

Pointers for the Break-out Groups for SESA in Macondo

Background: Macondo is a country with significant forestry potential. In the early 20th century 70% of the country was covered by forests. However, between 1950 and 1995 deforestation in Macondo was rampant due to the expansion of the agricultural frontier, urbanization and mining. Almost 40% of its forest was lost. By early 2000s deforestation was reversed but since then threats have emerged such as (i) conversion to agricultural land particularly in the northeast of the country, (ii) infrastructure development and construction of hydropower plants, (iii) illegal logging and (iv) forest fires. The government of Macondo is interested in arresting deforestation, conserving biodiversity and promoting green growth. As a result, Macondo joined the FCPF. Its R-PP was approved in mid-2012.

However, one of Macondo's leading environmental NGOs has publicly criticized REDD+, stating that REDD+ does not deal effectively with social and environmental issues. In response to this the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment asked the group of consultants that developed the SESA/ESMF TOR to explain and justify the TOR and how SESA will deal effectively with the social and environmental concerns in REDD+ in a meeting with the NGO that criticized REDD+. A copy of the SESA/ESMF TOR was received by the NGO prior to the meeting.

The Minister hopes that such a deliberation will enable him to have a well-rounded understanding of the SESA/ESMF TOR and any strengths and weaknesses inherent in them.

Challenging the TOR: The issues/concerns raised by the NGO about REDD+ have included:

- Forest conservation would exclude communities from the forests and constrain agriculture, affecting livelihoods negatively.
- Only powerful people, close to the government, would decide on the REDD+ strategy options. Poor farmers and indigenous peoples have no chance to influence the REDD+ process.
- Benefits of REDD+ would accrue to the government. Costs would be borne by forest-dependent people, indigenous peoples and farmers.
- The potential social and environmental impacts of implementing the REDD+ strategy can be significant because Macondo does not have robust E&S regulations and enforcement capacity.

The Mission:

For the consultants: Based on the ToR, to explain to the Minister how the SESA/ESMF will address all environmental and social concerns raised by the NGO;

For the NGO: Test the robustness of REDD+ in light of the concerns it has raised and any other weaknesses that can be identified in the SESA TOR;

The NGO and the consultants should know the TORs so well that each as a team can fully debate every aspect of them.

Summary of the key components in the SESA/ESMF ToR

The Macondo SESA ToR comprises four phases (i) launching (ii) scoping, (iii) assessment and (iv) preparation of an ESMF. The substantive SESA elements of these phases are the following:

Launching of the SESA process

- Stakeholder gap analysis will be conducted to build on the stakeholder analysis undertaken during R-PP preparation
- SESA consultation plan will be prepared within the umbrella of the REDD+ Readiness Consultation and Participation Plan
- Existing consultation structures and/or platforms will be used
- A SESA Work Plan will be prepared that will be validated in a national workshop
- The national workshop will also be used to ensure that issues of legitimacy and representativeness of stakeholders are discussed and agreed as well as rules for reaching agreements within the SESA process

Scoping of priority issues

- Spatial analysis will be the main approach for scoping. The advantages of this approach are the following:
 - (i) it presents information in a format accessible to grassroots people as well as high-level decision makers;
 - (ii) different layers of information can be overlaid to graphically identify key issues, hot spots, risks and opportunities; and
 - (iii) it is consistent with the ultimate objective of land-use planning underlying the REDD+ Strategy
- The scoping will drill down on environment and economic/growth trade-offs and poverty-environment linkages on proposed strategy options through participatory rural appraisal methods and case studies
- Environmental valuation and cost-benefit analysis will be applied to assess opportunity costs of forests
- Stakeholders will prioritize among key environmental and social sustainability issues identified in the SESA
- Priorities of local-level stakeholders will be treated separately from the priorities of institutional stakeholders

Assessment of environmental and social priorities vis-à-vis REDD+ strategy options

- The assessment and refining of REDD+ strategy options will be undertaken by addressing the following questions:
 - i. Do REDD+ strategy options address environmental and social priorities? If not, **refine** REDD+ strategy options
 - ii. Are REDD+ strategy options responsive to the environmental or social value of forests? If not, **refine** REDD+ strategy options

- Potential environmental and social impacts of refined REDD+ strategy options will be addressed by using World Bank safeguard policies and **further refining** REDD+ strategy options
- Residual risks will be addressed through the ESMF
- Stakeholders will validate the assessment through a national workshop

Environmental and Social Management Framework

- It will describe REDD+ strategy (comprises “further refined REDD+ strategy options”)
- It will discuss the legislative, regulatory and policy regime within which the strategy will be implemented
- Potential future residual environmental and social impacts associated with the implementation of the strategy will be discussed
- The ESMF will describe arrangements to manage these impacts, and the capacity, institutional and budgetary required for its effective application
- The ESMF ToR will be disclosed
- The draft ESMF will be consulted at the local and national level
- The final ESMF will be refined based on feedback received from the consultations