

**Terms of Reference:
Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)
Consultation and Participation C&P Task Force.**

Ethiopia REDD+ Secretariat

1. Background

Ethiopia is currently implementing activities under the Readiness phase of REDD+, with support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank, with Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment being one of the key activities.

The REDD+ Readiness process should ensure that implementation of proposed programs and activities will not cause adverse social and environmental impacts, while striving to enhance benefits for local communities and the environment. Countries participating in Readiness activities with support from the FCPF are required to undertake a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to assess the potential impacts from national REDD+ programs and policies, formulate alternatives and develop mitigation strategies. SESA offers a platform for consultation to integrate social and environmental concerns into the policy-making process of REDD+. SESA is complemented by an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which establishes the principles, guidelines, and procedures for reducing, mitigating, and/or offsetting potential adverse environmental and social impacts, enhancing positive impacts and opportunities, and otherwise guiding potential investments towards compliance with relevant safeguards.

The SESA is a tool that seeks to integrate social and environmental considerations into policy-making processes, leading to more sustainable REDD+ policies and programs. It supports the design of the national REDD+ policy framework, including the National REDD+ Strategy.

Aim of SESA_C&P Task Force for REDD+

SESA aims to ensure that environmental and social issues and risks are addressed from an early stage in the process of formulating REDD+ strategy and programmes, and incorporated throughout the process, through a participatory and analytical approach, and through preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

The establishment of a SESA_C&P Task force is aimed at ensuring that the SESA and C&P process gets a clear oversight.

In addition, the Task Force will also monitor the implementation of various ongoing REDD+ readiness activities and REDD+ pilot projects, aiming at establishing good governance.

The Task Force shall ensure that all REDD+ relevant stakeholders are consulted widely and feedback to their inputs are considered under the Environmental and Social Managed Framework (ESMF)

The Task Force should aim to ensure communication with stakeholders is retained throughout the SESA process. Overall the Task Force will coordinate the SESA process and verify the adequacy and consistency of the original objectives, and measure the effectiveness of the process i.e. the degree of achievement of objectives, assess the implementation means and their suitability to the context and expected results, and finally to examine their application of ESMF during REDD+ implementation phase.

The Task Force, which draws its mandate from the National REDD+ Technical Working Group (RTWG), is accountable to the supervision of the SESA process, in conjunction with the REDD+ Secretariat.

The Task Force will ensure the proper conduct of the SESA consultant (s) in coordination with the REDD+ Secretariat.

Specifically, the Task Force shall:

- Follow the preparation and implementation of SESA including:

- a) Follow SESA/ESMF Consultant;
- b) Follow the progress where and when necessary;
- c) Oversee the public consultations;
- d) Validate the progress and process reports;
- e) Guide and facilitate the development, implementation and monitoring of national and international standards/safeguards for REDD+.
- f) Ensure full and effective inclusion of social and environmental safeguards in the design and implementation of REDD+ strategy.
- g) Ensure full and effective participation of underserved communities in the REDD+ strategy development.
- h) Ensure, when preparing the national strategy, the establishment of a robust Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM).
- i) Finally, ensure that the SESA process is publicized and disclosed to the public, in a timely manner.

Membership and Structure:

The Task Force will consist representatives of key REDD+ relevant stakeholders, among the following:

1. Ministry of Environment & Forest;
2. CCF- Ethiopia;
3. Farm Africa;
4. The National Civil Society Organizations Network Representative (Climate Change Forum)

5. Representative from an organization working with the underserved communities (ILCA)
6. Media representative - Environmental Journalist Association
7. Pastoralist Forum
8. Academia (Wondo genet College of Forestry)
9. Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture/forestry research

Members that do not participate in 3 meetings per year, and does not justify their absence, will be automatically excluded. One third (3) of members could be renewed yearly based on indication of current members.

The Task Force will be organized as follows:

The Chair: Elected by all Task Force members on a rotational level once a year. The chair will be responsible for assuring the fulfillment of above mentioned tasks.

Co-Chair: Elected by all Task Force members on a rotational level once a year. The co-chair will be responsible for assuring the fulfillment of above mentioned tasks in the absence of the chair.

Secretariat: Provided by the National REDD+ Secretariat; the secretariat will be responsible for logistical support, reporting and facilitating the Task Force work.

Working arrangements

After approval of the Consultant's work at the beginning of the SESA process, the task force will meet twice every quarter and extraordinarily if need during the assessment, limited to the planned budget.

The REDD+ Secretariat will share the agenda and working a week before the meeting and will share the minutes three days after the meeting.

A minimum quorum, of at least 5 members of the task force, excluding the REDD+ Secretariat, is necessary to the meeting to take place.

The decisions of the Task Force are taken by consensus.

Compensation

Team members will receive compensation for their work as defined by the Ministry responsible for the REDD+ agenda.