discussing views and expectations for the implementation, process and results arising from REDD+. Pakistan's vision for forests and people is a culmination of extensive consultations that seek to align the national REDD+ vision with the vision of Pakistan. As a result, the national REDD+ vision is based on Vision 2025 and the SDGs, in which relevant stakeholders should play a key role in the target and goal setting of the national REDD+ Strategy.

The development of Pakistan's National REDD+ Strategy by the consultancy company INDUFOR,²⁵ followed several methodological approaches. Throughout the development process, consultations were carried out, including:

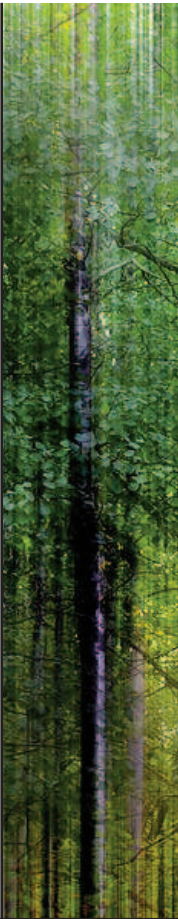
- Interviews with key experts and stakeholders
- Focal group discussions with identified strategic stakeholder groups, and disadvantaged groups such as women, poor, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities
- Community consultations
- Workshops

The whole consultation process was guided by the UN REDD/FCPF Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement for REDD+. The stakeholders involved in the process included:

- Government at Federal and Provincial levels
- Private sector – forest enterprises, industry and producer associations

24. Pakistan 2025: One Nation – One Vision. Pakistan Vision 2025 Secretariat. Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. Government of Pakistan (www.pc.gov.pk)

25. For a more detailed explanation of INDUFOR's methods, see March 2017 Pakistan REDD+ Strategy Inception report



- Civil society and universities – including local and international NGOs
- Development partners – multilateral and bilateral donors

These consultations were supplemented by diagnostic assessments of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Following these two phases, strategy options and an initial implementation framework were developed, alongside a risk analysis, gender mainstreaming and capacity building needs assessment.

Table 1 illustrates the REDD+ strategy options²⁶, that have been subject to the SESA, and which are deemed suitable to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and promote the sustainable use of forest resources in Pakistan. These actions include, but are not limited to, changes in legal framework, enhanced governance, land use planning at national, provincial, district and local levels, awareness raising and capacity building, which also have to be province-specific and related to forest categories and land tenure.

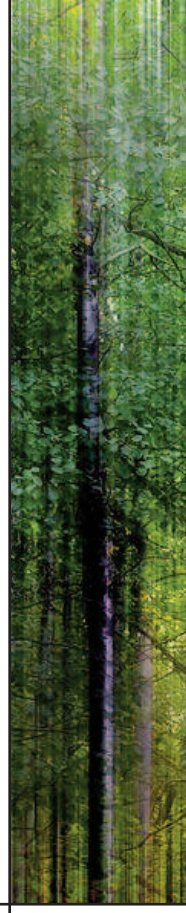
However, we must highlight that due to the different conditions across provinces and territories, it has been noted that the proposed strategy options are not suitable for all provinces, or at least not at the same level. It is expected these options will have to be refined when implemented to effectively incorporate conditions and needs from each of the provinces, including specific drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and institutional, legal, economic (among others) circumstances in each province and territory.



26. Indufor Interim report *Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and its Implementation Framework for Pakistan*

Table 1: Proposed National REDD+ Strategy Options and Preliminary Identification of Provincial Application

Strategic alternative	Mitigation activity	Strategy option	Provinces
Enhancement of forests' capacity to capture and maintain carbon	-Enhancement of forest carbon stocks	1. Restoration (including natural regeneration, assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting), reforestation and afforestation	Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Federally Administered Tribal Areas
Reduction of pressure to forest ecosystems	-Reducing emissions from deforestation -Reducing emissions from forest degradation -Conservation of forest carbon stocks -Sustainable management of forests	2. Sustainable Forest Management 3. Payment for Ecosystem Services 4. Efficient cook stoves and kilns	Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Federally Administered Tribal Areas Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Punjab, FATA, AJK and Balochistan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu, FATA, Balochistan and Kashmir.
Promotion of alternative livelihoods	-Reducing emissions from deforestation -Reducing emissions from forest degradation	5. Silvopastoral practices and sustainable grazing 6. Agroforestry	Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Federally Administered Tribal Areas





Strategic alternative	Mitigation activity	Strategy option	Provinces
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Conservation of forest carbon stocks -Sustainable management of forests -Enhancement of forest carbon stocks 	<p>7. Eco tourism</p>	<p>Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Federally Administered Tribal Areas</p> <p>Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Federally Administered Tribal Areas</p>

3 SESA RESULTS

3.1 REDD+ Strategy Option 1: Restoration, Reforestation and Afforestation

A forest's capacity to capture and store carbon depends on its health and extension. More forested areas and healthier forests will contribute to REDD+ objectives. Restoration of degraded forest areas, recovery of recently lost forest cover, and creating new forested areas are the activities that could be used to improve the country's forests' capacity to capture and store carbon. This can be applied on any type of forest, from high altitude forests to mangroves.

Restoration is defined as the action that manages forest conditions in order to come back to a healthy or undisturbed condition. These could include efforts to incentivise natural regeneration, assisted natural regeneration, or enrichment planting, among others.

The establishment of trees on land that has been cleared of forest during the relatively recent past with the aim of recovering lost forests' functions and dynamics is known as reforestation and could be used to increase forested areas. As defined by the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), *reforestation* (re-establishment of forest through planting trees or deliberate seeding on land already classified as forest) does not increase forest area, as it occurs on lands already defined as forest²⁷. Similarly, afforestation has a similar purpose but is applied in areas where forests were not covering the land in long periods of time.

A well-designed project or programme for restoration, reforestation and/or afforestation should take into account, not only the ecological conditions of the areas to be restored or recovered, but also the social and economic conditions of the people who live, use or own the land. Even though restoration and reforestation could be perceived as a single activity process, the success in terms of reproducing healthy forest conditions largely depends on removing the causes that produced the degradation or forest loss, and ensuring the protection of the areas where the activities were performed in order to allow the full recovery of forests (a condition that is also needed in the case of afforestation). For this reason, even though activities to restore, or establish a new forest, are activities that generally need low investment, the costs might increase considerably if the land is being used for other purposes that provide income, because of the opportunity costs.

3.1.1 Social Risks

1. Limitation/exclusion of certain right holders (that includes but is not limited to: vulnerable individuals within communities, tribal and/or forest-dependent communities) if existing land tenure legal deficiencies are not addressed successfully.²⁸

27. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4980317/>

28. Land transactions, particularly when registering a piece of land, are extremely cumbersome, socially inadequate, gender insensitive, and full of administrative anomalies that discourage the majority of customary owners in the rural areas from utilising them. For more details see 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' and 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and Governance Capacity to Address Safeguards' prepared by CLP and HBP.



2. Exacerbation of poverty, if restoration, reforestation and afforestation policies/programmes continue with current system of land tenure in which an elite class of landowners²⁹ owns vast holdings worked by tenant farmers, forest owners, right holders, customary users and labourers who live in persistent poverty.³⁰
3. Strengthening/resurgence of social conflicts associated with weak and / or non-transparent internal governance structures regarding access to benefits of incentives arising from restoration, reforestation and afforestation policies/programmes.³¹
4. Reduction in availability of fuel and firewood for communities leading to reduction in quality of life, if alternative energy solutions are not provided.
5. Exacerbation of limited land tenure rights of women, if gender equality is not adequately promoted and guaranteed as a key element of the design and implementation of restoration, reforestation and afforestation policies/programmes.³²

3.1.2 Environmental Risks

1. Increased risk of land appropriation and conversion of natural forests.³³
2. Limited availability of firewood.

3.1.3 Potential Benefits

1. Reduction of pressure on forests and increase of forest cover thanks to diversification of economic income promoting the conservation, protection and management of forests.

29. Sociologist and political scientist, Hamza Alavi, refers to the three classes of Pakistani elite: Feudal landowners, indigenous bourgeoisie and metropolitan capital. Feudal landowners in Pakistan consist of landlords with large joint families possessing hundreds or even thousands of acres of land. They seldom make any direct contribution to agricultural production. Instead, all work is done by peasants or tenants who live at subsistence level. Khan, Jahanzaib; Dasti, Humaira Arif; Khan, Abdul Rasheed (2013). "FEUDALISM IS A MAJOR OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF SOCIAL MOBILITY IN PAKISTAN" (PDF). *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*.

30. Anwar et al. (2002) found that poverty is highest (at 54 percent) among the landless, noting that only 0.08 percent of Pakistani households own more than 2 hectares of land, and that unequal land distribution is the primary manifestation of poverty in rural Pakistan.

31. According to 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' major challenges of equitable distribution of benefits among all stakeholders persist because of institutionalisation of inequalities.

32. The existing system for land registration is highly unfriendly for women. Customary laws of the land offer only limited rights of ownership available to women as they can neither gift nor alienate the land or easily obtain ownership rights. Furthermore, women in Pakistan do not have an inherent right in their marital property, as the concept of co-ownership does not exist. For more details see 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' prepared by CLP and HBP. Exceptions apply to Balochistan where women ownership exists.

33. According to Section 34-A of the Forest Act, 1927, the Government shall not allow change in land use of a protected forest, except for the purposes of right of way, building of roads and development of a forest park, but the Government shall not allow construction of concrete buildings or permanent structures in protected forests. There are no PLRs that prohibit or control the conversion of 'natural forests' into other types of forests or land classifications. For more details, see 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' and 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and governance capacity to address safeguards' prepared by CLP and HBP.



2. Creation of new habitat for several forest species, preservation of species diversity, improvement of soil quality and prevention of erosion, especially in areas previously degraded and/or devoid of native vegetation, such as croplands or plantations not managed in a sustainable manner.
3. Better understanding of farmers and relevant actors on environmental services and their sustainable management and change of behaviour of the people for the sustainable management of the forest resources.
4. Improved water regulation, with downstream damage control.
5. Improved productivity of land through restoration. One approach may involve restoring degraded lands to agricultural productivity, which increases food production and alleviates pressures on existing forests.
6. Risk reduction of natural calamities and increase in recreational tourism potential.
7. Contributes to climate change mitigation.
8. Positive impact on the economy and economic development due to the diversification of sources of rural income, new resources, and the generation of sources of employment.
9. Fuelwood collection is eased out.



3.1.4 Potential Complaints and Grievances

1. Exacerbation of land conflicts if restoration, reforestation and afforestation policies/programmes do not deal with historical challenges on land registration, related to faulty land records, non-transparent terms of tenancy, defective sale or purchase deeds, and arbitration in sale revenues, among others.³⁴
2. Likewise, it may be that restoration, reforestation and afforestation policies/programmes do not encourage all the people or organisations that depend on and protect the forests, which could generate discontent and conflicts (inequity).
3. More distance of communities/stakeholders from the forests will lead to grievances and complaints due to less access to forest resources.
4. Between communities, nomads and other stakeholders (governments, contractors, etc.) due to different interests and priorities over the use of forest resources.

34. The USAID Country Profile of Pakistan on Land Tenure and Property Rights has calculated that 50 to 75 percent of cases in civil courts at lower and High Court levels are related to land disputes. The same report claims that over a million land cases are pending in various courts all over the country.



3.2 REDD+ Strategy Option 2: Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Sustainable management of forests is a proven mechanism through which it is possible to obtain specific products and services (including non-timber products) from the forest, while ensuring the ecological integrity and sustainability of the forests.

Even though there are mechanisms in place to promote SFM, there is a need to expand to ensure most forests in the country are sustainably managed for production or conservation purposes. In some areas, the management would be oriented for timber extraction, whereas in others to non-timber forest products or even to provide ecosystem services of local, national or international interest.

High levels of technical expertise are needed to ensure correct SFM, so capacity building is a key component for this strategy option, not only for designing management plans, but also to perform activities to implement the plans, which might include road building, harvesting, planting, and stand treatments among others.

The country already has extensive expertise in place in Forest Departments at provincial level with successful experiences, for example with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project Sustainable Forest Management to Secure Multiple Benefits in High Conservation Value Forests.

3.2.1 Social Risks

1. Limitations for the effective participation or incidence of key actors, in particular, tribal and native communities, when defining and prioritising sustainable forest management practices and areas³⁵.
2. Lack of recognition of traditional knowledge of tribal and native communities.³⁶
3. Exclusion of native communities.

3.2.2 Environmental Risks

1. Extensive use of pesticides and chances of low quality hybrid seeds.
2. Promotion of productive activities can cause alteration of the ecosystem and damage to certain forest species of commercial interest.

35. The identification of forest communities often leads to labelling of these communities as threats to the forest. Moreover, a wider group of stakeholders from local communities are unable to effectively participate in Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) because these are monopolised by rich and influential persons. The legal framework on participation in forest management and environmental decision-making pertain to local communities, but do not ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples. For more details, see 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' and 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and Governance Capacity to Address Safeguards' prepared by CLP and HBP.

36. There is no specific legislation which specifically protects/regulates traditional knowledge of customary/traditional peoples as per relevant international legal standards. Moreover, the legal framework does not outline a clear objective towards safeguarding customary landowner's and local communities' rights as they relate to culture and also indirectly includes a respect for their identity, customs, traditions and institutions. For more details see 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and Governance Capacity to Address Safeguards' prepared by CLP and HBP

3. Displacement of emissions due to the potential prioritisation of productive activities to be implemented without considering local livelihoods of tribal and native communities and local economy.

3.2.3 Potential Benefits

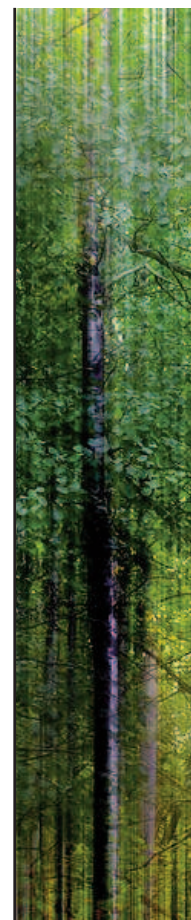
1. Improvement in the diversification of family economy and income with new resources.
2. Rural development, creation of new resources / sources of employment for local actors and improvement of the quality of life.
3. Sustainable use of forest products and more productivity from less area.
4. Increase in forest knowledge and technical know-how thanks to access to educational programmes on alternative productive activities.
5. Conservation of the diversity of species whose habitat is the forest if productive activities are fostered in a sustainable manner.

3.2.4 Potential Complaints and Grievances

1. Social conflict by resistance to proposed changes;
2. Claims or conflicts for resistance to the change from traditional to sustainable use;
3. Claims and conflicts for discrepancies or inequalities in the distribution of benefits;
4. Complaints from communities about the impacts of reforestation and/or plantation management on water availability and/or changes in water quality; and
5. Disinterest/clash of interests due to delayed carbon finance/benefits.

3.3 REDD+ Strategy Option 3: Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)

These are schemes to compensate forest owners or users to ensure certain level of health in specific ecosystems in order to maintain or improve environmental services provided. The basic idea of a PES scheme is that the providers can ensure the provision of an environmental service for the enjoyment and use of users who can compensate for it. A PES scheme would create a positive incentive to keep or improve forested areas and to avoid other activities that destroy or degrade the forest.



To implement a PES scheme, there is a need to clearly define the providers and the users and establish a relationship between them in order to set a level (price) and type of compensation (cash, non-cash). This requires considering in the design factors such as forest types, land tenure, economic conditions of forest providers and users, among other conditions. Establishing PES requires considerable levels of coordination and governance among the involved stakeholders, so it is required to fully plan and pilot the scheme before making a national or province-wide programme. It is also crucial to have a sustained and reliable financial mechanism to ensure the functioning of the scheme in the long term. In the case of REDD+, as the beneficiaries of the ecosystems services are the population as a whole, the provincial or federal governments might consider funding the scheme in the long term.

Even though REDD+ results are going to be measured in terms of carbon for the whole country, the PES scheme might not be based on carbon, but on other benefits more easily observable by users and providers, assuming conservation of forest ecosystems will effectively contribute to REDD+ objectives.

The benefits from PES schemes are observable not only for the environmental service that is involved in the transaction but also for the benefits beyond conservation, for example, as additional income for the household, improved governance, among others.

3.3.1 Social Risks

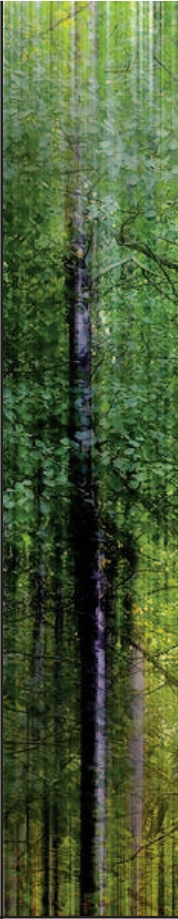
1. Limitation/exclusion of certain right holders to access PES if they are deemed ineligible due to existing land tenure legal deficiencies.³⁷
2. The PES scheme could create conditions of corruption if it is not accompanied by a strengthened and transparent governance structure.³⁸
3. Social conflicts associated with weak and/or non-transparent internal governance structures regarding access to benefits of incentives.³⁹
4. Exacerbated marginalisation of women in PES, if they are deemed ineligible due to existing land tenure legal deficiencies and lack of mandate for their inclusion.⁴⁰
5. Inter and intra community conflicts over benefit sharing.
6. Cultural and social negative impacts if not appropriately designed.

37. Land transactions, particularly when registering a piece of land, are extremely cumbersome, socially inadequate, gender insensitive, and full of administrative anomalies that discourages the majority of customary owners in the rural areas from utilising them. For more details see 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' and 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and Governance Capacity to Address Safeguards' prepared by CLP and HBP. According to 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' major challenges of equitable distribution of benefits among all stakeholders persist because of institutionalisation of inequalities.

38. Corruption and corrupt practices have not been defined in any law pertaining to forestry. Poor governance, and lack of accountability of forest departments, smuggling, theft and corruption in the institutional framework are the basic reasons for deforestation in Pakistan.

39. There are issues with the equitable distribution of benefits due to a lack of detailed guidelines within the relevant forest legislation to regulate it. The process or conditions for determining what is considered 'equitable' are also not clearly stipulated within the PLRs.





3.3.2 Environmental Risks

1. May cause environmental negative impacts (loss of local biodiversity due to monocultures) if not appropriately designed.
2. Payments may transform demography of the area and result in depletion of natural resources.

3.3.3 Potential Benefits

1. Reduction of deforestation, degradation and loss of biodiversity.
2. Economic development and decrease of migration to the cities due to the diversification of sources of rural income, new resources, and the generation of sources of employment.
3. Reduction of poverty.
4. Better understanding of communities and relevant actors on environmental services and on the sustainable management of the forests.
5. Improved natural resource-based governance and institutions.

3.3.4 Potential Complaints and Grievances

1. Limitation/exclusion of certain right holders to access incentives and financial mechanisms if existing deficiencies are not addressed successfully.
2. Possibility that they do not encourage all the people or organisations that protect the natural forest, which could generate discontent and conflicts (inequity).
3. Complaints or claims over the maldistribution of incentives.
4. Situations in which rights holders are not recognised (in particular, the communities) that were in the area before PES scheme commences.
5. Some members of the community do not want to protect the forest and conflicts arise to receive the benefits.
6. Conflicts between families because they do not agree on the protection of the forest and other members of the family want to use another way.
7. Conflicts between government and communities over PES design and implementation.
8. Misinterpretation and unfamiliarity with PLRs dealing with PES.

40. 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and Governance Capacity to Address Safeguards' noted that on equitable sharing and gender equality, there is no mechanism provided that would allow the involvement of women in the management processes. Moreover, the role of women and the importance of their participation is diluted, as Provincial PLRs state that the Government will "make efforts to encourage" their participation in management, as opposed to mandating their inclusion. For more details see 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and Governance Capacity to Address Safeguards' prepared by CLP and HBP.

3.4 REDD+ Strategy Option 4: Introduction of Efficient Alternative Energy Sources (Solar, Wind, Biogas and Efficient Cook Stoves and Kilns)

Unsustainable firewood extraction was identified as a major driver of deforestation and/or forest degradation. For this reason, using efficient cook stoves and kilns with an alternative renewable energy solution method, can reduce the pressure on forest ecosystems by reducing the amount of wood needed to produce the same amount of energy for cooking or heating. These user-friendly technologies might also bring other benefits, such as reduced collection time or reduced indoors pollution, and thus causing less respiratory illness.

The introduction of alternative cook stoves and kilns has to be designed together with final users, because not all models can provide solutions to the cooking and heating needs in the regions. The implementation needs to have an important component of awareness raising.

Pakistan already has good experiences to learn from, for example the project on *Promotion of Energy Efficient Cooking, Heating and Housing Technologies (PEECH)* financed by GEF and finished in 2013.

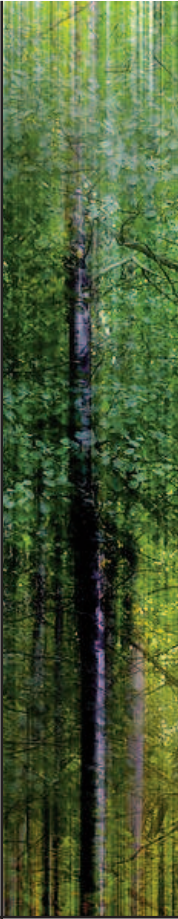
3.4.1 Social Risks

1. The fuel required by these technologies may be expensive/prohibitive, both in terms of acquisition and preparation, since some of these stoves (e.g., top loading micro-gasification technologies) generally require higher quality wood chopped into small pieces to deliver the promised gains in efficiency and reduction in smoke levels.
2. May lead to adverse impacts on the local economy and traditional practices if the programmes do not recognise them or are not developed taking the local needs and practices into consideration.
3. May lead to the forced displacement and/or limitations on access to and use of land and resources for energy production of tribal and native communities.

3.4.2 Environmental Risks

1. May lead to the displacement of emissions (deforestation/degradation) due to local restrictions on the use of forest resources.
2. May lead to increase in coal production at local level.





3.4.3 Potential Benefits

1. Can lead to a better use of forest resources and a reduction of pressure on natural forests.
2. Fodder and future fuel wood availability may be enhanced.
3. Can reduce the health risks of population, in particular, women and children due to more efficient energy consumption.
4. Can lead to the reduction of forest fires.
5. Can lead to the improvement of living standards, including hygienic conditions.
6. Improved time and cost effectiveness.

3.4.4 Potential Complaints and Grievances

1. Conflict and resistance from the community towards new energy sources.
2. Social conflicts due to displacement of indigenous peoples and local communities in their territories due to the restriction on forest resources.
3. Conflicts between communities benefiting from REDD+ for the use and sustainable production of firewood.
4. Conflicts concerning the maintenance of these technologies/new energy sources.

3.5 REDD+ Strategy Option 5: Silvopastoral Practices and Sustainable Grazing

Practices in which livestock grazing is not controlled has several impacts on the environment, including deforestation and degradation of forests and lands, not only by the removal of forest cover but also, by not letting regeneration to occur. There could also be negative effects on soil fertility, erosion, and pollution. Very frequently uncontrolled livestock grazing has low productivity, partially because of the lack of management practices.

Livestock grazing managed sustainably could provide economic and environmental benefits. This strategy option is intended to promote:

- Agro-pastoral systems combining crop and animal production, allowing for enhanced agro-ecosystem productivity and stability through integrated management of soil and water resources and crop and animal diversification.
- Intensive animal husbandry (ranching), combined with sustainable pasture and rangeland management.
- Promoting use of environmentally friendly technologies to intensify production on high-potential land already converted to pasture.

The success of silvopastoral practices depends on a design that incorporates social, economic, and environmental conditions in order to be effective and provide an advantage to the farmers/ranchers over their current practices. Technology packages have to be developed to fit regional conditions.

3.5.1 Social Risks

1. Limitation/exclusion of certain right holders to access silvopastoral programmes if they are deemed illegible due to existing land tenure legal deficiencies.⁴¹
2. Loss of income and livelihood for groups excluded or restricted from grazing (particularly nomads).
3. Additional restrictions on silvopastoral practices and sustainable grazing can lead to grievances, conflicts, loss of income or livelihoods.
4. Conflict regarding benefit sharing of resources between native communities and nomads.

3.5.2 Environmental Risks

1. Limited effectiveness of silvopastoral practice due to short growing season in northern hilly areas.
2. Risk of introduction of exotic or alien invasive species.

3.5.3 Potential Benefits

1. More production per unit area of land. Because three-level production is very efficient in providing food for livestock, less land is required for a given amount of animal production.
2. Increase in biodiversity due to improved forest cover.
3. Better understanding of farmers and relevant actors on environmental services from new knowledge on silvopastoral systems.
4. Reduced social conflict from illegal logging and intrusion from nomads and intruders.
5. Improved health and quality of meat and milk production from livestock.

⁴¹. Land transactions, particularly when registering a piece of land, are extremely cumbersome, socially inadequate, gender insensitive, and full of administrative anomalies that discourage the majority of customary owners in the rural areas from utilising them. For more details, see 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' and 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and Governance Capacity to Address Safeguards' prepared by CLP and HBP. According to 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' major challenges of equitable distribution of benefits among all stakeholders persist because of institutionalisation of inequalities.



6. Development of the livestock sector which will lead to poverty reduction and increased livelihood opportunities.
7. Reduced pressure on natural range lands and forests.

3.5.4 Potential Complaints and Grievances

1. Conflict and resistance from the local and native community.
2. Grievances from loss of income and livelihood for groups excluded or restricted from grazing.
3. Conflict between native communities and pastoral nomads on sharing resources for grazing.
4. Conflict between local communities, nomads and forest department on use and exploitation of natural flora (for instance collection of medicinal plants).

3.6 REDD+ Strategy Option 6: Agroforestry

Productive practices that deliberately combine trees (or other woody perennials) with agricultural crops in the same land, is known as agroforestry. It is a proven system to increase benefits from the land, as it can provide equal or higher yields than traditional practices with the added environmental and economic benefits from the forests, including carbon capture and storage in the areas where it is implemented, and reduce pressure on other forested areas. Agroforestry systems can be an important alternative for smallholder farmers as they can improve agricultural yields and provide additional income from other forest products.

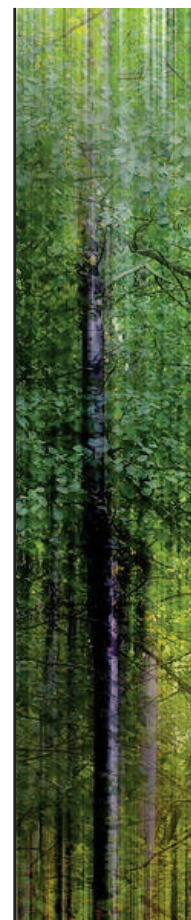
There are several proven alternatives for agroforestry systems that can be customised for the regional conditions in the country, including alley cropping, multilayer tree gardens, multipurpose trees on crop lands, shelterbelts and windbreaks, live hedges, and fuelwood production, among others. Because agroforestry systems incorporate multiple dimensions (environmental, agricultural, silvicultural, economic, cultural) it is important to design them according to the local circumstances, including specialists from different disciplines. This might be the biggest challenge to implement agroforestry systems.

Agroforestry systems are already considered as a mitigation option in the agriculture sector.

3.6.1 Social Risks

1. Limitation/exclusion of certain right holders (that includes but is not limited to: vulnerable individuals within communities, tribal and/or forest-dependent community/communities) to access Agroforestry (AF) programmes if they are deemed ineligible due to existing land tenure legal deficiencies.⁴²

42. Land transactions, particularly when registering a piece of land, are extremely cumbersome, socially inadequate, gender insensitive, and full of administrative anomalies that discourage the majority of customary owners in the rural areas from utilising them. For more details, see 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' and 'Analyses of Legal and Institutional and Governance Capacity to Address Safeguards' prepared by CLP and HBP. According to 'Historical Social and Environmental Assessment Report' major challenges of equitable distribution of benefits among all stakeholders persist because of institutionalisation of inequalities.



2. AF systems on farms that aimed to serve as alternative sources of fuelwood may not be accessible to the poor.
3. Lack of balance between selected productive activities and traditional livelihoods that affect local economies and prioritise productive sectors.

3.6.2 Environmental Risks

1. Competition for water, sunlight and nutrients may affect grain yield and total biomass of agricultural crops but the magnitude depends on the species used in the AF system.
2. Can lead to the dependence on biomass energy, overuse of ecosystem services, (particularly energy, food and health related dependency on agroforestry) and increased use of mineral fertilisers.
3. Can cause alteration of the ecosystem and threaten native biodiversity. The introduction of invasive alien tree species can replace valuable native species which are comparatively less aggressive.

3.6.3 Potential Benefits

1. Improved forest cover and reduced pressure on natural forests.
2. Increased economic gain for farmers. The potential to provide multiple harvests in a year, to even out both labour as well as income through the year. This leads to increased financial resilience and reduced vulnerability to crop failure.
3. The potential to reduce reliance on fossil fuel consumption (in particular, the reliance of communities on nearby forests for fuelwood).
4. Increases the potential for economic profits by providing annual and periodic revenues from multiple outputs throughout the rotation and reducing the risks associated with farming single commodities.
5. May lead to enhancement of biodiversity by extending natural habitats, creating corridors between habitat remnants, buffers to existing reserves, and landscape heterogeneity in multi-functional landscapes.
6. Enhancement of soil quality and conservation of water resources.
7. Reduced use of fertilisers.

3.6.4 Potential Complaints and Grievances

1. Conflict and resistance from the community.
2. Situations in which rights holders are not recognised (in particular, the local communities) and restrictions are imposed on their lands.



3. Some members of the community do not want to protect the forest and conflicts arise to receive the benefits.
4. Conflicts between tenant and land owner on planting/protecting the trees on their land.
5. Conflicts with wildlife department - carnivores can damage area and local communities may want something else.

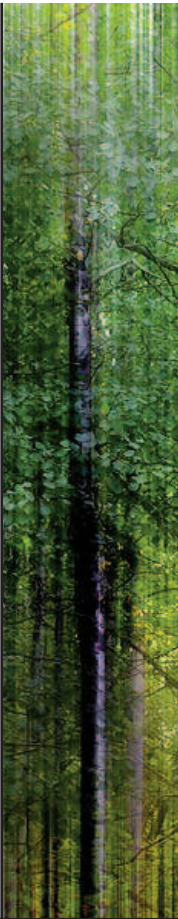
3.7 REDD+ Strategy Option 6: Eco Tourism

Tourism is one of the sectors that has globally faced the fastest economic growth rates throughout the last decade. Furthermore, for many developing countries, it has become a prime source of foreign exchange inflows. At the same time, tourism has a generally low negative impact on the environment compared to other productive sectors such as agriculture, cattle ranching and mining. With growing global pressures on forest resources and the search for models of sustainable development and sustainable forest use, it has thus been natural to look towards tourism in forest areas as a potential win-win component in the design of conservation strategies and practices.

Tourism directed towards natural forests can be viewed as another element within the array of non-timber forest benefits, complemented by other forest services, such as watershed protection, carbon storage and erosion control, and by the exploitation of various non-timber forest products (NTFPs). As, in principle, there is no consumptive use of the forest, it is a potentially well-suited element for conservation. Moreover, the tourist appeal of a natural site (and hence its income-generating potential) tends to be closely related to its conservation level. Finally, unlike other forest services that are often valued too late, i.e., when forest loss has already led to visible environmental costs, nature tourism is able to produce, in time, new and additional financial resources. These resources may provide important conservation incentives for the relevant natural resource managers, by increasing the gains from conservation-based options, compared to competing, non-sustainable land uses (forest degradation and/or conversion). In addition, tourism directed towards conservation areas also has an educational potential for the participants who, according to the ideology of ecotourism, may be enlightened and encouraged by their visit to generally support nature conservation.

3.7.1 Social Risks

1. Security threats, law and order situations, and crime rate may be enhanced due to more mobility and a high concentration of cash from tourism.
2. Local culture may be eroded as a result of eco-tourism practices that do not adhere to basic principles of environmental sustainability and local income generation. High levels of visitation by foreign tourists may lead to the disturbance of local cultural practices and lifestyles.
3. Disruption of local economic activities.



4. May lead to increased social conflict, as the economic benefits of ecotourism in a particular area may not accrue to the local community equally (elite capture).

3.7.2 Environmental Risks

1. Trail deterioration. Anthropogenic impact on the existing natural environment of trails (the pathways within the forested areas, including delta and hilly areas) in case of extensive number of visitors.
2. Increased pollution because of the garbage and malpractices by the tourists, given that the sanitary and cleaning activities are either not regulated or not possible on such trails.
3. Habitat disruption.
4. Increased human presence due to ecotourism may exacerbate traffic and pollution.

3.7.3 Potential Benefits

1. Local livelihood opportunities may be enhanced, providing sustainable economic growth for local communities.
2. May have a positive impact on local communities' culture. Locally grown food and crafted goods create a direct economic and cultural connection between the tourist and citizen.
3. Potential for creating jobs for locals.
4. Promote and preserve traditional practices.
5. May lead to biodiversity enhancement. Ecotourism provides the opportunity to learn more about the ecosystems, biology, and geology of a specific location. Knowing the components of an ecosystem can lead to a better understanding of how to conserve different species and natural formations.
6. May lead to the development of the local cottage industry and infrastructure. Local and foreign guests may be considered an important source of income for local communities.
7. Increased social and economic uplift and overall happiness.
8. May help revive traditional arts and crafts, and local/rural communities may benefit from the trickle-down effect of tourism revenue by selling local produce, goods and handicrafts and providing food and lodging.



3.7.4 Potential Complaints and Grievances

1. Social conflicts over the control of the resources that are to be linked to ecotourism, as ecotourism may not be a viable alternative for the rural populations.
2. Cultural conflicts, as local communities may complain about the absence of viable alternatives and livelihoods (e.g. the cultivation of a variety of fruits as a suitable alternative to current agricultural practices).
3. Land conflicts, as it might occur that tourism destinations are increasingly being occupied by immigrants. They buy (might even result in displacement) houses from locals, usually in order to convert them into tourism facilities.



4 CONCLUSIONS

The objective of this SESA was to ensure that environmental and social concerns are integrated into the National REDD+ Strategy process, and that the FCPF readiness activities comply with applicable World Bank operational policies and Cancun Safeguards.

In this regard, the seven Cancun Safeguards are expected to apply throughout the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy Options. In addition, the development and implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy must take into account the findings of this SESA, in terms of ensuring that the scope, design and application of the REDD+ Strategy Options address (as applicable) the identified potential social and environmental risks.

As a result of this SESA, the consulting team will now proceed to prepare an ESMF, with the aim of avoiding, mitigating and minimising any potential risks that may arise from the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy Options.

In this regard, we note the World Bank operational policies (OPs) that we deem applicable, and under which the ESMF will outline the applicable framework and measures, as follows:

1. **Environmental Assessment (OP 4.01):** To help ensure the environmental and social soundness and sustainability and to support integration of environmental and social aspects into the decision-making process;
2. **Natural Habitats (OP 4.04):** To promote environmentally sustainable development by supporting the protection, conservation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of natural habitats and their functions;
3. **Forests (OP 4.36):** To realise the potential of forests to reduce poverty in a sustainable manner, integrate forests effectively into sustainable economic development, and protect the vital local and global environmental services and value of forests;
4. **Involuntary Resettlement (OP 4.12):** To avoid or minimise involuntary resettlement and, where this is not feasible, to assist displaced persons in improving or at least restoring their livelihoods and standards of living in real terms relative to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of projects/strategy implementation, whichever is higher. When the policy is triggered, a Resettlement Action Plan must be prepared.
5. **Indigenous Peoples (OD 4.10):** To design and implement National REDD+ Strategy with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in a way that fosters full respect for Indigenous Peoples “dignity, human rights, traditional knowledge, and cultural uniqueness and diversity and so that they: (i) receive culturally compatible social and economic benefits; and (ii) do not suffer adverse effects during the development process. When this policy is triggered, an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan is to be prepared to mitigate the potential adverse impacts or maximise the positive benefits of the project interventions.



