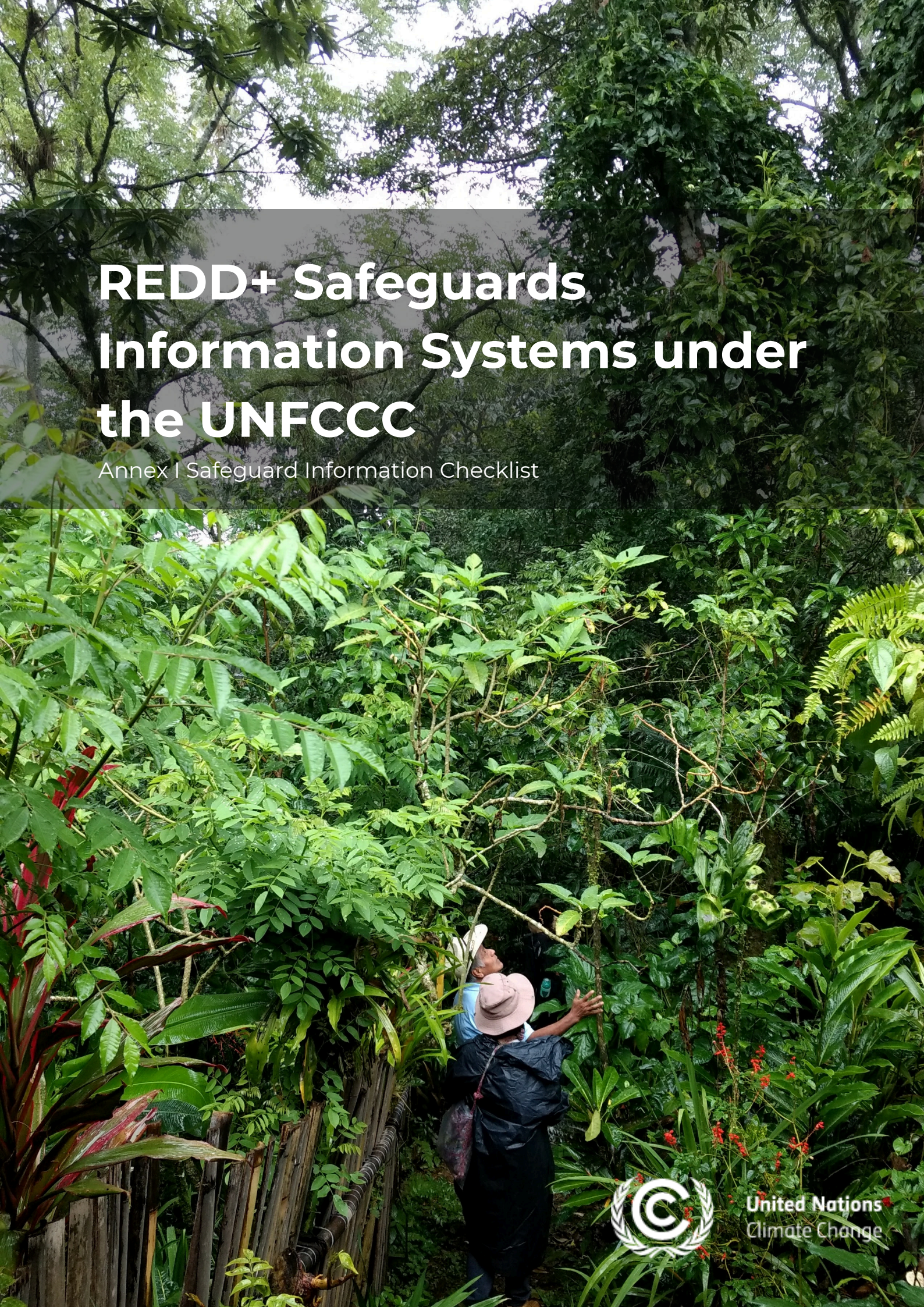




REDD+ Safeguards Information Systems under the UNFCCC

Annex I Safeguard Information Checklist



United Nations
Climate Change

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Annex I Safeguard Information Checklist

This checklist is designed as a practical tool to support the assessment of Safeguards Information System (SIS) design and implementation, based on the guidance provided in the main document.

The checklist is structured around two complementary categories of elements

PART A

UNFCCC-aligned SIS characteristics

Core characteristics of a SIS agreed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) in decision 12/CP.17. These characteristics provide the UNFCCC-aligned foundation for SIS design and include:

- Country-driven design and national-level implementation;
- Transparency, consistency and regular updating;
- Accessibility to relevant stakeholders;
- Flexibility and stepwise improvement over time;
- Comprehensive coverage of all Cancun safeguards; and
- Building upon existing systems and information.

PART B

Operational designed elements informed by country practice

Reflects operational design and implementation elements observed across existing SIS frameworks and country submissions. While not explicitly prescribed in UNFCCC decisions, these elements have been used by many countries to operationalise SIS functions in practice. They include governance arrangements, indicator frameworks, platforms and data management systems, integration with other national systems, reporting processes, and sustainability considerations.

Accordingly, this checklist is not intended to define mandatory requirements. It provides a structured reference framework that countries may use to assess the completeness and functionality of their SIS, taking into account national circumstances, institutional arrangements and the stage of REDD+ implementation.

How to use this checklist

This checklist is intended as a self-reflection and system-mapping tool. The "Status / Current Situation" column is intended to help countries identify whether an element is currently in place, partially developed, or not yet established. The "Comments / Next Steps" column can be used to record supporting evidence, identify gaps, and note potential actions for strengthening the SIS.



This annex accompanies the REDD+ SIS Briefing Paper and is part of the SIS Toolkit. All materials are available on the [REDD+ Web Platform](#).

PART A. UNFCCC-aligned SIS characteristics

(Reflecting the core SIS characteristics agreed in decision 12/CP.17)

1. Country-Driven Design

Definition: **Country-driven** – The SIS is country-driven and implemented at the national level, taking into account national circumstances, capabilities, legislation and sovereignty. It builds upon existing systems and information sources, as appropriate, and reflects national priorities and institutional arrangements.

Criteria - Country-Driver design	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
• Objectives and Intended Uses		
Are individual PaMs explicitly linked to specific, direct or indirect drivers of deforestation or forest degradation and other drivers impacting REDD+ results?		
• Scope of Safeguards Information		
Has the scope of safeguards information covered by the SIS been defined, including the safeguards, REDD+ activities and information sources included within the system?		
• National Ownership		
Are mechanisms in place to achieve cross-sectoral coherence — aligning forest conservation goals with potentially conflicting policies in agriculture, mining, and infrastructure?		
• Building on Existing Systems		
Does the SIS build upon existing systems and information sources, where appropriate, including relevant institutional arrangements, datasets and information management processes?		

2. Transparency

Definition: Transparency –The SIS provides transparent and consistent information on how the Cancun safeguards are addressed and respected. Information is made available in a manner that supports transparency and accessibility for relevant stakeholders

Criteria - Transparency	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Availability of Safeguards Information Do arrangements exist for making safeguards information available to relevant stakeholders (e.g. through reports, websites, information platforms or other dissemination channels)?		
Updating of Information Is safeguards information updated periodically or as new information becomes available, supporting transparency over time?		
Consistency of Information Is information presented in a consistent manner across reporting periods, supporting comparability and understanding over time?		
Supporting Documentation and Evidence Is information provided through the SIS supported, where appropriate, by underlying documentation, data sources or other evidence that helps explain how safeguards are addressed and respected?		

3. Accessibility

Definition: Accessibility – Information generated through the SIS is accessible to relevant stakeholders. Accessibility relates not only to whether information is available, but also to whether stakeholders can locate, understand and use the information, taking into account national circumstances and the needs of different stakeholder groups.

Criteria - Accessibility	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Access to Safeguard Information Is safeguards information made available through one or more channels that can be accessed by relevant stakeholders (e.g. websites, information platforms, reports or other dissemination mechanisms)?		
Presentation of Information Is information presented in a manner that can be understood by intended users, taking into account language, technical complexity and stakeholder needs?		

Criteria - Accessibility	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
• Scope of information available Is information made available through the SIS sufficient to support understanding of how safeguards are addressed and respected?		
• Mechanisms supporting access Do arrangements exist to facilitate access to safeguards information and, where relevant, enable stakeholders to request clarification or provide feedback?		
• Presentation of information Is consideration given to the accessibility needs of different stakeholder groups, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities and stakeholders who may face barriers to accessing information?		

4. Flexibility and Improvement

Definition: Flexibility and Improvement –The SIS is flexible and capable of improvement over time, taking into account evolving national circumstances, capacities, information needs and REDD+ implementation experience. Flexibility allows the SIS to adapt and expand as new information, priorities or lessons emerge.

Criteria - Flexibility and Improvement	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
• Capacity for improvement over time Is the SIS designed in a manner that allows for refinement and expansion over time as capacities, information needs or implementation experience evolve?		
• Information across REDD+ phases Is the SIS capable of incorporating information relevant to different phases of REDD+ implementation, as appropriate?		
• Review and reflection processes Do arrangements exist to periodically consider whether the SIS continues to meet national information and reporting needs?		
• Adaptation and updating Can the SIS be updated or adapted over time in response to new information, experience, stakeholder inputs or changing circumstances?		

5. Completeness

*Definition: **Completeness*** –The SIS provides information on all Cancun safeguards set out in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16. Information is provided on how the safeguards are addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities, taking into account national circumstances and the nature of REDD+ actions being implemented.

Criteria - Completeness	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Coverage of all Cancun Safeguards		
Does the SIS include information covering each of the seven UNFCCC Cancun safeguards (a–g)?		
Information on how safeguards are addressed and respected		
For each safeguard, does the SIS distinguish between how it is addressed (e.g. policies, laws, plans) and how it is respected (implemented in practice with results on the ground)?		
Linkage to REDD+ actions		
Is the SIS information provided in correlation to the nature, scope, and scale of all REDD+ actions in the country?		

PART B. Operational design elements informed by country practice

(Reflecting approaches commonly observed in SIS frameworks and country submissions)

6. Institutional Arrangements and Governance

Definition: Institutional Arrangements & Governance – Clear institutional structures underlie the SIS. This includes defined roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms for collecting, managing, and reporting safeguard information.

Criteria - Institutional Arrangements and Governance	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Institutional leadership and coordination Is a lead institution (or coordinating body) responsible for SIS management, and are coordination arrangements (e.g. a national REDD+ safeguards committee or task force) in place to support SIS development and implementation?		
Roles and responsibilities Are the roles and responsibilities related to SIS operation defined and documented – including responsibilities for information collection, compilation, review, quality assurance and dissemination?		
Stakeholder Participation Arrangements Does the SIS governance framework include arrangements for the participation of relevant stakeholders (e.g. Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society organizations and, where relevant, the private sector) in SIS-related processes? For instance, does a stakeholder advisory group review SIS information or contribute data?		
Information Review and Quality Assurance Are procedures in place to review safeguards information prior to publication or reporting, helping to support consistency, transparency and credibility? For example, are internal reviews carried out by a technical team or an independent review panel to validate data accuracy?		

Criteria - Institutional Arrangements and Governance	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Documentation of Institutional Arrangements Are institutional arrangements relevant to SIS implementation (e.g. mandates, coordination arrangements or data-sharing agreements) documented through official instruments or other recognised mechanisms (e.g. ToR, MoUs, or regulations), helping to secure long-term continuity and clarity of responsibilities?		
Use of Existing Institutional Structures Does the SIS governance build on existing institutional structures where possible (e.g. utilizing an existing environmental information system committee or similar body) to ensure efficiency and avoid duplication?		

7. Indicator Framework

*Definition: **Indicator Framework*** –Many SIS frameworks use indicators or metrics to organise, compile and present information on how safeguards are addressed and respected. Indicator frameworks can help translate safeguard requirements into information that can be collected, analysed and reported. In practice, indicators are often aligned with national interpretations of the Cancun safeguards and may be used to capture both the existence of safeguard-related measures and information on their implementation.

Criteria - SIS Indicator Framework	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Coverage of safeguard areas Does the indicator framework include indicators associated with each safeguard area, reflecting the country's interpretation of the Cancun safeguards (e.g. specific criteria or principles under each safeguard)?		
Indicator Definition and Documentation Are indicators specific, measurable, and clearly defined (with precise formulations and units or qualitative descriptors) so that the information collected is concrete and verifiable?		
Differentiation Across REDD+ Actions Does the indicator framework reflect, where relevant, different types of REDD+ actions? For example, are there appropriate indicators for on-the-ground activities (projects) versus policy-level or enabling actions, as needed?		

Criteria - SIS Indicator Framework	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Use of qualitative & quantitative information Does the framework include both qualitative indicators (narratives, case studies, policy analyses) and quantitative indicators (numbers, metrics) to provide a full picture of how safeguards are addressed and respected?		
Relevance for reporting Taken together, do the indicators generate information that can support the preparation of Sols, and meet other reporting requirements? (Do they capture not just whether safeguards are in place, but how well they are implemented).		
Data sources and responsibilities Are indicators associated with identified data sources and collection methods (e.g. administrative data, surveys, monitoring systems) and responsible entities for providing the data?		
Adaptability over time Is the indicator framework reviewed, and can it be updated over time – e.g. can indicators be added or refined based on experience, stakeholder input, or changes in REDD+ activities? (Yes/No)		

8. Platform and data management

Definition: Platform & Data Management –Many countries use platforms, repositories and data management arrangements to organize, store and disseminate safeguards information. These arrangements can support information management, accessibility, continuity and reporting over time, while reflecting national capacities and circumstances.

Criteria - Platform and data management	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Information access platform Is a platform, repository or other mechanism used to make safeguards information available to relevant users (e.g. a dedicated SIS website, webpage or existing information system)?		
Organization of information Is the platform well-organized (by safeguard, by reporting period, or by REDD+ activity) so that users can easily find information on each safeguard and its indicators?		

Criteria - Platform and data management	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Data storage system		
Is there a secure data management system behind the platform (such as a database or structured data repository) that stores all the collected safeguard information and supporting documents?		
Data management procedures		
Are clear procedures in place for data collection, entry, verification, and updating? Does this include maintaining data backups and archives of older information to preserve history?		
Accessibility and usability		
Is the SIS platform designed for ease of use – with an intuitive interface, clear navigation menus, and explanatory notes or guidance for users (including non-specialists)? Is multi-language support provided if needed for key user groups?		
Information Formats		
Does the platform provide information in various accessible formats, such as interactive dashboards, maps, infographics, or downloadable datasets and reports, to accommodate different user needs?		
Maintenance and updating		
Is there a schedule and responsibility for regular maintenance of the platform – ensuring content is up to date, links and features work, and the site remains secure and functional over time?		
Technology and resource considerations		
Is the hardware/software used for the SIS appropriate to national capacities (e.g. uses open-source or widely used tools to reduce cost and ensure longevity), and can it be maintained with available technical support?		

9. Linkages with grievance and other systems

Definition: Linkages with Grievance and Other Systems – SIS arrangements often draw on information generated through other systems, including grievance redress mechanisms, forest monitoring systems and other environmental or social information systems. These linkages can help support more comprehensive safeguards information and reduce duplication of effort across institutions and reporting processes.

Criteria - Linkages with GRM and Monitoring Systems	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Linkages with grievance mechanisms Does the SIS platform provide a channel for stakeholders to submit feedback or grievances related to safeguards (or clearly link to the existing REDD+ Grievance Redress Mechanism), so that concerns can be captured in real time?		
Use of grievance information Is information from the GRM integrated into the SIS reporting? For example, does the SIS report on the number and nature of grievances received and how they were resolved as evidence of addressing safeguards concerns?		
Use of forest monitoring information Does the SIS draw on relevant data from the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) or other environmental monitoring systems (e.g. data on deforestation, forest degradation used to inform safeguard on natural forests/biodiversity)?		
Use of information from other systems Is the SIS linked with other existing data systems (e.g. biodiversity databases, social impact monitoring, land tenure information) to source safeguard-relevant information? (Yes/No)		
Information sharing arrangements Are formal protocols or agreements in place for data sharing between the SIS and these other systems (GRM, NFMS, etc.), ensuring regular data updates and consistency (e.g. an MOU with the forestry department to supply data annually)?		
Consistency across safeguard frameworks If multiple safeguard frameworks are being used (for instance, donor or program-specific safeguards), are the SIS information requirements harmonized with them? Does the SIS serve as a central hub to meet various reporting needs, minimizing duplicate systems?		

10. Reporting and information review

Definition: Reporting and Information Review –Information generated through the SIS can support the preparation of safeguards-related reporting outputs, including the UNFCCC Sol. In practice, many countries also apply review, quality assurance or stakeholder feedback processes to support the transparency, consistency and credibility of safeguards information.

Criteria - Reporting and Information Review	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Support for Sol preparation Is the SIS structured to facilitate preparation of the UNFCCC Sol on safeguards? For instance, is information organized by each Cancun safeguard, making it straightforward to summarize how each safeguard is addressed and respected?		
Use of SIS for multiple reporting uses Does information generated through the SIS also support other reporting and communication needs, such as national reporting processes, donor reporting requirements or public information products? Can the system generate both detailed technical data and summary narratives suitable for various audiences.		
Information review arrangements Do arrangements exist for reviewing safeguards information prior to publication or reporting (e.g. technical review processes, multi-stakeholder review arrangements or other quality assurance mechanisms)?		
Internal review processes Is there an internal review process for the data (aligns with quality control in Governance section) prior to reporting – ensuring accuracy and consistency of the reported information?		
Stakeholder feedback opportunities Do opportunities exist for stakeholders to provide feedback on published safeguards information or reporting outputs?		
Reporting guidance and templates Are guidance materials, templates or other reporting tools used to support consistency in the preparation and presentation of safeguards information?		

11. Sustainability and Capacity

Definition: Sustainability & Capacity –Many countries consider institutional capacity, human resources, financial resources and continuous improvement arrangements when developing and maintaining a SIS over time. These elements can support the long-term operation, maintenance and evolution of the SIS beyond its initial development phase.

Criteria - Sustainability and capacity	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Capacity assessment and development Have institutional and technical capacities for operating the SIS been assessed, and are measures in place to strengthen capacity where needed (e.g. training programs for staff on data management, assigning dedicated SIS officers)?		
Personnel and institutional responsibilities Have personnel/units been assigned with clear responsibility for the SIS (data collection, analysis, IT maintenance, coordination)? Are their roles institutionalized (e.g. part of job descriptions or TORs) to ensure continuity?		
Financial and resource planning Do financial or resource planning arrangements exist to support SIS development, operation and maintenance over time? Are sufficient resources allocated for both initial setup and ongoing operations (maintenance, updates, staffing)? Is long-term funding (e.g. via government budgets or multi-year donor support) planned to avoid gaps?		
Phased development approach Did the SIS development follow a phased or piloting approach (if applicable), allowing the system to start modestly and scale up? Have lessons learned from pilot phases been used to refine the SIS design before full rollout?		
Periodic system review Beyond regular data updates, are the overall SIS design and effectiveness reviewed periodically (e.g. an evaluation every 1-2 years)? Do these evaluations identify what is working and what needs adjustment, feeding into system improvements?		

Criteria - Sustainability and capacity	Status/Current Situation	Comments/Next Steps
Continuous Improvement Arrangements		
Do arrangements or a plan exist for continuous improvement of the SIS (e.g. an action plan or roadmap to address gaps and upgrade the system over time, aligning with the step-wise improvement principle)?		
Political and stakeholder support		
Is high-level political support (e.g. endorsement by a REDD+ steering committee or ministry) in place, and do stakeholders remain engaged (through seeing the value of SIS outputs), which helps secure the SIS's longevity?		
Institutional Embedding		
Is the SIS embedded in national institutional frameworks (for example, integrated into regular government monitoring systems or legally anchored in policy), ensuring it persists beyond individual projects or external funding cycles?		