



## UPDATED DESCRIPTION OF EACH SAFEGUARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

September 2024

### **Safeguard A – national and international policy coherence**

*Safeguard (A): That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programs and relevant international conventions and agreements*

#### **Key term 1: Actions**

In Viet Nam, the actions referred to in this safeguard are defined as the specific Policies and Measures (PaMs) taken by the Government of Viet Nam during the implementation of the overall REDD+ activities in Viet Nam, consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 70. Priority PaMs for the country as a whole are defined in the revised National REDD+ Action Program (NRAP) approved in 2017. Priority PaMs for specific provinces and programs are defined in Provincial REDD Action Plans (PRAPs) and in REDD+ program documents where relevant.

#### **Key term 2: National forest programs**

National forest programs in Viet Nam include the overall national forest sector strategy, and specific plans and programs that are issued within the framework of this strategy, that are approved by the Prime Minister.

#### **Objectives of Viet Nam’s key national forest programs**

*Objectives of the Forestry Development Strategy for the 2021-2030 period with a vision to 2050:<sup>1</sup>*

- To build the forestry truly into an economic - technical sector; establish, manage, protect, develop and sustainably use of forest and land areas having been planned for forestry;
- To ensure the extensive and equal participation of all economic sectors in forestry activities, maximally mobilize all society’s resources for forestry, apply advanced and modern science and technology in forestry development;
- To maximize the potentials, roles and values of forests so that the contribution of forestry can be increasingly significant to the socio-economic development, environmental and ecological protection, insurance of water security, mitigation of natural disasters, proactive and effective response to climate change, conservation

<sup>1</sup> [Decision no. 523/QĐ-TTg on approving the Viet Nam’s Forestry Development Strategy in the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050 - Climate Change Laws of the World \(climate-laws.org\)](#)

of natural resources and biodiversity, provision of diverse forest ecosystem services, creation of jobs and incomes for people, maintaining national defence and security and successfully implementing national goals for sustainable development;

- To make the State administration system for forestry streamlined, efficient and effective.

*Overall objective of the Program on Sustainable Forestry Development for the period 2021-2025:*<sup>2</sup>

- Protection and sustainable development of the entire existing forest area and newly created forest area in the period of 2021 - 2025; contribute to maintaining a stable national forest coverage rate of about 42%; continue to improve the productivity and quality of forests, meet the requirements of supplying raw materials for production and consumption, protect and protect the environment, conserve biodiversity, minimize negative impacts caused by natural disasters. ear, enhancing the ability to adapt to climate change;
- The growth rate of forestry production value is 5.0 - 5.5%/year. The export value of wood and non-timber forest products will reach about 20 billion USD by 2025, of which the export value of non-timber forest products will reach over 1.5 billion USD, increasing the proportion of deep processing and export of wood products. and high value added forest products;
- Contributing to creating jobs and increasing incomes for people participating in forest protection and development activities. By 2025, income from planted production forests will increase by an average of 1.5 times/unit area compared to 2020.

***Key term 3: Consistent with relevant international conventions and agreements***

Viet Nam is a party to 17 international conventions and agreements that are relevant and applicable to the four REDD+ activities encompassed by the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs.

**Relevant international conventions and agreements to which Viet Nam is a party**

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992
2. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (The Biosafety Protocol), 2000
3. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), 1969
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979
5. Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2005

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<sup>2</sup> Decision 809/QĐ-TTg on Program on Sustainable Forestry Development in 2021-2025 period

6. Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
7. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 1973
8. Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003
9. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially Waterfowl Habitats (RAMSAR), 1971
10. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966
11. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1966
12. UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972
13. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 1994
14. United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2005
15. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992
16. Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, 1997
17. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), 2007

***What this means in the context of REDD+***

Cancun safeguard (A), in the context of Viet Nam, means that the specific PaMs set out in the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs are expected to be consistent with, or complement the objectives of Viet Nam's national forest strategy, plans and programs as set out above, and their guiding principles (which include rational use of natural resources), as required by the Constitution, as well as the objectives of the 17 international conventions and agreements listed above.

**Safeguard B – transparent and effective national forest governance**

*Safeguard (B) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty*

***Key term 1: Transparent forest governance structures***

Forest governance is understood as a generic term for describing the way in which people and organizations rule and regulate forests. In other words, how they allocate and secure access to rights over, and benefits from, forests, including the planning, monitoring and control of their use, management and conservation. In Viet Nam, the Government exercises the unified State management over forest protection and development, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development assigned responsibility for State management of forests (protection and development). The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Defense and the other ministries, as well as ministerial-level agencies, coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The Government has set out the organization, tasks and powers of specialized forestry agencies from central to district levels and of forestry officers in communes, wards, townships and

villages with forests. At the local level, the People's Committees also play a role in the protection and development of forests in their respective localities.

Transparent national forest governance structures are defined in Viet Nam as being structures that fulfil essential requirements in terms of two key dimensions, *access to information* and *accountability/prevention and control of corruption*.

#### **a. Access to information**

In Viet Nam, access to information is defined as the reading, watching, listening, reproduction and photocopying of information, including details and data that are contained in existing documents and papers and stored in any forms such as writings, printouts, electronic texts, pictures, photos, drawings, tapes, disks, video recordings, audio recordings or in other forms produced by state agencies. Information is to be freely accessible to citizens, except for information that is explicitly characterized as inaccessible or subjected to certain conditions. Access to information includes both the disclosure of information to the general public as well as the provision of information upon request.

#### **b. Accountability/prevention and control of corruption**

In Vietnamese law, accountability can be understood as the provision of information by state agencies about the performance of their assigned duties and powers and responsibilities. More broadly, accountability relates to the transparency of the activities of public agencies, organizations and units, with the aim of ensuring a democratic approach to state management, recognizing that society has a supervisory role to play. Viet Nam has created dedicated institutions with competence for promoting transparency of the forest sector activities, which include supervision and monitoring of funds. Furthermore, forest budgets are to be scrutinized by a parliamentary and governmental process, and information about the forest agencies budget should be made publicly available. Accountability is also linked to the adoption and implementation of PLRs to tackle corruption and possible misuse of funds.

#### ***Key term 2: Effective forest governance structures***

In the context of Viet Nam, *effective forest governance structures* are considered to be forest governance structures that adequately address a number of key components, including:

- a. *Rule of law*: In the Vietnamese context, the term “rule of law” means that law is the main tool to govern society and all individuals and organizations must respect the law. In the context of REDD+, all public agencies are expected to act in accordance with their legal mandates and to follow the rules of behavior established in Viet Nam's legal framework.
- b. *Rights to use land and forest land*: In the context of REDD+ in Viet Nam, this means that there is a clear regulatory framework defining ownership, management, access to and use of forests that is implemented in practice towards achieving reduced deforestation/forest degradation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Governance arrangements are expected to be appropriate, fair and equitable, ensuring that poor and vulnerable forest-dependent communities in

particular are not further marginalized nor excluded from lands and forest lands and are enabled to access benefits from forests.

- c. *Equitable benefit sharing*: In Viet Nam, the land and resources belong to the people and are managed uniformly by the State on behalf of the people—based on principles including social progress and equality alongside environmental protection—in its approach to independent socio-economic development based on its internal resources. Forestry sector policy recognizes the role of forests and sharing of benefits in terms of rural development and poverty reduction, in particular for ethnic minorities and other groups that are dependent on forest lands and resources for their livelihoods. Viet Nam’s forest laws and regulations also recognize a wide range of benefits and services provided by forests and makes provisions for their allocation and distribution. This includes both the direct economic benefits from harvesting of timber and Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) as well as the environmental services provided by forests. The principle of fair distribution of benefits arising from the use of forest resources is expected to be applied to the implementation of the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs.
- d. *Gender equality*: Gender equality is recognized in the Constitution of Viet Nam (2013) as well as in the Law on Gender Equality (2006) and throughout Viet Nam’s Policies, Laws and Regulations (PLRs). Gender equality is expected to be addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs.
- e. *Cross-sectoral coordination*: In Viet Nam, REDD+ PaMs are linked to the mandates and jurisdictions of the land and forest sectors as well as other related sectors. Effective governance structures require adequate coordination between ministries and agencies during the elaboration and implementation of the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs.
- f. *Access to justice*: Access to justice is recognized under Vietnamese law as the right of all individuals and organizations to access formal and informal legal institutions and to ask for protection of their legitimate rights and interests. The legal framework also guarantees access to appeals, remediation, compensation and the enforceability of its decisions. In the context of REDD+, the relevant dispute and conflict resolution mechanisms are expected to be available to stakeholders throughout the implementation of the proposed REDD+ actions under the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs to address any disputes arising from their implementation.
- g. *Stakeholder participation*: this is detailed under safeguard (D) below.

#### **What this means in the context of REDD+**

Cancun safeguard (B), in the context of Viet Nam, means that the agencies responsible for developing and implementing the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs must provide information regarding proposed REDD+ PaMs through active dissemination during both development and implementation, and upon request, in line with the requirements of relevant

PLRs. The accountability measures enshrined in the relevant PLRs, including those intended to tackle corruption, are expected to be applied. All public agencies are expected to act in accordance with their legal mandates and to follow the rules of behavior established in Viet Nam's legal framework. Existing land use rights and rights to forest land are expected to be identified, recognized and protected. The principle of fair distribution of benefits arising from the use of forest resources is expected to be applied to the implementation of the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs. Gender equality and women's empowerment are to be promoted. Cross-sectoral coordination between related ministries and agencies, including those in the land and forest sectors, is to be promoted throughout the implementation of proposed REDD+ PaMs. Relevant dispute and conflict resolution mechanisms are expected to be available to stakeholders to address any disputes arising from REDD+ implementation.

### **Safeguard C – indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights**

*Safeguard (c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

#### **Key term 1: Ethnic minorities and members of local communities**

Due to the historical conditions of the country, the term “Indigenous Peoples” is not used in Viet Nam. Viet Nam is a unified nation with 54 ethnic groups.<sup>3</sup> An ethnic majority group in Viet Nam is defined as “an ethnic group with a population accounting for over 50% of the country's total population according to national population survey,” while an ethnic minority group is defined as “an ethnic group with a population smaller than that of the ethnic majority group within the territory of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam”.<sup>4</sup> These include “very low population” ethnic minority groups, defined as “ethnic minority groups with a population below 10,000 people”.<sup>5</sup> The ethnic majority group, the Kinh people, account for 85.3% of the population, while 53 ethnic minority groups account for 14.7% of the population.<sup>6</sup> Ethnic minority groups are distributed throughout the country, mostly living in the mountainous regions. There are no “ethnic-specific” areas in Viet Nam, or areas that may be referred to as “indigenous peoples' territories” in other parts of the world.<sup>7</sup>

Viet Nam defines members of local communities as households and individuals living in the same village, hamlet or similar population quarters, typically having shared traditions and

<sup>3</sup> Article 5, The Constitution of Viet Nam (2013). <https://vietnamlawmagazine.vn/the-2013-constitution-of-the-socialist-republic-of-vietnam-4847.html>

<sup>4</sup> Article 4(2,3), Decree No. 05/2011/ND-CP of the Government

<sup>5</sup> Article 4(6). Decree No. 05/2011/ND-CP of the Government

<sup>6</sup> The latest results of the Viet Nam population and housing census in 2019: <https://www.gso.gov.vn/en/category/population-and-houses-census/#:~:text=The%202019%20Population%20and%20Housing%20Census%20collected%20basic%20information%20on,a.m.%20on%201%20April%202019.>

<sup>7</sup> Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (2011) Periodic Report of Viet Nam to International Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, pg.4

customs, and/or shared descent.<sup>8</sup> Local communities in Viet Nam may comprise households and individuals from either the ethnic majority group or from ethnic minority groups.

***Key term 2: Respect for the knowledge and rights of ethnic minorities and members of local communities***

The *knowledge* of ethnic minorities and members of local communities is clarified in Viet Nam in line with the definition of “traditional knowledge” in article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>9</sup> ratified by Viet Nam, as including the “knowledge, innovations and practices [...] developed through the experiences of communities over centuries, adapted to local needs, cultures and environments and passed down from generation to generation”.<sup>10</sup>

In Viet Nam, the rights of ethnic minorities and members of local communities include the rights that accrue to all citizens of Viet Nam, as set out in the Constitution of Viet Nam (2013), as well as specific rights that have been set out and highlighted in specific PLRs.

***What this means in the context of REDD+***

Cancun safeguard (C), in the context of Viet Nam, means that the understanding, experience and initiatives of ethnic minorities and of local communities, built up over a long period of time and transmitted from generation to generation, and the rights of ethnic minorities and local communities as defined in the Constitution and other relevant PLRs, are to be respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions under the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs.

**Safeguard D – full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders**

*Safeguard (D) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision*

***Key term 1: Relevant stakeholders***

REDD+ relevant stakeholders in Viet Nam have been identified through the country’s sectoral legislation, as well as in stakeholder analyses undertaken while developing Viet Nam’s Readiness Preparation Proposal for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Fund and by the UN-REDD Programme.<sup>11</sup>

The following main categories of stakeholders have been identified:

- i. **Elected governing bodies**, including the National Assembly and the People’s Councils at provincial, district, and commune levels, and relevant committees of these bodies such as the Ethnic Council of the National Assembly and the

<sup>8</sup> Article 5(3), the Land Law (2013); Article 2 (24), the Forestry Law (2017)

<sup>9</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity website, (2024). Article 8(j) Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices.- <https://www.cbd.int/traditional>

<sup>10</sup>Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (2011), Factsheet on Traditional Knowledge <https://www.cbd.int/abs/infokit/revise/web/factsheet-tk-en.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> UN-REDD Programme (2014) Stakeholder Analysis and Stakeholder Engagement for the Implementation of National REDD Action Plan in Viet Nam. [https://www.un-redd.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/A4\\_FPIC\\_17.9.pdf](https://www.un-redd.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/A4_FPIC_17.9.pdf)

Committee on Science, Technology and the Environment of the National Assembly.

- ii. **The central Government and its ministries and ministry-level bodies**, including the Prime Minister and the Office of Government, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the State Bank of Viet Nam, the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, and other related sectoral ministries and ministry-level bodies, and their specialized agencies and units.
- iii. **People’s Committees at provincial, district and commune levels**, and their relevant sectoral agencies and personnel, such as the specialized agencies for forest protection and development at provincial and district levels and forestry officers at the commune level.
- iv. **Forest owners**,<sup>12</sup> including:
  - a. Reserve forest and protection forest management units.
  - b. Business entities including enterprises, cooperatives, cooperative unions and other business entities that are established and operating in accordance with regulations of law, except for the owners stated in Clause 7 this Article.
  - c. Authorities that are affiliated to the People’s Armed Forces and allocated forests (hereinafter referred to as “armed force authorities”).
  - d. Science and technology institutions; vocational education and training centers in forestry.
  - e. Domestic households and individuals.
  - f. Local communities.
  - g. Foreign-invested enterprises whose land is leased out by the State for forest production planting.
- v. **Entities required to pay for, and those entitled to enjoy payment from, forest environment services**,<sup>13</sup> including forest owners as identified above under point iv above, as well as organizations, households, individuals and village communities that have concluded contracts on stable and permanent forest protection with forest owners that are state organizations.
- vi. **Poor ethnic minority and ethnic majority households** living in communes with difficult socio-economic conditions in ethnic and mountainous areas,

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<sup>12</sup> Article 8, Forestry Law (2017) includes “local communities” as a category of forest owners.

<sup>13</sup> Article 8, Decree No. 99/2010/ND-CP of the Government, which was amended and supplemented by Article 1, Government Decree No. 147/2016/ND-CP dated November 2, 2016.



implementing one of the activities for protection and development of forests: protection and regeneration of natural forests; afforestation, non-timber forest products on land planned for forest development and allocated by the State for forest protection on contracts.<sup>14</sup>

- vii. **Management units and organizations assigned to manage conservation areas.**<sup>15</sup>
- viii. **Local communities, households and individuals** living in or near forest protected areas and buffer zones.
- ix. **Social and professional organizations**, including nationwide associations with chapters from central to local levels representing women, farmers, war veterans and young people, as well as unions, associations, networks and organizations at the national and local levels focused on science, technology, poverty reduction, sustainable development and other relevant sectors and areas.
- x. **Stakeholders related to the target of value-added, sustainable and deforestation-free production of coffee, rubber, shrimp, cassava, pepper, and other related agriculture and aquaculture commodities**, including:
  - a. State-owned, private sector and smallholder commodity producers and other stakeholders within the value chains for these commodities;
  - b. Business associations and related entities such as the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), the Viet Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), the Viet Nam Coffee and Cocoa Association (VICOFA), the Viet Nam Rubber Association, and the Viet Nam Coffee Coordination Board (VCCB).
- xi. **Financial institutions, State funds and financial service providers** providing credit and other financial services contributing to an enhanced financial and economic environment for forests.
- xii. **The media**, in relation to transparency and provision of information about REDD+.

### ***Key term 2: Full and effective participation***

Viet Nam's legal framework recognizes the importance of ensuring public participation, including in the context of environmental and biodiversity protection, forest development as well as in the elaboration of land-use plans, and more broadly in socio-economic development planning. The Constitution (2013) and relevant laws recognize the right of citizens to participate in the management of the State.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Article 2, Decree No. 75/2015/ND-CP of the Government, dated September 9, 2015 on mechanisms and policies for forest development associated with poverty reduction policies and support for ethnic minorities in the period 2015 - 2020.

<sup>15</sup> Biodiversity Law (2008). <https://www.cbd.int/doc/measures/abs/msr-abs-vn-en.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Article 278, The Constitution of Viet Nam (2013). <https://vietnamlawmagazine.vn/the-2013-constitution-of-the-socialist-republic-of-vietnam-4847.html> See also: The Forest Protection and Development Law (2004), Articles 13 & 20; the Forestry Law (2017, effective 1 January 2019), Article 12; the Law on Biological Diversity (2008), Article 22; the Land Law

### ***What this means in the context of REDD+***

Cancun safeguard (D), in the context of Viet Nam, means that adequate mechanisms to ensure the full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders (in particular of ethnic minorities and local communities) are to be developed and implemented during the preparation of the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs, and throughout the implementation of the proposed REDD+ PaMs contained therein.

### **Safeguard E – conservation of natural forests and biological diversity**

*Safeguard (E) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits*

### ***Key term 1: Natural forests and biological diversity***

#### **a. Natural forests**

Viet Nam’s natural forests are differentiated from planted forests based on the origin of the forest, with natural forests clearly defined as those “existing in nature or restored by natural regeneration”. The natural forest can be categorized into different types and forms based on the extent of stable forest structure (primary forests and secondary forests). Primary forests are the forests which have not yet been or are less influenced by humans or natural disasters and have a relatively stable structure, while secondary forests are forests that are influenced by humans or natural disasters, leading to changes in their structure. “Secondary forest” includes naturally restored forests, which are forests formed through natural regeneration on land areas that were previously deforested due to agricultural expansion, forest fires or exhaustive exploitation, and post-exploitation forests, which are forests that have undergone the exploitation of timber or other forest products.

Natural forests can be classified according to three categories, depending on the purpose of use: production forests, protection forest and special-use forests.

#### **b. Biological diversity**

Viet Nam defines biological diversity as the abundance of genes, organisms and ecosystems in nature.

### ***Key term 2: Conversion of natural forests***

In Viet Nam, conversion of natural forests means a change in the forest classification and/or the forest use purpose. The requirements and conditions for repurposing of forests and the powers to convert forest use are regulated by Vietnamese law.

### ***Key term 3: Conservation of natural forests and biodiversity***

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(2013), Article 43; the Law on Environmental Protection (2014), Articles 21 & 146; Law on Implementation of Grassroots Democracy Law No. 10/2022/QH15 - Article 3, 5, 6, 7

Viet Nam defines conservation of natural forests as protection of forests. Activities that directly affect forest ecosystems, as well as the growth and development of forest organisms, must comply with the provisions of law. From 1 January 2019, conversion of natural forests is strictly prohibited, except in cases of nationally important projects, national defense projects, or other critical projects approved by the Government.<sup>17</sup>

In Viet Nam, conservation of biodiversity means: the protection of the abundance of natural ecosystems which are important, specific or representative; the protection of permanent or seasonal habitats of wild species, environmental landscapes and the unique beauty of nature; the rearing, planting and care of species on the list of endangered precious and rare species prioritized for protection; and the long-term preservation and storage of genetic specimens.

***Key term 4: Incentivizing the protection and conservation of natural forests and biodiversity and their ecosystem services***

In Viet Nam, the term “forest environmental services” is defined as “the work to supply the use values of the forest environment” and these include:

- Soil protection, reduction of erosion and sedimentation of reservoirs, rivers, and streams;
- Regulation and maintenance of water sources for production and living activities of the society;
- Forest carbon sequestration and retention, reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases through measures for preventing forest degradation and loss of forest area, and for forest sustainable development;
- Protection of natural landscapes and conservation of the biodiversity of forest ecosystems for tourism services;
- Provision of spawning grounds, sources of feeds, and natural seeds, use of water from forests for aquaculture.

To incentivize these forest environmental services means to put in place mechanisms that provide for monetary or non-monetary incentives for their protection.

***Key term 5: Enhance other social and environmental benefits***

In the Viet Nam context, this is understood as creating and implementing PaMs that seek to enhance socio-cultural, and economic and ecological, biological, climatic and environmental, contributions (benefits) of forest resources.

***What this means in the context of REDD+***

Cancun safeguard (E), in the context of Viet Nam, means that REDD+ PaMs will not be used for the conversion of natural forests to plantation forest or to another non- forest land use purpose. Development and implementation of the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs will be consistent with the natural forest protection and biodiversity conservation provisions of

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<sup>17</sup> Articles 18-21, Forestry Law (2017). [https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC206322/Forestry Law](https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC206322/Forestry%20Law)

Viet Nam’s legal framework. Assessing the potential environmental impacts, positive and negative, of proposed REDD+ PaMs, and designing and implementing PaMs to support natural forest protection and biodiversity conservation, will be key to ensuring this consistency. REDD+ PaMs are expected to include the provision of monetary and/or non-monetary benefits to stakeholders, including populations living in or around forest areas targeted for intervention to encourage their conservation, restoration and sustainable management by these local populations. Proposed REDD+ PaMs will be assessed and designed in way that they promote ecological, biological, climatic, socio-cultural and economic benefits throughout the implementation of REDD+.

### **Safeguard F – risk of reversals**

*Safeguard (F) Actions to address the risks of reversals*

#### ***Key term 1: Risks of reversals***

This term “reversal” as used in this safeguard is specific to REDD+. Viet Nam defines the risk of reversals as:

- a) the possibility of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, achieved through the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures, increasing in the future;
- b) the possibility of greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere, through the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures, being released back into the atmosphere in the future.

There are many potential causes of reversals, which can be both anthropogenic (such as logging) and natural (such as fire or pest outbreaks).

#### ***Key term 2: Actions to address the risks of reversals***

Actions to address the risks of reversals in Viet Nam include:

- Analyzing the risk of reversals of emissions reductions/removals.
- Selecting and designing REDD+ PaMs taking into account the risk of reversals. This may involve consideration of the long-term financial and ecological sustainability of planned PaMs, legal and regulatory frameworks, and potential changes in environmental conditions and the comprehensive analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Designing and operating a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) to contributing to detecting and providing information on reversals.

#### ***What this means in the context of REDD+***

REDD+ interventions are intended to be enduring, and it is, therefore, important to manage the risk of reversals. If the intervention is in part or in whole reversed, the climate benefits of the REDD+ intervention are lost through the loss of forest carbon stocks. In Viet Nam, risks of reversals are to be identified during the PaMs development stage. The National Forest

Monitoring System will be the main source of information to monitor the implementation of REDD+ PaMs in order to track changes in forest cover and quality, which can inform actions to reduce the risks of reversals.

### **Safeguard G – displacement of emissions**

*Safeguard (G) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions*

#### ***Key term 1: Displacement of emissions***

This term is understood to mean the displacement (also referred to as “leakage”) of deforestation and/or forest degradation, avoided in one forested area, to another, through the implementation of REDD+ PaMs. Displacement can occur within Viet Nam and across national boundaries.

#### ***Key term 2: Actions to reduce displacement of emissions***

Actions to reduce the risk of displacement of emissions from REDD+ include:

- Implementing REDD+ at a national scale through the NRAP;
- Designing and selecting PaMs that address the underlying and indirect drivers of deforestation and land use change rather than only addressing direct drivers at specific locations;
- Taking actions to reduce displacement of emissions from REDD+ PaMs at the subnational scale, taking into account the potential impacts of REDD+ PaMs on livelihoods as well as the demand for and supply of forest and agricultural products;
- Designing and operating a NFMS designed to contribute to detecting and providing information on displacement at national and subnational levels;
- Analyzing possible reasons for displacement of emissions, such as ineffective implementation of REDD+ PaMs, or REDD+ PaMs that are not designed to address underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Analyzing risk of displacement and selecting and designing of REDD+ PaMs taking into consideration the risk of emissions displacement (including risk of displacement to other ecosystems, e.g. through draining of peatlands for agricultural use);
- Assessment, clarification and resolution of land use arrangements in the intervention areas;
- Regional actions on transboundary displacement issues, such as regional collaboration on REDD+ to ensure coherence in REDD+ implementation by various countries.

#### ***What this means in the context of REDD+***

Displacement is an important issue with regard to REDD+ because there may be no net reduction in emissions if deforestation has simply shifted to another area as a consequence of REDD+ implementation. In order to reduce the risks of displacement, the NRAP, PRAPs and REDD+ programs identify key drivers of deforestation and degradation, as well as potential opportunities for forest enhancement, and clarify how these drivers are to be addressed by the REDD+ PaMs. Potential social and environmental impacts of the proposed PaMs are to be

identified and mitigated, including conflicts linked to land use in REDD+ intervention areas. The NFMS is also expected to be capable of identifying instances of deforestation and forest degradation, which, through further investigation may be shown to be due to displacement as a consequence of REDD+ implementation. NFMS tracking of deforestation and forest degradation, coupled with analysis of causes, can inform actions taken to reduce the risk of any further displacement. In addition, Viet Nam has cross-border collaboration agreements on forest management and trade with neighboring countries (e.g. Lao PDR and Cambodia), which can help identify and reduce potential regional displacement.