

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGAURDS

SAFEGUARDING AGAINST HARM



Safeguards are measures taken to prevent harm and encourage benefit by continually assessing, monitoring, and, where possible, improving the social and environmental impacts of interventions relative to the baseline scenario.



They help to both constrain and enable, as appropriate, the design, function, and implementation of climate smart forest economy programs and projects.



Supported by Michigan State University, we have understood existing safeguards tools, and developed a checklist to apply the most relevant elements of these tools to our climate smart forest economy initiatives.



Our draft tools include checklists for both the challenge owner (the implementer of the on-the-ground initiative) and the independent assessor to complete. It follows a risk mitigation approach, identifying priority areas and aiming for continuous improvement across indicators, relative to the contextual baseline.

WHAT TOOLS DO WE LEVERAGE?

- 1 Alignment tool**
Helps the challenge owner and independent assessor to work collaboratively to align on context and priorities.
- 2 Guidance document**
Provides definitions, examples, and other support to assist the challenge owner in completing the checklist.
- 3 Checklist**
Assessing the project's social, environmental, and ecological risks, mitigation approaches, and potential for improvement.

HOW DOES THIS WORK IN PRACTICE?

The on-the-ground challenge owner is asked to complete a self-assessment first, allowing us to understand their assessment of risks and concerns. The independent assessor then completes the same checklist through fieldwork, showcasing what's happening on the ground. Comparing these two assessments has been hugely helpful for our challenge owners to identify their own blind spots, and work out opportunities for further improvement.

Possible Risk Classifications
Possible Co-Benefit
Low Risk
Low -Medium Risk
Medium Risk
High Risk

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

COLLABORATE ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN

We have learnt that stakeholder engagement is critical and, to the extent possible, that all key stakeholders throughout the value chain should be co-opted to ensure that biodiversity is protected at the forest and/or plantation level, as mentioned by one of our BIs.



MONITOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

We have learnt that analyzing the potential impacts or affectation of resources during the establishment and management of plantations is very helpful, but also to the operations of use, transport, processing or treatment of products (e.g. use of chemical products), even beyond the limits of the plantations (e.g. water basins that supply communities).



FOSTER GREATER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We have learnt that ensuring greater community involvement throughout the value chain is very crucial to the long-term scaling of a CSFE. For example, one of our breakthrough initiatives, Fairventures Social Forestry (FSF), works with local communities to produce sustainable, fast-growing timber and high-value organic cash crops on degraded land while protecting remaining natural forests.

SAMPLE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS

1

HABITAT PROTECTION – Before establishing a new bamboo plantation, climate and soil conditions at the potential site for planting site must be taken into consideration, to select the species that best suits the local conditions and have the guarantee that the material to be harvested will serve the purpose according to the projected uses and the technical specifications of the same.

2

AVOIDING LAND USE AND COVER TYPE CONVERSION – It is imperative to a CSFE model to define mechanisms to confirm that bamboo plantations developed by CASSA are not established on lands where the substitution of forests or other natural ecosystems are likely to occur. This will reduce the risks associated with the conversion or replacement of productive forests and/or natural ecosystems and assist in protecting areas of conservation considered as high value

3

IMPACTS TO LAND TENURE SECURITY – To the extent that land use rights are not clear and legitimate, the risks to the sustainability of the programme can be significant. For this reason, it is advisable to confirm the rights of ownership and use over the lands where the plantations are established in order to prevent potential social conflicts

OUR BREAKTHROUGH INITIATIVES

THE CONNECTIVE

BUILD X

To learn more about our breakthrough initiatives, visit the CSFEP website

Kāinga Ora
Homes and Communities



CASSA



**Climate Smart
Forest Economy
Program**
Unlocking Forests' Potential

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat

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