

REDD+ Social safeguards in Indonesia Lessons from Jambi

Nining Liswanti¹, Ade Tamara¹, Juan Pablo Sarmiento Barletti¹, Anne M. Larson¹ and I Wayan Susi Dharmawan²

Key messages

- As REDD+ countries move towards results-based payments, there is a need to examine the operationalization of safeguards and their roles in the recognition and respect of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs).
- This Infobrief presents lessons from research into the perceptions of different REDD+ stakeholders regarding the implementation of safeguards under the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes in Jambi Province, Indonesia.
- The multilateral financial organization's involvement in REDD+ results-based agreements may provide a pathway for more rights-responsive safeguards than Indonesia's interpretation of the Cancun safeguards for REDD+.
- The operationalization of safeguards could be improved through more inclusive implementation of activities; promoting gender justice throughout the process, including strengthening communities' access to information; and engaging with NGOs and CSOs to facilitate relevant processes with communities.
- Project proponents should also incorporate independent monitoring of rights-related issues to ensure community access to rights and to REDD+ benefits; and strengthen grievance mechanisms, especially those that already exist at the local level.
- Fostering the establishment of a provincial government regulation on recognizing customary (*adat*) communities is essential for addressing tenure issues in the region, and simplifying subnational processes through which such communities are recognized as 'legal entities'.

Introduction

In 2010, seven safeguard principles – the Cancun safeguards – were introduced during the sixteenth session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP16) to ensure that REDD+ “at a minimum does not harm forest-dependent communities or the environment” (Lofts et al. 2021) and ideally promotes social and environmental benefits. Since then, the UNFCCC has also required REDD+ countries to develop Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) to monitor and report their progress towards the Cancun safeguards.

The Cancun safeguards are important yet broad principles that REDD+ countries interpret based on their own legal frameworks and policy priorities. Thus, there is a wide scope for interpretation regarding the rights of Indigenous

Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs), including compliance with rights recognized under key documents such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. This is important, as not all countries recognize Indigenous Peoples as per international law, which will impact how safeguards are interpreted at the national level. For example Indonesia has not ratified ILO Convention No. 169 as the government deems its definition of Indigenous Peoples inappropriate to the Indonesian context (Tamara et al. 2022). With REDD+ countries moving towards results-based payments, and different financial pathways opening up for carbon transactions, concerns remain about the potential impact on communities. There is a need to clarify and understand experiences with safeguards so far, including their role in catalysing efforts to move from REDD+ initiatives that ‘do no harm’ to ones that ‘do better’ for community rights.

¹ CIFOR-ICRAF

² BRIN

Indonesia, a REDD+ early mover, has been active in results-based payment agreements for REDD+. In 2015, East Kalimantan Province was selected as a pilot for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) initiative, and in 2019, the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (BioCarbon Fund) started its preparation phase in Jambi Province. These initiatives have required government agencies to comply with the World Bank's safeguards standards, which go beyond Indonesia's – and most REDD+ countries' – legal and policy frameworks for community rights (Sarmiento Barletti et al. 2021). In the Indonesian context, for example, the President of Indonesia launched a national carbon market policy in 2021³, under which the state would hold carbon rights, while communities would gain access to benefits from carbon emission reductions. However, further legislation on community participation in carbon market activities and the implementation of social safeguards have yet to be introduced.

As part of the Global Comparative Study on REDD+ (GCS REDD+) we carried out research on the initiatives in East Kalimantan and Jambi provinces in order to understand the impacts these safeguards guidelines may have towards supporting approaches that 'do better' for community rights. In this Infobrief, we present findings from our research in Jambi to provide evidence-based recommendations to support a REDD+ that benefits forests and the men and women who steward them.

Methods

Our analysis is based on a review of Indonesia's legal framework for community rights, and interviews with specialists to understand the state of the recognition and protection of the rights of customary groups in the context of REDD+ (see Tamara et al. 2022). We conducted interviews with REDD+ actors in Jambi to understand their perceptions of the challenges and opportunities that arose from their efforts to meet the World Bank's safeguards requirements, and reviewed relevant documents to identify lessons from the implementation of safeguards in the province.

Interviewees were categorized into three, non-exclusionary types: (1) those who implemented safeguards at the programme/project level; (2) participants in the national safeguards interpretation process; and (3) general REDD+ stakeholders. We designed a semi-structured questionnaire with filtering questions for different sections that focused on each actor type. Actors that fit more than one type were interviewed using all the sections that responded to their experiences. Interviews were conducted in Indonesian. We compared our findings to available project

reports and other relevant documents. We also conducted validation workshops at the subnational⁴ and national⁵ levels with research participants and other stakeholders that were not interviewed as part of our research process.

REDD+ safeguards in Jambi

Jambi Province, on the island of Sumatra, has a total area of five million hectares, with forest cover amounting to 22% of this area (JSLMP n.d.). The province is home to around three and a half million people, including customary communities such as the Orang Rimba, Serampas and Talang Mamak (ESMF 2022).

The province's economic agenda includes resource extraction (e.g., logging) and palm oil and pulpwood plantation ventures (JSLMP n.d.). These development strategies are framed by a wider context of land conflicts including overlapping land claims among concessionaires, national parks, and customary communities (SESA 2022). To address these conflicts, NGOs have introduced strategies to facilitate land conflict resolution between communities and companies (Dhiaulhaq et al. 2014; Afrizal and Berenschot 2022). In a similar vein, Indonesia's Social Forestry programme has aimed to reduce land conflicts by regularizing community land tenure to land and forests for customary and local communities (MoEF and ZSL Indonesia 2020).

Jambi hosts various forest-based climate mitigation activities, including REDD+ (Hein 2019). In 2014, it was one of the Indonesian provinces selected for REDD+ demonstration activities (SESA 2022). Several stakeholders in the region have engaged with voluntary carbon markets, such as the Durian Rambun and Bujang Raba payment for ecosystem services projects in 2013 and 2014,⁶ respectively. Jambi participated in the piloting of

4 <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/82158/community-rights-and-redd-in-indonesia?fnl=>; <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/82158/community-rights-and-redd-in-indonesia?fnl=>

5 <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/83581/from-do-no-harm-to-do-better-early-lessons-from-implementing-redd-safeguards-in-indonesia?fnl=>; <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/83750/dari-tidak-membahayakan-menjadi-membuat-lebih-baik-pembelajaran-awal-dari-implementasi-perlindungan-redd-di-indonesia-2?fnl=id>

6 In early 2022, the local NGO, Kelompok Konservasi Indonesia Warsi (KKI Warsi) registered the Bujang Raba project in the National Climate Change Control Registry System or Sistem Registri Nasional Pengendalian Perubahan Iklim (SRN PPI). However, by August 2023, its carbon economic value verification and validation had yet to be finalized (<https://katadata.co.id/rezzaaji/ekonomi-hijau/64edaa7040dd4/jadi-syarat-wajib-bursa-karbon-pemilik-proyek-keluhkan-sistem-srn-ppi?page=all>). Meanwhile, it remains unclear whether Flora and Fauna International (FFI) has registered the Durian Rambun project in line with Financial Services Authority Regulation or Peraturan Otoritas Jasa Keuangan (POJK) No. 14/2023, which stipulates that all carbon units traded on the stock exchange must be registered in the SRN PPI system.

3 Presidential Regulation No. 98/2021 on Carbon Pricing: <https://peraturan.bpk.go.id/Home/Details/187122/perpres-no-98-tahun-2021>

Indonesia's SIS REDD+ system⁷ following the provincial government's commitment to developing a REDD+ strategy and action plan, and to trial Principles, Criteria and Indicators for Indonesia's Safeguards or *Prinsip, Kriteria, Indikator Safeguards Indonesia* (PRISAI) REDD+⁸ in collaboration with KKI Warsi, an Indonesian NGO.

In 2019, the Jambi Provincial Government declared its commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth through a Green Growth Plan that targets the reduction of around 97% of deforestation and 34% of GHG emissions by 2045 (de Aquino and Muharrom 2022; ESMF 2022). Two years later, the province was selected for the World Bank's BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (BioCF-ISFL), which focuses on the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector. The BioCarbon Fund supports the provincial government in its efforts towards low carbon development, aiming to achieve multiple benefits including climate mitigation, improved livelihood opportunities for communities, and improved coordination among relevant stakeholders (SESA 2022). The BioCF-ISFL initiative consists of two important phases: a pre-investment phase and a Results Based Payment (RBP) phase of the Jambi Emission Reduction Program (JERP). The safeguard frameworks for these phases have different principles and criteria according to World Bank requirements. In Jambi, the programme aims to reduce 14 MtCO₂eq in emissions from activities between 2021 and 2025, for a total transfer of USD 70 million.

In 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) and the Jambi Provincial Government received a pre-investment fund of USD 13.5 million for emission reduction activities during 2021–2025 in a REDD+ performance area comprising four national parks (Bukit Tiga Puluh, Bukit Dua Belas, Kerinci and Berbak); one nature reserve (a mangrove area) under the Jambi Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA); and four forest management units (FMUs): Hilir Sarolangun, Bungo, Tanjung Jabung Barat and Merangin.

BioCF-ISFL is being implemented by five provincial government agencies: the Development Planning

Agency or Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah (Bappeda), the Forestry Agency, the Environmental Agency, the Plantations Agency and the Food Crops, Horticulture and Livestock Agency. Pre-investment uses a grant mechanism, under which the Jambi Provincial Government uses its regional budget first, and is then reimbursed by the Indonesian Ministry of Finance.

BioCarbon Fund operations in Jambi are coordinated by a project management unit (PMU) led by Jambi's Development Planning Agency, which is responsible for coordinating measurement and reporting – focusing on carbon measurement – and the distribution of benefits. Jambi's Environmental Agency or *Dinas Lingkungan Hidup* (DLH) is in charge of ensuring activities comply with BioCarbon Fund safeguards, and reporting activities to Indonesia's SIS-REDD+ platform.

Safeguards implementation under the BioCarbon Fund Initiative

Operationalizing safeguards with clearer and more stringent guidelines than national interpretations of the Cancun safeguards is a potential pathway for REDD+ to support community rights (Lofts et al. 2021; Sarmiento Barletti et al. 2021). At the UNFCCC level, national governments interpret the Cancun principles based on their already existing legal and policy frameworks (see Morveli et al. 2023 for Peru). This can be problematic where IPs are not recognized as per international agreements, and/or where IPs and LCs' rights are not respected, and can result in little change in the status quo. In Jambi, government interviewees noted that the BioCarbon Fund guidelines they had to abide by were more complex than their normal tasks, but could also see how they promoted a more inclusive process. All government actors interviewed as part of this research, or participating in related workshops, agreed they had fully met the World Bank's safeguards requirements.

The BioCarbon Fund is the second programme in Indonesia to implement SIS REDD+ reporting, after the FCPF initiative in East Kalimantan. The Government of Indonesia has focused on improving its SIS REDD+ system with funding support from the Green Climate Fund. Although the World Bank's safeguards guidelines and the Cancun safeguards are connected and correlate with each other, those resulting from Indonesia's national interpretation of the Cancun safeguards are more stringent, so the programme's organizers in Jambi have had to meet the requirements of both. Compliance with the World Bank's safeguards, as previously done in East Kalimantan under the FCPF, may provide an example of improved practices (e.g., the World Bank's emphasis on gendered inequalities and exclusion) to be included in Indonesia's requirements for REDD+ more generally.

7 In 2011, Indonesia began interpreting the Cancun safeguards for REDD+ and developing its own Safeguards Information System (SIS) coordinated by the Ministry of Forestry's Centre for Standardization and Environment. The SIS adopted the Cancun safeguards' seven principles, 17 criteria and 32 indicators (PCIs), which formed the basis for developing PCIs for SIS-REDD+ (Pustanling 2013).

8 PRISAI was formulated in 2011 with 10 principles that include supporting community and women's rights, information disclosure and equitable benefit sharing. Initially used as a national safeguards framework to screen, monitor and evaluate REDD+ activities at jurisdictional and project levels, PRISAI was later merged with the principles, criteria and indicators for Indonesia's SIS REDD+, which is now the main safeguards system for REDD+ implementation in Indonesia. The system allows implementers to independently assess their conformity with SIS PCIs (Dirjen PPI, KLHL 2015).

Another important lesson from East Kalimantan is how close partnerships between the government and NGOs can benefit the planning and implementation of REDD+ activities.

In Jambi, the programme's pre-investment grant has supported the planning and implementation of emission reduction activities and the related policy process. Individual consultants have been funded through this grant, providing support in the design process of the initiative's benefit sharing and safeguards components. The participation of consultants brought to light the initial capacity gaps regarding safeguards in Jambi.

NGOs in the province have played a more consultative role. They were invited to discussions and to share their expertise with the programme, but the project remains firmly under government ownership. Effort to include NGOs could be increased to provide checks and balances for a more transparent and participatory REDD+ process. NGOs could also provide a crucial intermediary role between communities and government actors. The results-based payment phase of the initiative may provide a good context for more active participation of NGOs and local community representatives, as direct work with communities will be required for the design of projects to be implemented as part of the distribution of benefits.

We identified two main processes related to the implementation of safeguards under the BioCarbon Fund in Jambi. In the first, organizers developed the following documents: the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), and Resettlement Planning Framework and Process Framework (RPF/PF). The ESMF document includes information on social conflicts and limited participation of women, along with several mitigation measures (e.g., increased gender-based participation with gender-disaggregated data). The second process – implementation of safeguards at the activity level – involved identifying social and environmental risks related to programme activities, devising a risk mitigation strategy, and implementing activities towards the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of relevant communities. Interviewees mentioned a series of other activities that they associated with the implementation of safeguards under the BioCarbon Fund, illustrating different understandings of REDD+ safeguards among key actors. These included issues related to land and resource tenure, the application of FPIC, and the distribution of benefits.

Land and resource tenure

When asked about the most challenging aspects of safeguards in relation to community rights, 42% of research participants mentioned land and resource tenure, given the overlapping land claims in Jambi between communities and private sector actors. As the programme highlights conflict resolution and addressing tenure issues as non-carbon benefits, its implementers have made efforts to address tenure issues and develop government capacity for conflict resolution to establish 'conflict-free areas' for the implementation of emission reduction activities. Implementers have also promoted the Social Forestry programme⁹ to clarify tenure and avoid any relocation or resettlement.

With clear land tenure, communities in Jambi will be able to access benefits from results-based payments, though actual amounts will depend on calculated emission reductions. At the time of research, a benefit sharing plan and operational procedure for benefit distribution had yet to be finalized, though a plan under which beneficiaries would submit proposals for activities was being discussed with communities. Under the plan, the PMU would approve funding based on criteria that included assuring activities do not create additional emissions or conflicts. The accounting area would not only include places already free from land conflicts; those still subject to such conflicts would also be considered as potential beneficiaries as the Jambi Emission Reduction Program already covers the initiative's conflict resolution strategy with 11 regencies and 1,399 villages potentially receiving benefits from the programme.

At the time of the research, the provincial government had drafted a regional regulation on the recognition of customary (*adat*) communities living inside state forest estates to address tenure issues in the region. Interviewees expected the regulation to accelerate the recognition process, as its procedures to be faster and cheaper than existing ones. The regulation, which the PMU expected to be completed in 2023, would simplify the process through which communities are recognized as 'legal entities', after which they would be eligible to apply for legal recognition of their customary forest areas. The current process requires a separate provincial

⁹ Social Forestry (SF) is a government driven programme in Indonesia aimed at improving forest management, empowering local people and improving their well-being. SF can also be seen as a government strategy for reducing land conflicts through the provision of legal access to land and forests to IPs and LCs, further clarifying land tenure (MoEF and ZSL Indonesia 2020).

regulation for each customary group, whereas under the new regulation, a district head decree would be sufficient.

In addition, the Jambi Provincial Government has involved all stakeholders in developing a draft regulation on social forestry management, which permits forest utilization through agroforestry, silvopasture, agrosilvopasture and silvofishery practices in protection and production forest estates. This regulation is expected to be issued in 2023 (Jambi Province House of Representatives 2022). Despite some drawbacks with national-level policy, developing social forestry in the context of REDD+ could provide clearer procedures at the subnational level. To support this process, greater financial support could be provided for the different steps involved in the legal framework for customary community recognition, including the documentation of customary rights and mapping of customary territories. The BioCarbon Fund programme could be an important catalyst in supporting the momentum in favour of customary forest recognition in the province.

Free, prior and informed consent

Though unevenly and with different criteria, FPIC is mandated by several guidelines for results-based payments and standards for voluntary carbon markets (Sarmiento Barletti et al. 2021). Although its outcomes will depend on consultation process operationalization, the inclusion of FPIC in guidelines and standards is a positive development as it has the potential to promote both procedural and recognitional justice¹⁰ (Suiseeya 2016).

Though Indonesia does not have a specific regulatory framework on FPIC, Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 70/2017 incorporates it under principle 3, criteria 3.2 of SIS REDD+ where, “FPIC must be obtained from customary and local communities prior to project implementation”. However, this only applies to REDD+ activities, and the regulation provides neither a further description of what FPIC is, nor guidelines on how to implement it. As noted elsewhere in the region (Pham et al. 2015), an absence of regulatory frameworks on FPIC leads to it being interpreted in different ways.

FPIC is not a mandatory requirement for safeguards under the BioCarbon Fund, but countries implementing the BioCF-ISFL initiative must follow requirements determined by the World Bank. FPIC is carried out with a set of guidelines that need to be implemented in the project’s

area of impact, as stated in World Bank documents (SESA and ESMF). FPIC is also applied in relation to provincial and central government commitments, especially those regarding carbon rights. Operational guidelines ensure a uniform and standardized process in several stages. Implementers interviewed for this research agreed that Jambi had met the World Bank’s FPIC requirements; they sought to carry out FPIC processes with 10 regencies and 230 villages in total¹¹. FPIC has also been conducted at the national and provincial levels, including by the private sector and development partners in Jambi, and the process is continuing throughout the duration of the programme. However, they also discussed the implementation of FPIC processes being a challenge and requiring different strategies, given the different sociocultural contexts and capacities across villages. The government would benefit from including NGOs with experience and legitimacy working with communities in the project’s FPIC activities.

Under its stakeholder engagement plan (SEP p.17, 2022), the BioCarbon Fund states that any engagement process should promote inclusive stakeholder participation to include different views, concerns and feedback in decision-making processes. It also states that affirmative measures for customary communities and vulnerable groups, including women and people with disabilities, are to be established as part of any capacity development programme design, and that promoting gender justice throughout the process will be important. However, this has not been the case, as in its earlier stages, the initiative prioritized programme awareness and obtaining consent from communities. It is unclear whether local communities, and especially women and other marginalized groups within them, have understood the information delivered, or whether they were able to voice their concerns and interests during the process. Engagement with Indigenous organization representatives suggests they have not. No capacity development was provided for communities prior to FPIC processes, and no separate consultations were held for men and women, where doing so would have allowed safer spaces for women’s voices to be heard.

The potential impact of safeguards to protect communities and marginalized groups is challenged when underlying power and gender relations are left unaddressed (Wong et al. 2019). Groundwork to ensure effective participation is key for avoiding processes that ‘legitimize inequitable power dynamics and outcomes’ (Mahanty and McDermott 2013), and procedural limitations such as insufficient time to provide room for understanding complex ideas and arrangements can result in conflicting understandings or misinformation among stakeholders (Anderson 2011).

¹⁰ Procedural justice includes the distribution of costs and benefits, and mitigation of negative impacts from, in this case, a REDD+ intervention. Recognitional justice refers to the values, worldviews, rights and identities that are privileged or displaced in the emergence, design and implementation of an intervention, and its impacts.

¹¹ MoEF 2023. Summary information of safeguards REDD+ Indonesia. The implementation of safeguard reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. https://redd.unfccc.int/media/summary_safeguard_redd_indonesia_signed.pdf

Benefit sharing plan and distribution

Project implementers noted that the plan developed for results-based payments from the BioCarbon Fund initiative reflects on considerations of equity and is pro-poor. Communities recognized as beneficiaries will decide what activities or programmes (e.g., infrastructure) they will receive as benefits. The benefit-sharing proportion has been designed with a focus on communities that include customary groups who are located inside the performance assessment area as a basis for emission reduction payments. Project implementers explained that they are using a village approach without a specific emphasis on customary groups, particularly as some have yet to be legally recognized. They considered this a way to include unrecognized customary groups, whilst awaiting the new provincial government regulation.

Our interviewees identified gaps in the design of the benefit sharing plan. Firstly, results-based payments are supposed to be accessible to all relevant stakeholders with amounts determined through multicriteria calculations. Yet, it is unclear how local communities that did not undergo an FPIC process (e.g., the few communities that disagreed to participate in the programme, or those in conflict areas) will access information on the benefit sharing mechanism provided to other communities. Secondly, the actual transfer of benefits to the village level is also unclear, considering the presence of different groups in villages, including those that have historically been marginalized from decision making inside and outside their own communities. Local-level protocols will need to be issued on how to address different opinions, potential conflicts, or complaints by groups that disagree on the distribution of benefits.

Interviewees from NGOs noted that further efforts are needed to safeguard communities' access to benefits and ensure fair decision making on the use of benefits at the local level. As has been noted elsewhere in the region, village-based distribution is prone to elite capture (Pham et al. 2014). This includes ensuring transparency and access to information, and the presence of facilitators to support consultations and the development of investment plans and proposals. Capacity development is also needed for communities to have the skills and knowledge to engage with the project throughout its lifetime. The BioCF feedback and grievance redress mechanism (FGRM) has been integrated with the National Public Service Complaint Management System (SP4N LAPORI) under REDD+ and BioCF categories (<https://www.lapor.go.id/>). This affords communities the opportunity to voice complaints or report issues relating to programme benefits. However, the grievance

and redress mechanism will require further testing, and guidelines to support conflict resolution will need to be robust, transparent and culturally relevant to deal with issues that may arise during and after benefit transfers.

Lesson learned and recommendations

We found a trade-off between equity and effectiveness in Jambi's REDD+ programme under the BioCarbon Fund project. Interviewees implementing the programme noted that time limitations to deliver results often posed challenges to their work towards safeguards; decisions were commonly oriented towards supporting the programme's effectiveness goals. This perception of separate equity and effectiveness objectives is not uncommon in REDD+, despite evidence of the importance of community stewardship practices for REDD+ effectiveness. Nevertheless, the same interviewees also noted that the BioCarbon Fund project has had a positive influence on the government, as illustrated through the development of policies and regulations related to community land tenure and consultations; the reactivation of SIS REDD+; and a greater focus on gender-based participation with gender-disaggregated data.

Building on our analysis, we present the following lessons for REDD+ activities:

- **Engage with a wide group of stakeholders:** CSOs and NGOs are involved in the implementation process to supporting programmes and facilitating activities with communities on the ground, e.g., during FPIC processes or in the implementation of feedback and grievance redress mechanisms (FGRMs), and to supporting community rights and equitable benefit sharing processes.
- **Improve decision-making processes:** Community voices need to be strengthened, and communities should be able to evaluate and monitor progress in REDD+ and any other climate change-related initiatives. This will require inclusive procedures and institutional structures that enable communities to participate in decision-making processes.
- **Strengthen grievance redress mechanisms:** As integrating FGRMs with national monitoring systems takes time, particularly where they already exist at the local level, engaging CSOs, forest management units and customary leaders can foster FGRM processes and 'extend a hand' when local communities have suggestions or complaints.
- **Document past REDD+ experiences and lessons learned in the region:** This should include both what works and what does not, to inform the design and

implementation of REDD+ activities. This exercise may be key given the lack of practice with benefit sharing design and distribution and this scale, and the difficulties associated with such mechanisms.

- **Deepen understanding of FPIC:** Although the implementers used a set of guidelines for implementing FPIC in the project's area of impact, different sociocultural contexts and capacities across villages made implementation challenging and required different strategies.
- **Support conflict resolution:** A collaborative effort could be considered between NGOs and implementers to address overlapping land claims among stakeholders, or to work with conflicting parties to find win-win solutions, e.g., establishing local regulations on customary communities or providing community rights recognition through social forestry schemes.
- **Rethink the link between equity and effectiveness:** Time limitations to deliver outputs often pose challenge for safeguards implementation, with implementers prioritizing effectiveness goals. This disregards the long-term effectiveness of equity and of the inclusion of communities in programme activities.
- **Implement independent monitoring for safeguards that goes beyond a simple checklist:** This is to ensure not only the suitability of safeguard planning and implementation, but also that rights of communities, women and other marginalized groups are respected and protected.
- **Strengthen gender justice beyond nominal participation:** This can be done by hiring gender specialists to facilitate development activities for women and other marginalized groups that are funded by results-based payments; increasing participation of women and youth in climate-related discussions; ensuring access to benefits from emission reduction programmes; and providing capacity development on gender participation for relevant stakeholders from the village to provincial levels.

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