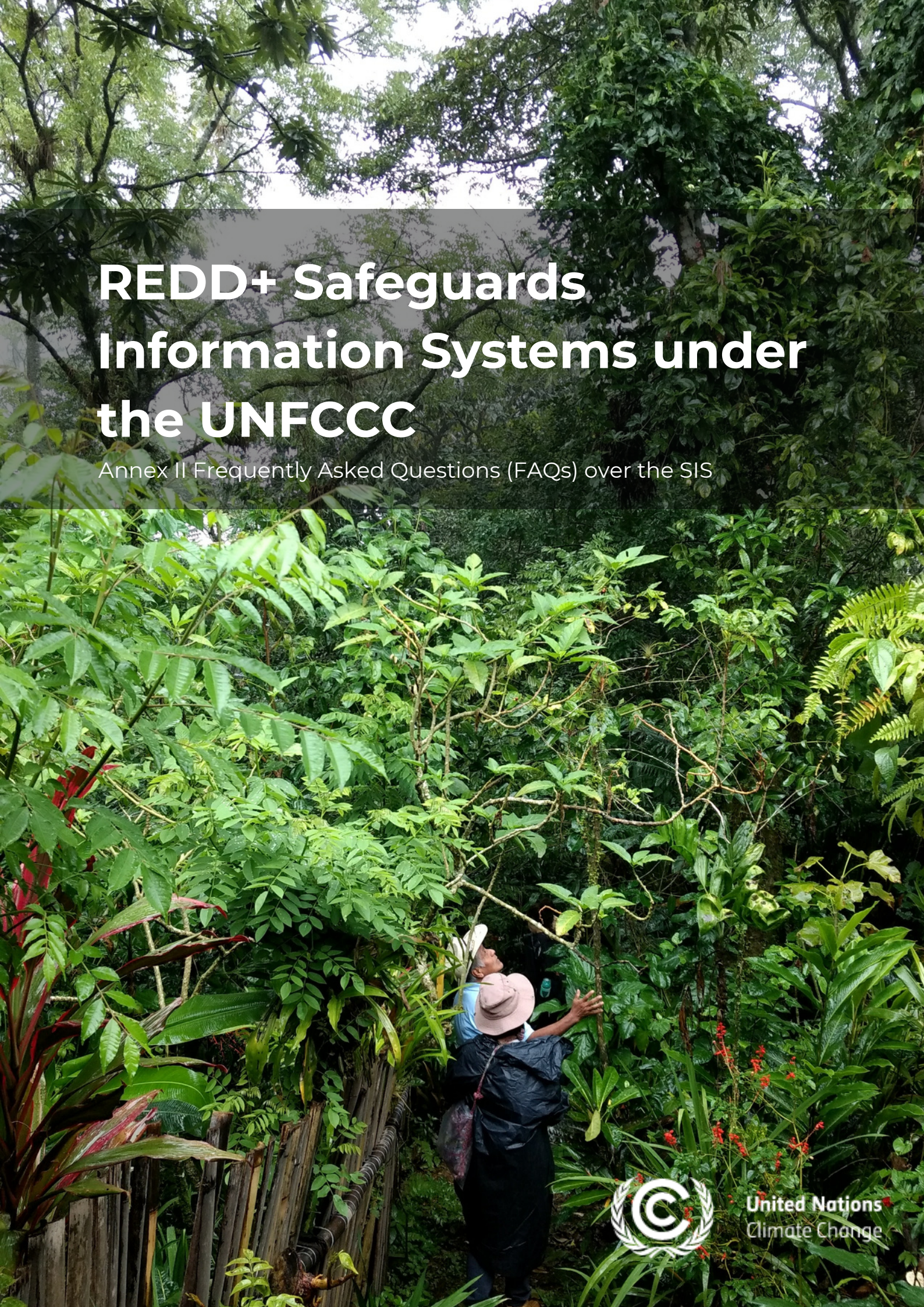




REDD+ Safeguards Information Systems under the UNFCCC

Annex II Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) over the SIS



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Annex II

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) over the SIS

This section provides concise responses to common questions related to the design and operation of Safeguards Information Systems (SIS). The answers are based on UNFCCC guidance and observed country practice, as reflected in this document.

1

What is the difference between the SIS and the Summary of Information (Sol)?

The SIS is the national system that collects, compiles and manages safeguards information over time. The Summary of Information (Sol) is the international communication through which countries present information to the UNFCCC on how safeguards are addressed and respected.

In practice, the Sol is typically prepared using information generated through the SIS.

2

What information needs to be included in the Summary of Information?

UNFCCC guidance provides flexibility in format and content. In practice, Sols generally include:

- how safeguards are interpreted in the national context;
- how safeguards are addressed (e.g. laws, policies, systems); and
- how safeguards are respected in implementation, including outcomes and examples.

The level of detail and structure may vary across countries and over time.

3

Is verification of SIS information required?

UNFCCC decisions do not require a formal international verification process for safeguards information or Sols.

In practice, many countries apply internal review processes, stakeholder consultations, or other forms of validation to enhance transparency and credibility. These approaches vary depending on national arrangements.

4

Do countries need to create a new database or platform for the SIS?

Not necessarily. UNFCCC guidance encourages countries to build upon existing systems where appropriate. In practice, many countries draw on existing national systems—such as forest monitoring systems, environmental databases, or governance platforms—and connect them to form the SIS.

Some countries develop dedicated SIS web portals to improve accessibility, while others use existing platforms to publish safeguards information. The approach varies depending on national capacity and institutional arrangements.

5

Are indicators required for a SIS?

UNFCCC decisions do not prescribe the use of indicators. However, in practice, many countries use indicator-based approaches to organize and present safeguards information.

Indicators can help structure information and support reporting, particularly for the Summary of Information (Sol), but their design and use remain nationally determined.

6

Does the SIS need to be organized by each Cancun safeguard?

Not necessarily. The SIS must provide information on how all Cancun safeguards are addressed and respected, but the way this is structured varies by country.

Some countries organize information safeguard-by-safeguard, while others use nationally defined principles, criteria, or action-based approaches. The structure depends on national interpretation and system design.

7

How often does SIS information need to be updated?

UNFCCC guidance refers to transparency and consistency over time but does not prescribe a specific update frequency for SIS information.

In practice, updates are often aligned with reporting cycles, such as the preparation of the Summary of Information (every four years) or other national reporting processes. Some countries also update SIS platforms more frequently as new information becomes available.

8

How does the SIS relate to grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs)?

The SIS and GRM are separate but related systems. In practice, SIS arrangements often include information on the existence and functioning of GRMs, and may incorporate aggregated information on grievances and their resolution. This helps demonstrate how safeguards are implemented and how concerns are addressed.

9

Does the SIS need to generate all safeguards data itself?

No. The SIS is not intended to generate all underlying data. In practice, it draws on information from existing systems, such as forest monitoring systems, biodiversity databases, land-use planning systems, and social or governance processes. The SIS compiles and organizes this information to provide a coherent picture of safeguards implementation.

10

How can countries ensure the SIS remains sustainable over time?

Sustainability depends on institutional capacity, financial resources and integration into national systems.

In practice, countries often strengthen sustainability by:

- Embedding SIS functions within government institutions;
- Linking SIS activities to national REDD+ programmes; and
- Integrating safeguards processes into existing workflows and systems.

Approaches vary depending on national circumstances.

11**Can a REDD+ SIS be used for Article 6 activities?**

A REDD+ SIS is designed to meet UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards requirements.

Where a country chooses to pursue REDD+ activities under Article 6, information generated through the SIS may, in some cases, be useful for supporting reporting or governance processes related to those activities. This use remains optional and does not imply that the SIS becomes a general safeguards system for all Article 6 activities or sectors.

12**Is a web-based SIS platform required?**

UNFCCC guidance does not require a specific type of platform.

In practice, many countries use web-based platforms to improve accessibility and transparency. Others rely on reports, national systems, or a combination of approaches.

13**How detailed does SIS reporting need to be?**

UNFCCC guidance allows flexibility. In practice, many countries adopt a stepwise approach, starting with core information and progressively increasing detail and coverage over time as systems and capacity develop.