

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.

## CSFEP SAFEGUARDS ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT

### ALIGNMENT TOOL

Helps the challenge owner and independent assessor to work collaboratively to align on context and priorities.

### GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Provides definitions, examples, and other support to assist the challenge owner in completing the checklist.

### CHECKLIST

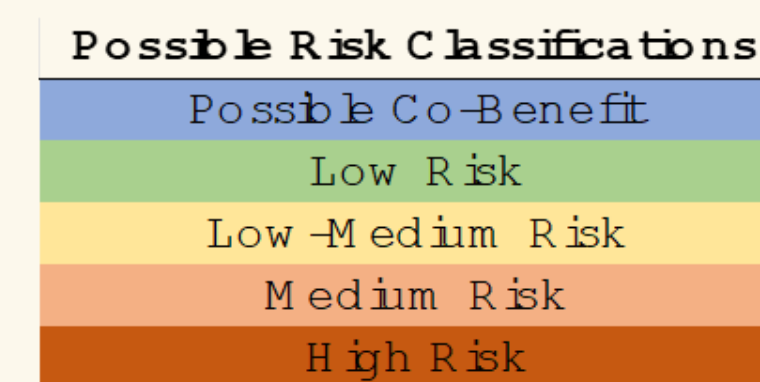
Assessing the project's social, environmental, and ecological risks, mitigation approaches, and potential for improvement.

The checklist covers a range of issue areas and enablers, learning from best practice across a range of other tools.

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 actually 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.

This assessment is completed across the project lifecycle (design, implementation, and finalization), and can be used by any project (regardless of size or location). The checklist can also be reused multiple times, **allowing for continuous monitoring and assessment**.

KEY PILLAR	ISSUE AREA	RISK CLASSIFICATION
Ecosystem Health and Function	○ Biodiversity	
	○ Endangered species	
	○ Habitat protection	
	○ Ecological resilience / climate change adaptation	
	○ Land use and cover type conversion in areas of high conservation value	
	○ Ecosystem function and service provisioning	
	○ Resource efficiency & pollution prevention	
Society and Economy	○ Impacts to tenure security	
	○ Risks and accidents	
	○ Well-being (non-economic)	
	○ Labor and working conditions	
	○ Food security	
	○ Illicit activities	
	○ Equity and inclusion (including gendered impacts)	
	○ Community involvement / indigenous participation / leadership	



For example, having thoroughly assessed CASSA, independent assessors have recommended several safeguards to be implemented by CASSA

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

**MINIMIZING RISKS AND ACCIDENTS** – Although CASSA mentioned that they have not had reports of any fire in the built projects, and that bamboo may be less susceptible to catching fire than some species of wood, it is always important to emphasize about preventive measures: do not make large stoves inside the houses, and preferably use improved stoves that require little wood and that have a fireplace in good condition, to prevent adverse effects to the health of the inhabitants of the home

4

**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