

REDD+ Safeguards Information Systems under the UNFCCC

Annex III Structuring Safeguards Information and Evidence in a SIS:
Practical Guidance by Cancun Safeguard



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Climate Change

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Annex III

Structuring Safeguards Information and Evidence in a SIS: Practical Guidance by Cancun Safeguard



This briefing note is part of a series of REDD+ knowledge products, including briefing papers, toolkits and learning resources, developed under the UNFCCC. It is designed to be read alongside the full SIS Toolkit and its accompanying annexes. All materials are available on the [REDD+ Web Platform](#).

Introduction

This annex provides practical, non-prescriptive guidance for developing and using indicators and evidence to organise information in a national Safeguards Information System (SIS).

Under the UNFCCC, Parties are required to provide information on how all seven Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected in the context of REDD+ implementation, but UNFCCC decisions do not prescribe indicator formats or minimum metrics. Instead, they establish a country-driven approach and broad characteristics for SIS design and reporting.

In practice, many countries use indicators as a practical tool to:



Separate addressing from respecting

Separate “addressing” information (laws, policies, procedures, institutional arrangements) from “respecting” information (implementation evidence and outcomes during a reporting period)



Link to REDD+ action types

Link safeguards information to REDD+ action types (direct vs enabling)



Associate with geography

Associate information with geographic units where actions are spatially explicit



Improve traceability

Improve traceability, so each narrative claim can be linked back to a source document, dataset, decision record, consultation note, grievance log, or monitoring output.

2. Normative foundation and scope

Cancun safeguards and the SIS reporting objective

2010

Decision 1/CP.16 Cancun Agreements

The mandate

The Cancun safeguards (a–g) are defined in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 and must be “promoted and supported” when undertaking REDD+ activities. The same decision requests developing country Parties to have “a system for providing information on how the safeguards [...] are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation” of the REDD+ activities (while respecting sovereignty).

2011

Decision 12/CP.17 - Durban

Core characteristics of the SIS

Decision 12/CP.17 sets out the core characteristics of an SIS (transparent, consistent, accessible, flexible, comprehensive, country-driven, building on existing systems) and reiterates that developing country Parties undertaking REDD+ activities are to provide an Sol on how safeguards are being addressed and respected.

2015

Decision 17/CP.21 - Paris

How to address and respect Safeguards

Decision 17/CP.21 clarifies that information on how safeguards are addressed and respected is to be provided in a way that ensures transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness, and it encourages inclusion (where appropriate) of national circumstances, a description of each safeguard, relevant systems/processes, and information on how each safeguard has been addressed and respected.

Indicators are optional under UNFCCC decisions, but widely used in practice

UNFCCC decisions describe what information must be provided (addressing and respecting all safeguards; clarifying which REDD+ activities are included in the Sol), while not prescribing a mandatory indicator framework or fixed metrics.

Consistent with country-driven design, many Parties translate their national interpretation of each safeguard into structured “principles/criteria/indicators” or other headings to support consistent internal compilation and public reporting over time. This is reflected in country practice such as:

Indonesia: A structured set of principles, criteria and indicators used to organise safeguards evidence.

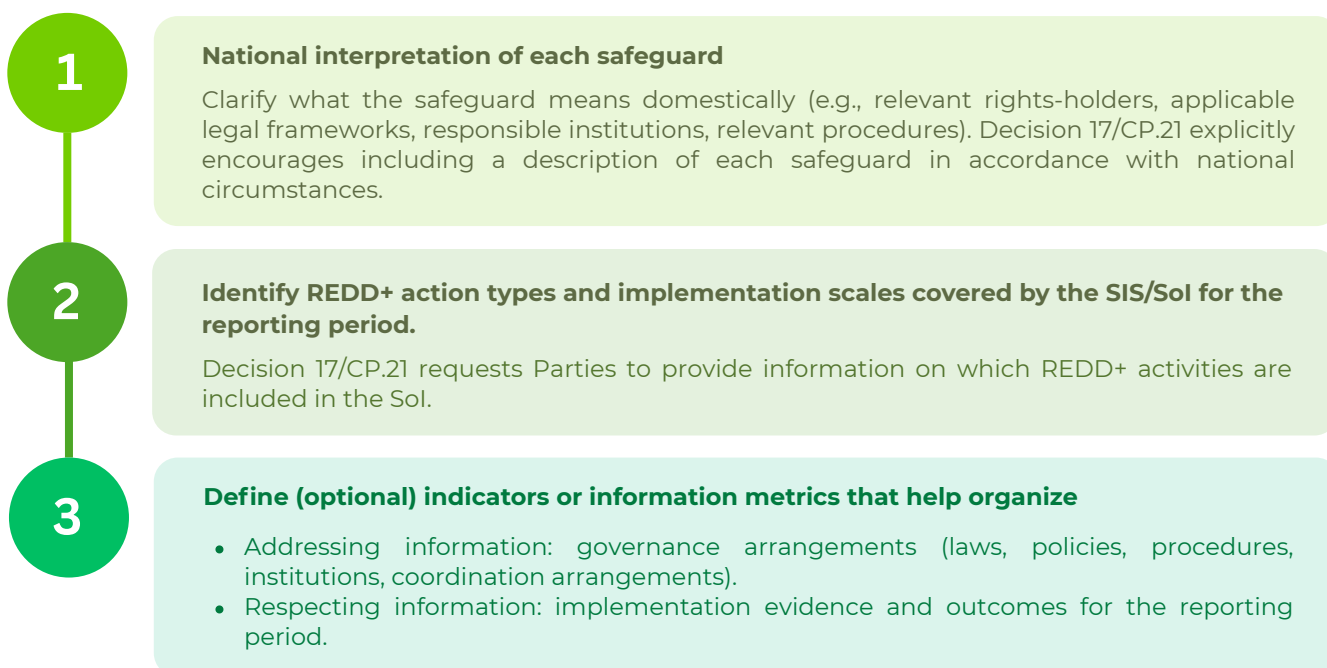
Chile: Explicit national definitions for “addressing” and “respecting”, supported by indicators/verification elements.

3. Designing indicators that link safeguards to REDD+ actions

The following considerations reflect observed country practice and help ensure that SIS indicators support reporting on how safeguards are addressed and respected in relation to REDD+ actions, rather than in abstraction.

3.1. Anchor indicators to national interpretation, then link to action types

A practical sequence used by many countries:



In practice, some countries explicitly structure their Sols around the period's direct REDD+ actions, while explaining the broader national context and enabling measures. For example, Guyana frames its Sol around a reporting period and focuses safeguards narratives on "Direct REDD+ actions under implementation" for that period, while situating them within the wider national strategy.

3.2 Distinguish direct and enabling actions because evidence types differ

For SIS purposes, it is often useful to distinguish:

Direct actions

On-the-ground interventions (e.g., conservation/restoration operations, enforcement actions, community forestry, tenure demarcation activities, site-based benefit sharing, local monitoring).

Enabling actions

Legal, policy, institutional, planning or programme measures (e.g., reforms, national standards, institutional mandates, rules/procedures, benefit-sharing frameworks, grievance arrangements, safeguards guidance, capacity-building systems).

This distinction helps maintain proportionality and avoid applying location-specific evidence expectations to measures that are inherently national or procedural.

It also supports clearer "respecting" narratives, because "implementation evidence" for enabling actions often looks like proof of operation (decisions issued, procedures used, records created, systems functioning), whereas for direct actions it often looks like site- and stakeholder-specific evidence (consultation records, agreements, monitoring outputs, grievance cases, maps).

3.3 Geographic disaggregation is most useful where actions are spatially explicit

Where REDD+ actions are implemented in defined areas, SIS information can be associated with relevant geographic units (e.g., jurisdictions, programme areas, project sites, landscapes, administrative regions). The rationale is not to “map safeguards” in the abstract, but to make safeguards information usable by showing where and for whom actions were implemented, and what evidence exists for corresponding safeguards application.



3.4 Evidence and traceability considerations for SIS reporting

UNFCCC guidance requires transparency and comprehensiveness while taking into account national circumstances and capabilities. In practice, this supports a proportionate evidence approach, where the depth and specificity of evidence aligns with the scale, risk and potential impacts of the relevant REDD+ action(s).

A practical interpretation is:

Higher-risk direct actions

Especially those affecting land access, resource use, customary rights, or community livelihoods are often associated with more granular, location- and stakeholder-specific evidence, including records of participation, agreements, grievance handling, and monitoring follow-up.

National enabling measures

Often rely more on documented systems and procedures, records of decision-making and participation processes, published rules/guidance, institutional mandates, and periodic reports showing the measure is operating.

This is consistent with the “stepwise” improvement logic in decision 17/CP.21, which encourages countries to improve Sol information over time.

3.5 Managing and Documenting Safeguards Evidence

While not mandatory, many REDD+ countries consider an ‘evidence register’ (or equivalent) a practical and useful SIS feature, because it can link each indicator/information heading to:

- 1 The source type (law/regulation, policy, procedure, minutes, dataset, monitoring output, grievance log, third-party report, etc.);
- 2 The coverage (which action(s), which area(s), which stakeholders);
- 3 The time period (reporting period covered);
- 4 The custodian (institution responsible for maintaining the source); and
- 5 A stable reference (URL, document ID, registry number, database key, archive location)

This helps streamline compilation for successive Sols by reusing stable “addressing” evidence while updating “respecting” evidence for the new period. The formality and level of detail of such arrangements may vary depending on national circumstances and capacities. While evidence registers and stable reference systems can support transparency, traceability and efficiency in compiling safeguards information over time, they are not required under UNFCCC decisions and their absence does not, in itself, affect whether a SIS is considered complete under the Convention.

4. Structuring safeguards information by Cancun safeguard: practical considerations and examples

The tables below provide illustrative examples of how safeguards information may be structured within a SIS, drawing on observed country practice.

UNFCCC decisions do not prescribe the use of indicators. In practice, countries use a range of approaches to organise safeguards information, including indicators, qualitative narratives, or structured information headings.

The examples presented here are therefore not intended as a prescribed set of indicators, but as practical considerations to support countries in designing how safeguards information is organised, generated and reported.

They are structured to reflect key distinctions that are important in SIS design and reporting:

The **distinction between** how safeguards are **addressed** (laws, policies, systems and institutional arrangements) and how they are **respected** (evidence from implementation and outcomes); and

The **distinction between enabling** REDD+ actions (policy, legal and institutional measures) and **direct** REDD+ actions (site-level implementation), recognising that the type and level of evidence differ.

These examples are organized by Cancun safeguard (decision 1/CP.16, appendix I) and are intended to help countries ensure that safeguards information is:

- 1 Clearly linked to REDD+ actions
- 2 Proportionate to the scale and risk of those actions; and
- 3 Supported by traceable evidence from implementation.

Countries may adapt, simplify or expand these examples according to national circumstances, institutional arrangements and the design of their SIS.

Safeguard (a) – Consistency with national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements

In practice, countries often operationalise this safeguard through ensuring coherence between REDD+ actions, national forest programmes, and broader policy and legal frameworks, including relevant international commitments. The examples below illustrate how SIS information can reflect these dimensions in relation to REDD+ actions.

Coherence dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
1.Alignment with national forest programmes	Addressing	Mapping of REDD+ strategies and policies to national forest programme objectives and priorities	REDD+ strategy/action plan; national forest programme; sector plans; coherence analyses; planning documents	Requirements for REDD+ interventions to align with national forest management objectives	Intervention design templates; screening tools; approval criteria; planning documents
	Respecting	Evidence that REDD+ policy decisions and programme actions reflect forest programme priorities	Policy decisions; programme reports; implementation records; planning updates	Evidence that REDD+ interventions are implemented in line with forest programme objectives	Field monitoring reports; data; inspection records; maps showing alignment of activities with forest priorities
2. Cross-sector policy coherence (drivers of deforestation)	Addressing	Coordination frameworks linking REDD+ with other sectors (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure, mining) affecting forests	Inter-ministerial coordination arrangements; land-use planning frameworks; sectoral policies; governance structures	Procedures ensuring REDD+ interventions consider cross-sector interactions and land-use pressures	Screening tools; coordination protocols; design adjustments reflecting cross-sector risks
	Respecting	Evidence that REDD+ decisions are consistent with broader land-use and sector policies	Coordination meeting records; joint policy outputs; planning decisions	Evidence that REDD+ implementation avoids conflicting land uses or policy objectives	Site-level records; spatial analysis; coordination documentation; implementation adjustments

Coherence dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
3. Alignment with international agreements and commitments	Addressing	Identification of relevant international conventions and agreements reflected in REDD+ frameworks (as nationally defined)	National policies referencing international agreements; legal frameworks; strategy documents; safeguards frameworks	Requirements that REDD+ interventions consider relevant international obligations (e.g. biodiversity, rights, conservation)	Screening criteria; design guidance; compliance procedures
	Respecting	Evidence that REDD+ actions are implemented consistently with relevant international commitments	Reports on implementation; policy application records; compliance documentation	Evidence that interventions reflect commitments in practice (e.g. biodiversity protection, rights, conservation outcomes)	Monitoring reports; field data; implementation documentation; evaluation reports
4. Institutional coordination and decision-making coherence	Addressing	Institutional arrangements ensuring coordination across ministries and agencies involved in REDD+	Terms of reference; mandates; coordination bodies; governance frameworks	Procedures ensuring coordination in implementation and decision-making for REDD+ actions	SOPs; decision-making workflows; coordination protocols
	Respecting	Evidence that coordination mechanisms are operational and inform REDD+ decisions	Meeting records; coordination reports; joint decisions; policy updates	Evidence that implementation reflects coordinated decision-making	Site-level coordination records; implementation reports; joint actions
5. Translation of policy coherence into implementation	Addressing	Mechanisms linking national policies and strategies to implementation-level requirements	Planning frameworks; operational guidelines; implementation manuals; approval processes	Requirements ensuring REDD+ interventions follow national policies and strategies	Intervention guidelines; compliance checklists; approval documentation
	Respecting	Evidence that policies are applied in practice in REDD+ implementation	Programme implementation reports; monitoring outputs; compliance checks	Evidence that site-level activities reflect approved plans and policy alignment	Field supervision reports; monitoring results; audit records; updated maps of intervention areas

Coherence dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
6. Spatial coherence and land-use alignment	Addressing	Integration of REDD+ into land-use planning, zoning and spatial frameworks	Land-use plans; zoning maps; spatial planning instruments; GIS datasets	Procedures ensuring REDD+ actions are located in areas consistent with planning frameworks	Site selection criteria; spatial screening tools; mapping protocols
	Respecting	Evidence that REDD+ actions are implemented in accordance with spatial planning frameworks	Planning decisions; compliance reports; spatial monitoring outputs	Evidence that interventions occur in designated areas and align with spatial plans	Updated maps; GIS analysis; field verification; spatial compliance checks

Safeguard (b) – Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty

This safeguard is often interpreted by countries as encompassing multiple governance dimensions, including transparency and access to information, institutional accountability, anti-corruption and integrity, land and resource governance, and grievance redress. The table below illustrates how these dimensions can be reflected in SIS indicators and evidence, linked to REDD+ actions.

Governance dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
1. Transparency and access to information	Addressing	Legal and institutional frameworks ensuring access to information relevant to REDD+ (e.g. disclosure rules, public reporting systems)	Access-to-information laws; transparency portals; SIS platforms; institutional mandates; disclosure procedures	Procedures requiring disclosure of REDD+ implementation information at local level (permits, plans, enforcement actions)	Public notices; local disclosure boards; project information sheets; online portals with action-level data
	Respecting	Evidence that information is publicly available and accessible during the reporting period	Published datasets; reports; portal usage records; responses to information requests	Evidence that stakeholders can access information on specific REDD+ actions	Site-level communications; meeting materials; records of information dissemination; community briefings

Governance dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
2. Institutional accountability and oversight	Addressing	Institutional arrangements defining roles, mandates and oversight for REDD+ governance (including coordination bodies)	Laws establishing mandates; ToRs of oversight bodies; inter-agency agreements; audit frameworks	Operational rules defining accountability in implementation (who approves, monitors, enforces actions)	SOPs; institutional workflows; delegation of authority documents
	Respecting	Evidence that oversight and accountability functions are exercised	Audit reports; internal reviews; inter-agency meeting records; corrective actions taken	Evidence that accountability mechanisms operate in implementation (decisions documented, actions traceable)	Site-level decision logs; enforcement records; inspection reports; supervision notes
3. Anti-corruption and integrity systems	Addressing	Existence of integrity frameworks applicable to REDD+ (financial controls, procurement rules, anti-corruption systems)	Anti-corruption laws; procurement rules; integrity policies; financial management systems	Procedures ensuring transparency and control over REDD+ implementation resources (contracts, enforcement actions)	Procurement documentation; contract templates; financial procedures; enforcement protocols
	Respecting	Evidence that integrity systems are applied in REDD+ governance	Audit findings; compliance reviews; financial reports; investigation records	Evidence that implementation follows integrity rules (transparent procurement, documented enforcement)	Contract disclosures; procurement records; financial tracking reports; enforcement case files
4. Land and resource governance (tenure, rights, allocation)	Addressing	Legal and institutional frameworks governing land tenure, forest rights, and resource allocation relevant to REDD+	Land laws; tenure systems; cadastral systems; land-use planning frameworks; concession rules	Procedures ensuring that REDD+ actions respect tenure and allocation rules (screening, approvals, exclusions)	Land screening procedures; tenure verification protocols; concession allocation rules
	Respecting	Evidence that tenure and resource governance systems are applied in REDD+ planning and implementation	Land registries; planning documents; allocation decisions; coordination records	Evidence that REDD+ actions are implemented in accordance with tenure arrangements	Site-level tenure records; maps; agreements; exclusion lists; records of rights-holder engagement

Governance dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
5. Grievance redress and accountability mechanisms	Addressing	Existence of grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs) applicable to REDD+ (national or sectoral systems)	GRM procedures; institutional mandates; complaint-handling protocols; access channels	Procedures linking REDD+ implementation to grievance mechanisms (referral pathways, intake systems)	GRM access points; complaint submission procedures; field-level intake protocols
	Respecting	Evidence that grievance mechanisms are operational and accessible	Records of grievances received and resolved; response timelines; public reporting	Evidence that grievances related to REDD+ actions are handled in practice	Site-level grievance logs; resolution records; correspondence; corrective action documentation
6. Decision-making transparency and procedural clarity	Addressing	Procedures defining how REDD+ decisions are made (planning, approvals, enforcement, benefit allocation)	Decision-making frameworks; planning approval procedures; workflows	Rules guiding local decision-making for REDD+ actions (e.g. enforcement decisions, programme implementation)	SOPs; operational manuals; approval checklists
	Respecting	Evidence that decisions are taken transparently and documented	Policy decisions; planning records; consultation outcomes	Evidence that implementation decisions are traceable and documented	Site-level decision records; enforcement decisions; public notices; stakeholder communications

Safeguard (c) – Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities

In practice, countries often interpret this safeguard as covering multiple interrelated dimensions, including identification of rights-holders, recognition of rights (including tenure), protection of traditional knowledge, and culturally appropriate participation processes. The examples below illustrate how these dimensions may be reflected in SIS information and evidence, linked to REDD+ actions.

Governance dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
1. Identification and mapping of rights-holders	Addressing	National processes to identify and map Indigenous Peoples and local communities relevant to REDD+; recognition of customary tenure systems and rights-holders (as nationally defined)	National registries; mapping exercises; tenure/land-use datasets; community identification frameworks; demographic studies	Screening of REDD+ interventions to identify affected rights-holders and communities	Screening records; maps showing affected areas; lists of identified stakeholders; community profiles
	Respecting	Evidence that identification processes are applied in REDD+ planning and implementation	Updated mapping records; stakeholder identification reports; consultation participant lists	Evidence that all relevant rights-holders were identified and engaged in specific REDD+ actions	Site-level stakeholder lists; participation records; evidence of inclusion of vulnerable groups
2. Recognition and protection of rights (including tenure)	Addressing	Legal and institutional frameworks recognising land, resource and customary rights relevant to REDD+	Constitution; land tenure laws; forest legislation; customary rights frameworks; policy documents	Procedures to assess and respect tenure and rights in REDD+ interventions (e.g. screening, exclusion, safeguards measures)	Tenure screening procedures; land-use verification protocols; guidance documents
	Respecting	Evidence that rights-protection frameworks are operational in REDD+ implementation	Tenure clarification records; land demarcation outputs; administrative decisions; policy application records	Evidence that REDD+ actions are implemented in accordance with rights (no displacement, respect for access/use rights)	Site-level agreements; maps; records showing no conflict with tenure; dispute resolution records

Governance dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
3. Traditional knowledge and cultural heritage	Addressing	Policies or guidelines recognising and protecting traditional knowledge and cultural practices in REDD+	National policies; guidelines on traditional knowledge; safeguards frameworks; cultural heritage protocols	Procedures for integrating traditional knowledge into REDD+ design and implementation	Project design guidelines; consultation frameworks; knowledge integration protocols
	Respecting	Evidence that traditional knowledge is considered in REDD+ planning and decision-making	Policy application records; consultation outputs referencing traditional knowledge	Evidence that traditional knowledge is incorporated in implementation (e.g. forest management practices, monitoring)	Documentation of local knowledge use; participatory planning outputs; community-led practices; monitoring reports
4. Consultation, participation and consent (e.g. FPIC where applicable)	Addressing	National procedures for culturally appropriate consultation and, where applicable, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)	Consultation guidelines; FPIC protocols; participation frameworks; legal requirements	Procedures requiring consultation and consent processes for REDD+ interventions	Consultation plans; FPIC procedures; stakeholder engagement protocols
	Respecting	Evidence that consultation and consent processes are implemented in practice	Records of national or policy-level consultations; meeting documentation; consultation reports	Evidence that consultation/consent processes were conducted for specific REDD+ actions	Signed agreements (where applicable); meeting minutes; attendance lists; consultation reports; audio/visual records
5. Benefit-sharing and equitable outcomes	Addressing	Frameworks defining benefit-sharing arrangements for REDD+ (including eligibility and distribution rules)	Benefit-sharing policies; programme guidelines; financial frameworks; governance arrangements	Procedures for distributing benefits at intervention level	Benefit-sharing plans; operational manuals; allocation criteria
	Respecting	Evidence that benefit-sharing frameworks are operational	Reports on benefit allocation; programme monitoring data; financial summaries	Evidence that benefits are distributed in practice and reach rights-holders	Payment records; distribution logs; community receipts; beneficiary lists; participatory monitoring reports

Governance dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
6. Grievance and rights-related accountability	Addressing	Existence of grievance redress mechanisms applicable to rights and participation in REDD+	GRM procedures; institutional mandates; complaint-handling protocols	Procedures linking REDD+ interventions to grievance systems	GRM access points; intake procedures; referral systems
	Respecting	Evidence that grievance mechanisms are operational and accessible	Records of grievances received/resolved; response timelines; reporting outputs	Evidence that rights-related grievances linked to REDD+ actions are addressed	Site-level grievance logs; resolution records; correspondence; corrective action documentation

Safeguard (d) – Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities

In practice, countries often operationalise this safeguard through multiple dimensions of participation, including identification of stakeholders, inclusive engagement processes, and feedback mechanisms. The examples below illustrate how these dimensions may be reflected in SIS information and evidence, linked to REDD+ actions.

Participation dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
1. Identification and mapping of stakeholders	Addressing	National processes for identifying and mapping relevant stakeholders for REDD+ (including Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other groups as nationally defined)	Stakeholder mapping methodologies; national stakeholder registries; social assessments; guidance documents	Screening of REDD+ interventions to identify affected stakeholders and groups	Site-level stakeholder mapping; lists of affected communities/groups; baseline social assessments
	Respecting	Evidence that stakeholder identification processes are applied in REDD+ planning	Updated stakeholder lists; consultation planning documents	Evidence that all relevant stakeholders were identified and engaged in specific REDD+ actions	Participation records; attendance lists; disaggregated stakeholder data

Participation dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
2. Participation frameworks and governance platforms	Addressing	National frameworks or platforms for stakeholder participation in REDD+ governance (committees, advisory groups, consultation processes)	Terms of reference; governance structures; participation strategies; institutional mandates	Procedures requiring stakeholder engagement in REDD+ implementation and decision-making	Engagement protocols; participation requirements in project guidelines
	Respecting	Evidence that participation platforms are operational and used	Meeting records; stakeholder forum outputs; consultation reports	Evidence that stakeholders are engaged in implementation processes at site level	Local committee minutes; participation logs; community engagement records
3. Inclusive participation (gender and vulnerable groups)	Addressing	Inclusion measures for participation (e.g. gender-responsive approaches, inclusion of vulnerable groups as nationally defined)	Inclusion policies; gender strategies; participation guidelines; safeguards frameworks	Procedures ensuring inclusive participation in REDD+ interventions	Engagement plans including inclusion measures; outreach strategies
	Respecting	Evidence that participation processes are inclusive and accessible	Disaggregated participation data (e.g. gender); participation reports; inclusion assessments	Evidence that diverse groups participate in REDD+ implementation and decision-making	Attendance records; participation breakdowns; feedback from different groups
4. Consultation and decision-making processes	Addressing	Procedures defining how consultations are conducted and how stakeholder input is incorporated into REDD+ policies and plans	Consultation guidelines; public participation legal requirements	Requirements for consultation in REDD+ interventions (design, planning, implementation phases)	Consultation plans; engagement frameworks; SOPs
	Respecting	Evidence that consultations are conducted and influence decisions	Consultation records; meeting minutes; documented responses to stakeholder input; revised policies/plans	Evidence that consultation influences implementation decisions	Site-level consultation reports; records of decisions reflecting stakeholder input; adaptation of interventions based on feedback

Participation dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
5. Feedback and communication mechanisms	Addressing	Systems for ongoing stakeholder communication and feedback (information sharing, communication channels, feedback mechanisms)	Communication strategies; disclosure procedures; information-sharing platforms	Mechanisms for stakeholders to provide feedback during REDD+ implementation	Feedback channels; communication tools; reporting mechanisms
	Respecting	Evidence that stakeholder feedback is received and addressed	Records of feedback; responses to comments; communication outputs	Evidence that feedback influences implementation or corrective actions	Feedback logs; follow-up actions; documented changes to implementation
6. Linkages with grievance and accountability systems	Addressing	Integration of participation processes with grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs) and accountability frameworks	GRM procedures; institutional mandates; referral mechanisms	Procedures linking stakeholder participation and grievance systems at implementation level	GRM access points; intake procedures; referral systems
	Respecting	Evidence that stakeholders use grievance and accountability mechanisms	GRM reports; grievance logs; response records	Evidence that grievances related to participation or consultation are addressed	Site-level grievance resolution records; corrective actions

Safeguard (e) – Consistency with conservation of natural forests and biological diversity; avoiding conversion of natural forests; enhancing other social and environmental benefits

In practice, countries often interpret this safeguard as covering multiple dimensions related to forest conservation, biodiversity protection, and management of environmental risks. The examples below illustrate how these dimensions may be reflected in SIS information and evidence, linked to REDD+ actions and proportionate to their scale and context.

Environmental dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
1. Non-conversion of natural forests	Addressing	National policies and legal frameworks prohibiting or limiting conversion of natural forests in REDD+ contexts; definitions of “natural forest” (as nationally defined)	Forest definitions; land-use regulations; forest laws; zoning frameworks; protected area regulations	Intervention design includes explicit requirements to avoid conversion of natural forests	Screening tools; design criteria; maps identifying natural forests; intervention plans excluding conversion
	Respecting	Evidence that non-conversion rules are applied in REDD+ planning and authorisation	Permitting decisions; compliance records; enforcement reports	Evidence that REDD+ actions avoid conversion of natural forests in practice	Remote sensing data; land-cover maps; monitoring reports; site inspections; incident logs and corrective actions
2. Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity	Addressing	National biodiversity policies, strategies or frameworks linked to REDD+; integration of biodiversity considerations into REDD+ planning	Biodiversity strategies (e.g. NBSAPs); protected area systems; conservation plans; EIA requirements	Procedures requiring biodiversity risk screening and mitigation in REDD+ interventions	Biodiversity screening tools; environmental guidelines; mitigation frameworks
	Respecting	Evidence that biodiversity considerations are applied in REDD+ programmes	Programme reports; implementation records; conservation measures implemented	Evidence that REDD+ actions maintain or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem integrity where relevant	Biodiversity surveys (where available); monitoring reports; participatory monitoring; field observations; ecosystem indicators

Environmental dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
3. Environmental risk identification and mitigation (mitigation hierarchy)	Addressing	Procedures for identifying and managing environmental risks associated with REDD+ actions (e.g. screening, mitigation hierarchy)	Environmental screening procedures; risk assessment tools; EIA processes; safeguards frameworks	Requirements for applying risk mitigation measures at intervention level	Risk assessment templates; environmental management plans; mitigation protocols
	Respecting	Evidence that environmental risks are identified and addressed in REDD+ implementation	Risk assessment outputs; mitigation measures applied; monitoring of impacts	Evidence that mitigation measures are implemented and effective at site level	Site monitoring reports; compliance checks; corrective action records; field verification
4. Linkages with forest and environmental monitoring systems	Addressing	Institutional arrangements linking REDD+ safeguards to forest monitoring and environmental data systems (e.g. NFMS)	NFMS frameworks; monitoring system documentation; data-sharing protocols	Procedures to use monitoring data for safeguards reporting in REDD+ interventions	Monitoring protocols; integration procedures; data access arrangements
	Respecting	Evidence that monitoring systems are used to inform safeguards reporting	Monitoring outputs; system reports; integrated datasets	Evidence that monitoring data is applied to assess REDD+ impacts on forests and biodiversity	Remote sensing outputs; deforestation alerts; spatial analyses; monitoring dashboards
5. Enhancement of social and environmental co-benefits	Addressing	Frameworks recognising co-benefits of REDD+ (e.g. livelihoods, ecosystem services, restoration outcomes)	REDD+ strategies; policy documents; benefit frameworks; programme design documents	Intervention design includes expected co-benefits (e.g. restoration, livelihoods, ecosystem services)	Project design documents; co-benefit frameworks; implementation plans
	Respecting	Evidence that co-benefits are generated and monitored in REDD+ implementation	Programme reports; benefit tracking systems; monitoring outputs	Evidence of co-benefits at site level (where monitored)	Participatory monitoring; livelihood indicators; restoration outcomes; ecosystem service indicators

Environmental dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
6. Spatial planning and land-use governance linkages	Addressing	Integration of REDD+ with land-use planning and zoning frameworks to manage environmental risks	Land-use plans; zoning maps; planning regulations; policy frameworks	Procedures aligning REDD+ interventions with land-use plans	Planning guidelines; spatial screening tools; allocation rules
	Respecting	Evidence that land-use frameworks are applied in REDD+ implementation	Planning decisions; compliance records; coordination outputs	Evidence that REDD+ actions are implemented consistently with land-use plans	Site-level maps; land allocation records; implementation reports; spatial compliance checks

Safeguard (f) – Actions to address the risks of reversals

In practice, countries often operationalise this safeguard through a combination of risk identification, prevention, monitoring and response mechanisms. The examples below illustrate how SIS information can reflect these elements in relation to REDD+ actions, distinguishing between system-level arrangements and implementation evidence.

Reversal risk dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
1. Identification of reversal risks and drivers	Addressing	National or programme-level identification of key reversal risks (e.g. fire, illegal logging, land-use change, natural disturbances) relevant to REDD+	Risk assessments; national analyses; driver studies; hazard maps; policy documents identifying risks	Screening of REDD+ interventions for site-specific reversal risks	Risk screening records; site-level assessments; local risk profiles; maps showing exposure to risk
	Respecting	Evidence that risk identification processes are applied and updated over time	Updated risk analyses; monitoring reports; revised risk classifications	Evidence that site-level risks are identified and considered in implementation	Screening outputs; updates to intervention plans based on identified risks

Reversal risk dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
2. Risk prevention and mitigation measures	Addressing	National or programme frameworks for preventing and mitigating reversal risks (e.g. fire management, enforcement, land-use controls)	Fire management strategies; enforcement plans; land-use policies; institutional mandates; coordination frameworks	Design of REDD+ interventions includes risk mitigation measures (e.g. fire breaks, patrols, land-use restrictions)	Intervention design documents; mitigation plans; operational guidelines; training materials
	Respecting	Evidence that prevention and mitigation measures are operational	Programme reports; budget allocations; enforcement activities; capacity-building records	Evidence that mitigation measures are implemented at site level	Patrol logs; fire prevention activities; enforcement actions; community monitoring records
3. Monitoring and early detection of reversal risks	Addressing	Systems for monitoring forest conditions and detecting risks (often linked to NFMS or early warning systems)	Monitoring system documentation; data-sharing protocols; alert systems; institutional arrangements	Procedures for monitoring REDD+ areas for potential reversals	Monitoring protocols; site-level observation systems; community monitoring arrangements
	Respecting	Evidence that monitoring systems are functioning and used	Monitoring outputs; alerts; reports; system updates	Evidence that risks or incidents are detected in REDD+ areas	Alert records; detection logs; monitoring time series; incident identification reports
4. Response to reversal events and incidents	Addressing	Defined roles, procedures and coordination mechanisms for responding to reversal events	Emergency response plans; coordination protocols; institutional mandates; enforcement procedures	Site-level response procedures for reversal events (e.g. fire response, illegal activity response)	Response protocols; coordination arrangements with relevant authorities
	Respecting	Evidence that response mechanisms are activated when needed	Records of response actions; coordination reports; national or programme reports on incidents	Evidence that site-level incidents are addressed and followed up	Fire incident reports; enforcement records; restoration or remediation actions; corrective action documentation

Reversal risk dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
5. Persistence and recovery (follow-up actions)	Addressing	Frameworks for restoring or stabilising areas affected by reversal risks	Restoration strategies; recovery plans; programme guidelines	Inclusion of recovery or restoration measures in REDD+ intervention design	Restoration plans; reforestation or rehabilitation protocols
	Respecting	Evidence that recovery or follow-up actions are implemented	Programme reports; monitoring of recovery efforts; funding records	Evidence that affected areas are restored or stabilised over time	Restoration records; follow-up monitoring; vegetation recovery data; site reports
6. Coordination across institutions and levels	Addressing	Institutional arrangements linking REDD+ with agencies responsible for fire management, enforcement, disaster response, etc.	Inter-agency agreements; coordination mechanisms; mandates; governance frameworks	Procedures ensuring coordination at implementation level (local authorities, enforcement agencies, communities)	Coordination protocols; communication channels; joint action plans
	Respecting	Evidence that coordination mechanisms are used in practice	Meeting records; joint operations; coordination reports	Evidence of coordinated responses at site level	Joint patrol logs; inter-agency response records; community-government coordination documentation

Safeguard (g) – Actions to reduce displacement of emissions

In practice, countries often operationalise this safeguard through a combination of identifying displacement risks, addressing underlying drivers of deforestation, coordinating across sectors and jurisdictions, and monitoring changes over time. The examples below illustrate how SIS information can reflect these elements in relation to REDD+ actions.

Displacement dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
1. Identification of displacement risks and drivers	Addressing	National or programme-level identification of drivers of deforestation and potential displacement risks associated with REDD+ actions	Driver analyses; national REDD+ strategies; land-use change studies; risk assessments	Screening of REDD+ interventions for potential displacement effects (e.g. shifting activities to other areas)	Site-level risk screening; spatial analyses; local driver assessments
	Respecting	Evidence that displacement risks are assessed and updated over time	Monitoring reports; updated risk assessments; analysis outputs	Evidence that site-level displacement risks are identified and considered in implementation	Screening updates; revised intervention plans; local risk documentation
2. Policy and programme measures addressing drivers	Addressing	National or sectoral policies targeting drivers of deforestation beyond REDD+ intervention areas (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure, land-use planning)	Policy documents; land-use plans; cross-sector strategies; regulatory frameworks	Integration of REDD+ interventions with broader policy measures addressing drivers	Programme design documents; alignment with national strategies; coordination plans
	Respecting	Evidence that policy measures are implemented and influence REDD+ outcomes	Policy implementation reports; enforcement records; programme evaluations	Evidence that REDD+ actions are implemented in a way that addresses or avoids shifting pressures	Site-level documentation of alignment with policies; implementation reports
3. Cross-sector and cross-jurisdictional coordination	Addressing	Institutional arrangements for coordination across sectors and jurisdictions to manage displacement risks	Inter-agency agreements; coordination platforms; governance frameworks	Procedures for coordination between REDD+ implementation areas and neighbouring areas or sectors	Coordination protocols; agreements with local authorities; planning documents
	Respecting	Evidence that coordination mechanisms are operational	Meeting records; joint plans; coordination reports	Evidence of coordinated actions to reduce displacement risk in practice	Joint enforcement logs; cross-jurisdictional actions; coordination records

Displacement dimension	Information dimension	Enabling actions – examples of indicators / headings	Enabling actions – examples of evidence	Direct actions – examples of indicators / headings	Direct actions – examples of evidence
4. Monitoring and detection of displacement patterns	Addressing	Systems for monitoring forest change and displacement risks across broader landscapes (often linked to NFMS)	Monitoring system documentation; spatial analysis frameworks; data protocols	Procedures to monitor trends inside and outside REDD+ intervention areas	Monitoring protocols; spatial monitoring plans
	Respecting	Evidence that displacement risks are assessed and updated over time	Monitoring outputs; trend analyses; spatial datasets	Evidence of changes in forest pressure across areas linked to REDD+ actions	Remote sensing outputs; comparative maps; trend analyses across intervention vs non-intervention areas
5. Mitigation measures to reduce displacement	Addressing	Strategies to reduce displacement risk (e.g. integrated land-use planning, livelihood support, enforcement measures)	Programme strategies; policy frameworks; mitigation plans	Design of REDD+ interventions includes measures to reduce displacement risk	Intervention plans; livelihood support strategies; enforcement arrangements
	Respecting	Evidence that mitigation measures are applied during implementation	Programme reports; funding allocations; activity records	Evidence that mitigation measures are implemented at site level	Livelihood programme records; enforcement actions; community engagement outputs
6. Adaptive management and response to displacement signals	Addressing	Frameworks for adjusting policies or programmes in response to emerging displacement risks	Adaptive management strategies; monitoring frameworks; policy review processes	Procedures to adjust REDD+ interventions based on observed displacement risks	Adaptive management protocols; decision-making procedures
	Respecting	Evidence that adjustments are made in response to observed displacement patterns	Policy revisions; programme adjustments; documented responses	Evidence that REDD+ implementation is adapted to reduce emerging displacement risks	Updated intervention plans; corrective action records; monitoring follow-up