Introduction to Social Impact Assessment for REDD+ Projects

Nairobi, Kenya 10-12 August 2011
Background

- Little guidance on social impact assessment (SIA) for carbon project developers

- Consortium of 4 NGOs formed in 2009 to develop SIA Manual (2010), now called the **Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA Manual)**

- SBIA Manual is oriented to the CCB Standards, but can be used more widely

- Donors: World Bank PROFOR, USAID, Rockefeller Foundation, GEF-UNDP, Morgan Stanley, NORAD
What are “social impacts”? 

Changes in one or more of:

- People’s livelihoods
- Culture including values and spiritual beliefs
- Community cohesion, identity or independence
- Local political systems or governance quality
- Environmental changes that impact on people
- Levels of health, education and physical well-being
- Human and property rights
- People’s hopes and fears

*Source: based on IAIA, 2003*
Why worry about social impacts?

- Social sustainability is essential for achieving environmental objectives (e.g., negative social impacts often cause leakage) – good practice SIA strengthens social design and sustainability, and carbon objectives

- Social risks raise transaction costs

- Negative impacts can derail project – early detection & mitigation vital

- Ethical/legal reasons – International legislation and Conventions to protect human rights, situation of women, indigenous peoples, etc.

- Access to voluntary carbon market in which buyers attracted by social benefits of forest carbon – validation against CCB or other Standards
What do REDD+ buyers want?

The Forest Carbon Offsetting Survey 2009

Motivation for interest in offsets from forest carbon projects

- Community and environmental benefits: 47%
- Global scale of problem: 40%
- Tangibility of offsets: 31%
- Proximity to business: 34%
- Related to core business: 22%
- Better additionality: 29%
- Learning and preparation – pre regulation: 40%
- Sound certification: 37%
- Competitive pricing: 29%

Key:
- Green: Strongly agree
- Yellow: Agree
- Orange: Don’t agree
- Brown: Not sure

Total sample = 98-111
Increasing international pressures

- Multiple benefit Standards such as Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards (CCB)
- Process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- REDD+ Social Safeguards – 16th Meeting of UNFCCC (Cancun, 2010)
Members of CCBA:

- care
- Conservation International
- Rainforest Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy

Advisors of CCBA:

- CIFOR
- CATIE
- World Agroforestry Centre
The CCB Standards

I. General Section
II. Climate Section
III. Community Section
IV. Biodiversity Section
V. Gold Level Section ...

*Pro-poor benefits & climate change adaptation*

- Net Positive Impacts
- Offsite impacts
- Impact monitoring
CM1. Net Positive Community Impacts

Concept
The project must generate net positive impacts on the social and economic well-being of communities and ensure that costs and benefits are equitably shared among community members and constituent groups during the project lifetime.

...But there is little guidance on how to show this
Some key challenges for SIA

- ‘Attribution’: social benefits must be ‘additional’ or caused by project

- Nature of social impacts: long-term, unpredictable (-ve or +ve), indirect – so difficult to measure

- Cost-effectiveness: traditional SIA methods cost $50-150,000 per study

- How to achieve meaningful participation of local stakeholders

- Lack of data on social impacts
CCB Standards: social benefits must be ‘additional’ to without project situation
The Seven SBIA Stages

SBIA Stage 1: Original conditions study and stakeholder identification

SBIA Stage 2: ‘Without project’ social projection (‘social reference scenario’)

SBIA Stage 3: Project design and theory of change (‘with project’ situation)

SBIA Stage 4: Negative social impacts, risks and mitigation measures

SBIA Stage 5: Selection of indicators (WHAT to measure?)

SBIA Stage 6: Monitoring plan and data collection methods (HOW to measure?)

SBIA Stage 7: Data collection, analysis and reporting
SBIA Stage 1 – Starting or original conditions

- SBIA Workshop assumes that most of SBIA Stage 1 has been carried out prior to workshop
- ‘Baseline’ or starting conditions data is essential for any kind of M&E
- Important to focus on social variables that are most likely to change due to project (tendency to collect a lot of data which is never used)
- Stakeholder identification and analysis (e.g., wealth ranking)
‘Conceptualization phase’

• Project scope (including area of impact)

• Vision statement

• Identify the ‘focal issues’: these are the social issues that are most important for a successful project (or that could prevent it being successful)

• Select most important focal issues = priority social issues for the project

• Brainstorm of focal issue and stakeholder identification
SBIA Stage 2. Without project analysis

- What will happen to the ‘focal issues’ without the project?

- Diagnostic analysis of key social problems – problem flow diagram of each focal issue

- A projection into the future of what will happen to the key social variables and affected stakeholders without the project
Example of a problem flow diagram
SBIA Stage 3: Project design & theory of change

- Theory of change: project’s hypothesis of how it will achieve its objectives
- If short to mid-term outcomes can be identified, and then linkages made to impacts → good chance of impacts

Assess the causative linkages/assumptions between outputs, outcomes and impacts by developing IF ... THEN statements. Then monitor whether linkages or assumptions to hold true in reality.
Users of ‘theory of change’ methodology

- Users: Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP); GEF Evaluation Office; UNEP; WB Independent Evaluation Group; DFID; GIZ ‘Results-Based Impact Chain’; WCMC; etc.

- Also used by micro-finance sector to evaluate projects
1. Conceptualize
- Define team
- Define scope, vision, targets
- Identify critical threats
- Complete situation analysis

2. Plan Actions and Monitoring
- Develop goals, strategies, and objectives
- Develop monitoring plan
- Evaluate capacity and risk

3. Implement Actions and Monitoring
- Develop work plans
- Implement work plans
- Refine work plans

4. Analyze, Use, Adapt
- Analyze data
- Analyze interventions
- Communicate within team
- Adapt plans

5. Capture and Share Learning
- Document learning
- Share learning
- Create learning environment

‘Open Standards’ – Conservation Measures Partnership
Example of a results chain

- Increase income of institutions in a transparent way
  - Increased and strengthened institutional presence (CONAP, Government, MDN, etc.)
  - Effective 'in situ' operation of combined forces with guaranteed resources
  - Modalities implemented to assure transparency of operational funds
  - Strengthened judiciary sector
  - Environmental security strengthened

- Awareness campaign
  - Environmental infractions classified as high impact
  - Concessionaires sensitized and owners of concession process
  - Judiciary trained & specialized in environmental legislation

- Effective interinstitutional coordination
  - Politically supported and effective judiciary
  - Effective environmental security strategy

- Regional development plan developed
  - RBM Coordinating Committee strengthened and effective
  - Traditional livelihoods kept

- Fundraising strategy
  - Community leaders trained
  - Effective internal communication strategy

- Correct application of the law and local norms
- Strengthened governance
  - Concessions strengthened for the compliance of contracts and internal norms
  - Credibility of leaders recuperated
SBIA Stage 4. Negative impacts and risks

- Analysis of potential negative impacts and risks to project success is required by the CCB Standards

- These can derail a project – need to design mitigation or risk prevention measures (key part of SIA)

- Negative social impacts can threaten social sustainability, increase carbon leakage and threaten carbon objectives

- Early detection of negative impacts is vital to avoid high costs of tackling social problems after they have become major
Results chain with negative impacts

**Training on governance, record keeping, policies, laws, gender**
- VC use training received to improve transparency & accountability
- VC operates in a transparent & accountable manner
- VC exercises training received, elect VNRC and LUC as per policy guidelines

**Awareness raising & training on rights & responsibilities**
- Awareness raised on rights & responsibilities in PFM-related issues

**Mitigation for ensuring HCV areas addressed in LUP: HCV training & awareness included**

**Indicative: By 2015 all villages in project will have improved their governance score by 50%**

**Impact: Councillors withdraw due to increased workload**

**Impact: Increased bureaucracy; VC members viewed negatively by community**

**Impact: Social stratification i.e. elite capture of training opportunities**

**Impact: New committees may introduce new conflicts within VC**

**VNRC & LUC in place**

**Plans & by-laws approved at Village & District level**

**PFM is initiated**

**Community is empowered & participates in NR management**

**THEORY OF CHANGE:**
IF village govt receives good governance training, and
IF communities are made aware of their civil rights and responsibilities, and
IF communities exercise those right to ensure that NR issues are appropriately addressed by their govs,
THEN the PFM process can be initiated in their villages and communities will be empowered to participate in the management of their NR (forest) resources.
SBIA Stage 5: Selection of indicators

- WHAT to measure?

- Indicator: measures progress towards achieving an objective

- Therefore clear objectives are vital

- Theory of change: indicators should capture linkages between outputs, outcomes and impacts

- Indicators and monitoring plan: follow-on meeting to main SBIA workshop
SBIA Stage 6. Develop social monitoring plan

Follow-on meeting from main SBIA workshop

HOW to measure:

- Data collection methods for measuring the indicators
- When?
- Who?
- Where?
SBIA Stage 7. Data collection & reporting

• Share process and monitoring plan with wider group of stakeholders (verification of plan) – CCB Standards emphasize transparency
• Write report which is clear for stakeholders to understand
• Incorporate into PDD submitted to CCB Standards
• Monitoring: need for 6 monthly or annual monitoring workplans
• Monitoring results also need to be clearly communicated and understandable
• CCB: prior to verification audit project has to report how project has met CCB Standards – monitoring results – 30 day public comment period
• Importance of contribution to wider learning process about social impacts of REDD+
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