

Joint Crediting Mechanism Guidelines for Addressing and Respecting Safeguards for 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 (REDD-plus) and Afforestation/Reforestation

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1. Scope and applicability¹

1. The “Joint Crediting Mechanism Guidelines for Addressing and Respecting Safeguards for 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 (REDD-plus) and afforestation/reforestation (hereinafter referred to as “forest projects”)” (hereinafter referred to as “these Guidelines”) are intended to assist project participants develop a safeguard activity implementation plan (hereinafter referred to as “SGIP”) and a safeguard activity progress report (hereinafter referred to as “SGPR”) under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (hereinafter referred to as “JCM”).
2. These Guidelines describe standards which are requirements to be met, except guidance indicated with the terms “should” and “may” as defined in paragraph 9 below.
3. These guidelines promote the national REDD-plus strategy and/or the action plan and the Safeguards Information System established by the Kingdom of Cambodia.
4. These guidelines are applied taking into account national circumstances and respective capabilities, and recognizing national sovereignty and legislation.

2. Terms and definitions

5. Safeguards for forest projects under the JCM are specified as a set of criteria, which conditions to be met by the project, as are set out in paragraph 22 below.
6. Safeguard activities are activities considered necessary to ensure that the safeguards criteria are respected when implementing the project activities.
7. A “SGIP” is prepared by project participants by filling in the “Safeguard Activity Implementation Plan Form” (hereinafter referred to as “SGIP form”).
8. A “SGPR” is prepared by project participants by filling in the “Safeguard Activity Progress Report Form” (hereinafter referred to as “SGPR form”).
9. The following terms apply in these Guidelines:
 - (a) “Should” is used to indicate that among several possibilities, one course of action is recommended as particularly suitable;
 - (b) “May” is used to indicate what is permitted.
10. Terms in these Guidelines are defined in “JCM Glossary of Terms” available on the JCM website.

¹ The relationship between a JCM project for REDD-plus and national or sub-national REDD-plus activities under the UNFCCC will be considered in line with any future decisions of UNFCCC.

3. General guidelines

11. When designing a proposed JCM project and developing a SGIP and a SGPR, project participants apply these Guidelines.
12. Before validation, using the SGIP form project participants specify plans for implementing and monitoring the safeguard activities that they have identified for the criteria described in paragraph 22.
13. Project participants implement the safeguard activities and monitoring processes for the safeguards criteria as set out in the plans.
14. Before every verification, using the SGPR form project participants provide a comprehensive report on the situation with respect to each criterion (even if safeguard activities were not deemed necessary for a specific criterion/criteria), the implementation and impacts of the safeguard activities, as well as any intended revisions and additions to strengthen the safeguard activities and their monitoring processes for the next monitoring period.
15. These Guidelines, the SGIP form and the SGPR form can be obtained electronically from the JCM website.
16. The Joint Committee may revise the SGIP form and the SGPR form, if necessary.
17. The SGIP form and the SGPR form are completed in English language.
18. The presentation of values in the SGIP form or SGPR form, including those used for the calculation, where necessary, should be in international standard format e.g. 1,000 representing one thousand and 1.0 representing one. The units used should be accompanied by their equivalent S.I. units/norms (thousand/million) as part of the requirement to ensure transparency and clarity.
19. The SGIP form and the SGPR form are to be completed without their formats, fonts and headings being altered.
20. All cells in the SGIP form and the SGPR form are to be completed, that is, none of them should be left empty.
21. As one of the rules of the JCM, the project participants of a JCM project not only for forest sector but also for all sectors prepare a sustainable development implementation plan (hereinafter referred to as “SDIP”) which describes the plan of contribution to sustainable development, and prepare a sustainable development implementation report (hereinafter referred to as “SDIR”). In case some parts of descriptions in the SDIP and the SGIP are overlapped, description in the SGIP may be simplified by specifying “see description in the SDIP” in the SGIP. In case some parts of descriptions in the SDIR and SGPR are overlapped, description in the SGPR may be simplified by specifying “see description in the SDIR” in the SGPR.

4. Criteria for the safeguards under the JCM

22. Criteria for the safeguards under the JCM are the following:
- (a) Complement or be consistent with the objectives of relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments at national, regional and local levels and relevant international conventions and agreements concluded by the Kingdom of Cambodia;
 - (b) Establish transparent and effective project governance structures;
 - (c) Recognize and respect rights to lands and resources;
 - (d) Recognize and respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples² and members of local communities;
 - (e) Promote and support the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities;
 - (f) Provide equal employment opportunities and adequate working conditions;
 - (g) Conserve natural forests;
 - (h) Respect other prioritized areas that have high values for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services;
 - (i) Generate other social and environmental benefits;
 - (j) Address the risks of reversals; and
 - (k) Reduce the risks of emissions displacement.
23. To address and respect the safeguards in the JCM forest project in a stepwise manner, project participants use the guidance described in Attachment I and Attachment II for planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting the safeguard activities per each criterion.

² The definition of indigenous peoples in Cambodia is specified in Land Law 2001.

5. Developing a SGIP and a SGPR

24. Instructions for completing a SGIP and a SGPR are provided below. A hypothetical example is provided to enhance the clarity of these Guidelines. This hypothetical example is fictional and purely for illustrative purposes.

5.1. Completing a SGIP form

<Example of a completed SGIP>

A. Project description

A.1. Title of the JCM project

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A.2. Description of project contribution to sustainable development

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide a concise description of how the project contributes to the sustainable development of the Kingdom of Cambodia.</i> |
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B. Plans for implementing and monitoring the safeguard activities

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| <p>Criterion (a) Complement or be consistent with the objectives of relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments at national, regional and local levels and relevant international conventions and agreements concluded by the Kingdom of Cambodia</p> |
| <p>Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I)</p> <p><i>Relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments and relevant international conventions and agreements concluded by the Kingdom of Cambodia, and their objectives</i></p> |
| <p>Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I)</p> <p><i>Gaps and/or inconsistencies with the objectives and contribution to achieving the objectives</i></p> |
| <p>Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I)</p> |
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| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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- *For guidance on completing the SGIP for all criteria (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k), refer to Table 1 “Approaches for planning safeguard activities per each criterion” in Attachment II. Supplementary Guidance for planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting safeguard activities.*
- *For the monitoring of all criteria (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k), describe how the situation will be monitored and describe the parameters, methods and frequency for monitoring the implementation of the safeguard activities and their impacts.*

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| Criterion (b) Establish transparent and effective project governance structures |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Existing project governance structures</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Elements of project governance structures that can be strengthened</i> |
| |
| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Criterion (c) Recognize and respect rights to lands and resources |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Rights to lands and resources related to the project</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Impacts of the project activities on the rights to lands and resources</i> |

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| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Criterion (d) Recognize and respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples ³ and members of local communities |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities relevant to the project</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Potential project impacts on rights of indigenous peoples and local communities</i> |
| |
| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
| |
| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Criterion (e) Promote and support the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Project stakeholders and their participation</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Potential to enhance stakeholder participation, including through capacity building</i> |
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³ The definition of indigenous peoples in Cambodia is specified in Land Law 2001.

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| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Criterion (f) Provide equal employment opportunities and adequate working conditions |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Employment policy, occupational health and safety, wages, training and supervision, and worker grievances</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Equal employment opportunities and adequate working conditions</i> |
| |
| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
| |
| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Criterion (g) Conserve natural forests |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Natural forests in the project area</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Clearing or disturbance of trees of other natural forest vegetation</i> |
| |
| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Criterion (h) Respect other prioritized areas that have high values for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Other areas with high values for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services that could be impacted</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Impacts of the project activities on biological diversity and ecosystem services in the identified areas</i> |
| |
| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
| |
| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Criterion (i) Generate other social and environmental benefits |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Living standards in the project vicinity</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Social and environmental benefits</i> |
| |
| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Criterion (j) Address the risks of reversals |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Risks of reversals</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Project activities to reduce risk of reversals and expected effectiveness</i> |
| |
| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
| |
| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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| Criterion (k) Reduce the risks of emissions displacement |
| Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Attachment I) <i>Risks of emissions displacement</i> |
| |
| Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Attachment I) <i>Project activities to reduce risk of emissions displacement and expected effectiveness</i> |
| |
| Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
| |
| Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Attachment I) |
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5.2. Completing a SGPR form

A. Project description

A.1. Title of the JCM project

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A.2. General information of project

| | |
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| Reference Number | |
| Registration date | |
| Monitoring period | |
| List of documents to be attached to this form, if necessary | |

B. Progress of implementing the safeguard activities compliant with the plans

| | | |
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| Criterion (a) Complement or be consistent with the objectives of relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments at national, regional and local levels and relevant international conventions and agreements concluded by the Kingdom of Cambodia. | | |
| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next | Safeguard activities | |

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| monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
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These instructions apply to all safeguard criteria: a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j and k.

- Describe the plans for safeguard activities and the processes to monitor their implementation and impacts, including any revisions of the plan when the need for new and/or strengthened safeguards activities was identified in the previous SGPR.*
- Describe the results of the monitoring, providing details on any change in the situation since the start of the project, how and the extent to which the safeguard activities were implemented and the impacts of the activities.*
- Based on the results of the monitoring, assess whether additional safeguards are needed and whether the existing safeguards and/or their monitoring should be strengthened. If so, describe the additional or strengthened safeguard activities and/or monitoring processes that are planned for the next monitoring period.*

| Criterion (b) Establish transparent and effective project governance structures | | |
|---|--|--|
| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |

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| Improvements for next monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

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| Criterion (c) Recognize and respect rights to lands and resources | | |
| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

Criterion (d) Recognize and respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples⁴ and members of local communities

⁴ The definition of indigenous peoples in Cambodia is specified in Land Law 2001.

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| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

Criterion (e) Promote and support the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities

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| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results | Situation | |

| | | |
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| (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

| Criterion (f) Provide equal employment opportunities and adequate working conditions | | |
|--|--|--|
| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

| Criterion (g) Conserve natural forests | | |
|---|--|--|
| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

| Criterion (h) Respect other areas that have high values for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services | | |
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| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

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| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

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| Criterion (i) Generate other social and environmental benefits | | |
| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next monitoring period | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation | |

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| (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | and the safeguard activities | |
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| Criterion (j) Address the risks of reversals | | |
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| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

| Criterion (k) Reduce the risks of emissions displacement | | |
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| Plans specified in the SGIP (including any revisions) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the | |

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| | safeguard activities | |
| Monitoring results (Paragraph 3 (f), Attachment I) | Situation | |
| | Implementation | |
| | Impacts | |
| Improvements for next monitoring period (Paragraph 3 (g), Attachment I) | Safeguard activities | |
| | Monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities | |

Attachment I. Instruction for planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting safeguard activities

1. This instruction indicates processes to plan, implement, monitor and report safeguard activities in a JCM forest project.
2. Project participants are encouraged to improve the safeguard activities continuously during the project period, taking into account the specific circumstances of each project.
3. In addressing and respecting the safeguards per each criterion, project participants commit to doing the following stepwise process to address each criterion:
 - (a) Identify the current situation with respect to the criterion;
 - (b) Considering the current situation and the project activities, identify any risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion;
 - (c) When risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies are identified, develop and plan safeguard activities as well as processes to monitor the implementation and impacts of the safeguard activities;
 - (d) Implement the safeguard activities;
 - (e) Monitor the situation (even if safeguard activities are not implemented) and the implementation and impacts of the safeguard activities;
 - (f) At the end of the monitoring period, report the results of the monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activities in line with the plan in the SGPR;
 - (g) If the monitoring identifies the need for new and/or strengthened safeguards activities and/or monitoring processes for the next monitoring period, include these in the SGPR.

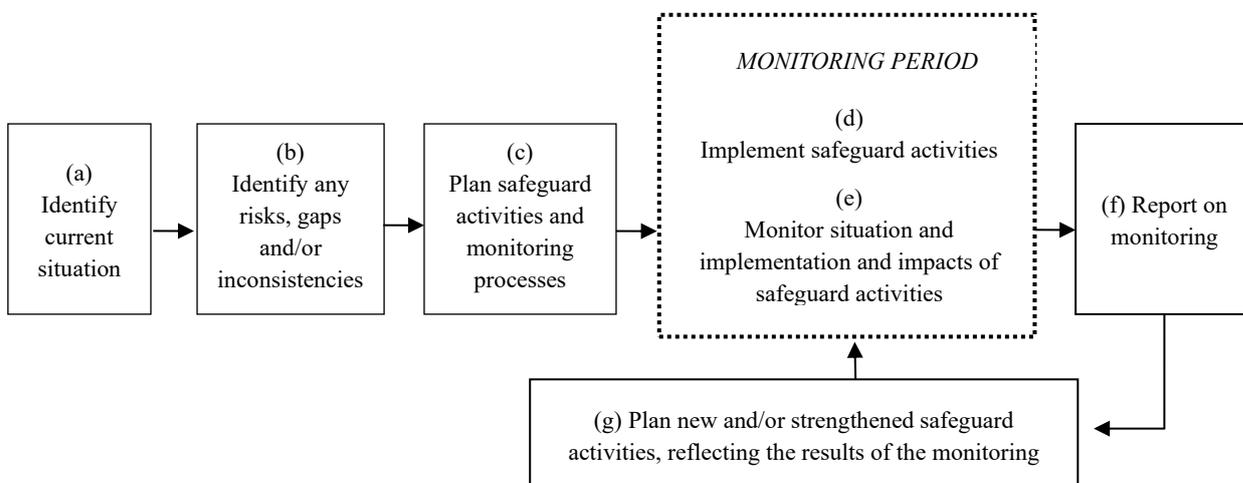


Figure: Stepwise process in addressing and respecting the safeguards

4. Approaches for the planning of each safeguard criterion are provided in Attachment II.

Attachment II. Supplementary guidance for the planning of each safeguard criterion

Table: Approaches for planning safeguard activities per each criterion

| Criteria | | Approaches for planning safeguard activities |
|----------|--|---|
| (a) | Complement or be consistent with the objectives of relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments at national, regional and local levels and relevant international conventions and agreements concluded by the Kingdom of Cambodia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments at national, regional and local levels and relevant international conventions and agreements ratified or adopted by the Kingdom of Cambodia and their objectives. In doing so, take into account non-forest sectors relevant to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. ii. Identify whether the project activities will contribute to achieving the objectives described above and whether any gaps and inconsistencies between the objectives described above and the project activities exist. iii. If gaps and inconsistencies to be resolved are identified, establish measures to address these issues and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities. If the identified gaps and inconsistencies are caused by reasons beyond the project's control, describe such reasons. |
| (b) | Establish transparent and effective project governance structures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify (describe) the project's existing/proposed governance structures. Provide information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Decision-making processes; b) Consultation, consensus-building and information dissemination processes; c) Grievance resolution mechanism; d) Financial management system; e) Benefit-sharing arrangements; f) Accountability and oversight. ii. Identify whether the project's governance structures could be strengthened. Points that may be considered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Transparency and accountability in decision-making processes; b) Provision of information to the public on the main features of the project, including its decision-making framework, project oversight, any potential risks to stakeholders and plans for mitigating these, the stakeholder engagement process, and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes; c) Effectiveness of information dissemination processes, considering local languages and culturally appropriate and effective communication methods; d) For grievance resolution, how grievances can be submitted and by whom, the length of time users can expect to wait for resolution of their grievances, and how transparency and impartiality are upheld in decisions made on all grievances received; e) Transparency of the financial management system; f) How the benefit sharing arrangement and the process to decide the benefit sharing arrangement are fair; g) Sufficiency of project oversight. iii. If project governance structures can be strengthened, establish measures and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities. |

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| (c) | Recognize and respect rights to lands and resources | <p>i. Identify the legal rights to lands and resources related to the project. Also, through engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities identify any of their customary rights to lands, territories and resources,⁵ paying particular attention to:</p> <p>a) Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.);</p> <p>b) Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples.⁶</p> <p>ii. Identify the impacts of the project activities on the rights to lands and resources, including whether the project activities will make contributions to improvements of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to use, access and manage their own land.</p> <p>iii. If negative impacts on the rights to lands and resources are identified, establish measures to address these issues and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities. If free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) has not been acquired from any groups whose rights to land and resources are negatively affected, include free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes in the safeguard activities.⁷ Where negative impacts cannot be avoided, alternatives or on fair and just compensation should be arranged in advance with affected people.</p> |
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⁵ Customary rights refer to patterns of long-standing community lands, territories and resource usage in accordance with indigenous peoples' and local communities' customary laws, values, customs, and traditions, including seasonal or cyclical use, rather than formal legal title to lands, territories and resources issued by the State.

⁶ Of the 6 High Conservation Value (HCV) categories recognized by the HCV Network, 1, 2, 3, and 4 are considered under criterion (h) and 5 and 6 are considered under criterion (c).

⁷ The following points may be considered when designing free, prior informed consent (FPIC) processes: (a) transparency; (b) gathering the views of all affected people, including those of women and of marginalized and/or vulnerable people; (c) gender sensitivity, and (d) reflection of relevant customs, norms and traditions. Vulnerable people are those who lack secure access to the assets on which secure livelihoods are built, while marginalized people are those that have little or no influence over decision-making processes. Gender sensitivity means taking into account women's views, needs and interests in project development and implementation.

The following guides may be referred to for the FPIC: UN-REDD. 2018. "Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent" <https://www.un-redd.org/document-library/guidelines-free-prior-and-informed-consent>

| | | |
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| (d) | Recognize and respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities that the project intends to use, if any, and any rights of indigenous peoples and member of local communities related to the project including statutory and customary rights. Rights to land and resources of indigenous peoples and member of local communities may be discussed under criterion (c) above.⁸ Pay particular attention to rights associated with livelihoods and wellbeing, taking into account gender issues and marginalized and vulnerable groups.⁹ ii. Identify whether the project upholds the rights of indigenous peoples or local communities over traditional knowledge, if the project aims to utilize any traditional knowledge. iii. Identify the potential impacts of the project activities on the rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, paying attention to gender issues and marginalized or vulnerable groups. iv. If free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) has not been obtained for any traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities and/or if negative impacts of the project activities on the rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities are identified, establish measures to address these issues and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities. |
| (e) | Promote and support the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify all the stakeholders related to the project activities, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and explain their interests in the project. ii. Identify whether opportunities and support for the participation of the stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in project activities could be enhanced. Pay particular attention to the participation of women, and vulnerable and marginalized groups and communities. Consider whether any constraints to effective participation of stakeholders exist, and whether the project addresses these through capacity building. iii. If the participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples, local communities, women and vulnerable and marginalized groups can be increased, establish measures to increase participation and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities. |
| (f) | Provide equal employment opportunities and adequate working conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify the project's labour management procedures regarding employment policy, occupational health and safety, wages, training and supervision, and process to respond to worker grievances. ii. Identify whether the project's employment policies and working conditions could be strengthened. Points that may be considered include: equal employment opportunities (particularly opportunities for women and people from the local communities); processes to inform employees of their rights; minimum and living wages; adequacy of job-specific training and supervision for assigned tasks; whether health and safety practices are proportionate to risk; and fair treatment of any worker grievances. |

⁸ 'Rights' refers to individual and collective rights, cultural rights and identity, rights to education, health, employment, language, and other human rights and fundamental freedoms.

⁹ Livelihood refers to the full range of means that individuals, families and communities utilize to make a living, such as wage-based income, agriculture, fishing, foraging, other natural resource-based livelihoods, petty trade and bartering. Wellbeing may be defined as people's experience of the quality of their lives and may include environmental, social, economic, psychological, and spiritual dimensions.

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| | | <p>iii. If the project's employment policies and working conditions can be strengthened, establish measures to address these issues and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities.</p> |
| (g) | Conserve natural forests | <p>i. Provide a description of the natural forests¹⁰ in the project area.</p> <p>ii. Identify whether any project activities could involve the clearing or disturbance of trees or other forest vegetation.</p> <p>iii. If such activities exist, establish measures to minimize the clearance or disturbance and facilitate recovery, and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities.</p> |
| (h) | Respect other areas that have high values for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services | <p>i. Identify any other areas in the project vicinity that have high values for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services that could be impacted by the project activities on a map. These may include:</p> <p>a) Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels;</p> <p>b) Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance;</p> <p>c) Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia;</p> <p>d) Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.</p> <p>ii. Identify any risks that project activities could adversely impact biological diversity and ecosystem services in the identified areas.</p> <p>iii. If potential negative impacts are identified, establish measures to address these issues and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities.</p> |
| (i) | Generate other social and environmental benefits | <p>i. Identify the living standards and the environment in the project vicinity.</p> <p>ii. Identify whether the project is expected to generate social and environmental benefits, including any expected contributions from the project to the objectives of policies and programmes related to the enhancement of social and environmental benefits that exist in the project vicinity.</p> <p>iii. If the project is not expected to generate other social and environmental benefits and/or does not contribute to the objectives of policies and programmes related to the enhancement of social and environmental benefits that exist in the project vicinity, or if the project's social and environmental benefits can be reasonably increased, establish measures to enhance the social and environmental benefits and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities.</p> |

¹⁰ Natural forest may be understood as a forest area with many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and biological diversity. Natural forest may include forest affected by harvesting or other disturbances where trees have or are being regenerated and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the natural forest are still present.

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| (j) | Address the risks of reversals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Identify the risks of reversals associated with the project activities.ii. Identify any project activities that reduce the risks of reversals and their expected effectiveness.iii. If the project does not have activities that address the risks of reversals due to human-induced activities, establish measures to reduce the risks and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities. |
| (k) | Reduce the risks of emissions displacement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Identify whether there are any risks of displacement of emissions due to the project activities.ii. If risks of displacement not addressed in the applied methodology are identified, establish measures to reduce the risks and include them in the implementation plan of safeguard activities. |