



THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS IN ADDRESSING FOREST GOVERNANCE IN FLEGT AND REDD+ Expert Exchange: Asia-

Pacific

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Outline

1. FLEGT & REDD+ social safeguards: importance and requirements
2. Approaches to safeguards
3. Common challenges
4. Opportunities for synergy



FLEGT & REDD+ SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS: IMPORTANCE & REQUIREMENTS

Why are social safeguards important?

REALITY

- Complex political economy
- Issues with governance: accountability, transparency
- Challenges with law implementation and enforcement

NECESSITY

- Strengthen quality & sustainability of implementation
- Contributes to broader national development goals
- Ensures confidence in avoiding/minimizing risks, while delivering benefits

Key REDD+ requirements under UNFCCC & the Warsaw Framework

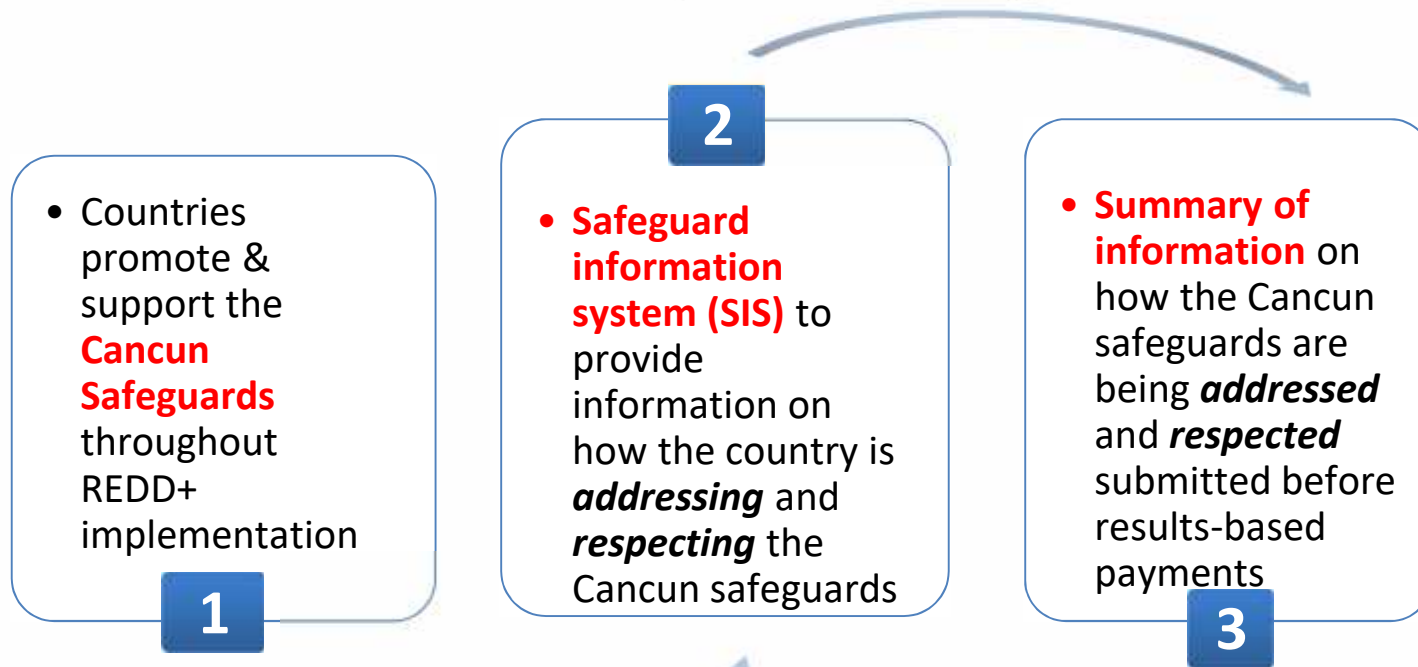
**National
Strategy/Action
Plan (NS/AP)**

**National Forest
Monitoring
System (NFMS)**

**Safeguards &
Safeguards
Information
System (SIS)**

**Forest reference
emissions level
(FREL/REL)**

UNFCCC Safeguards Requirements





FLEGT Safeguards Requirements: VPA Annexes

Legality definition & TLAS	VPA Annex on public information	VPA Monitoring
Wood products conform to national laws	Documents & info that stakeholders think should be publicly available to strengthen governance and monitoring	Independent (i) audit, (ii) observation, (iii) impact monitoring, (iv) market monitoring



Building blocks of social safeguards

Procedural

Representation

Information

Participation

Justice

Legitimacy

Accountability

Access

Transparency

Capacity

Feedback,
oversight &
accountability
systems

FPIC

Respect for TK
and cultural
heritage

Access

Building blocks of social safeguards

Substantive

Participation

Rule of law

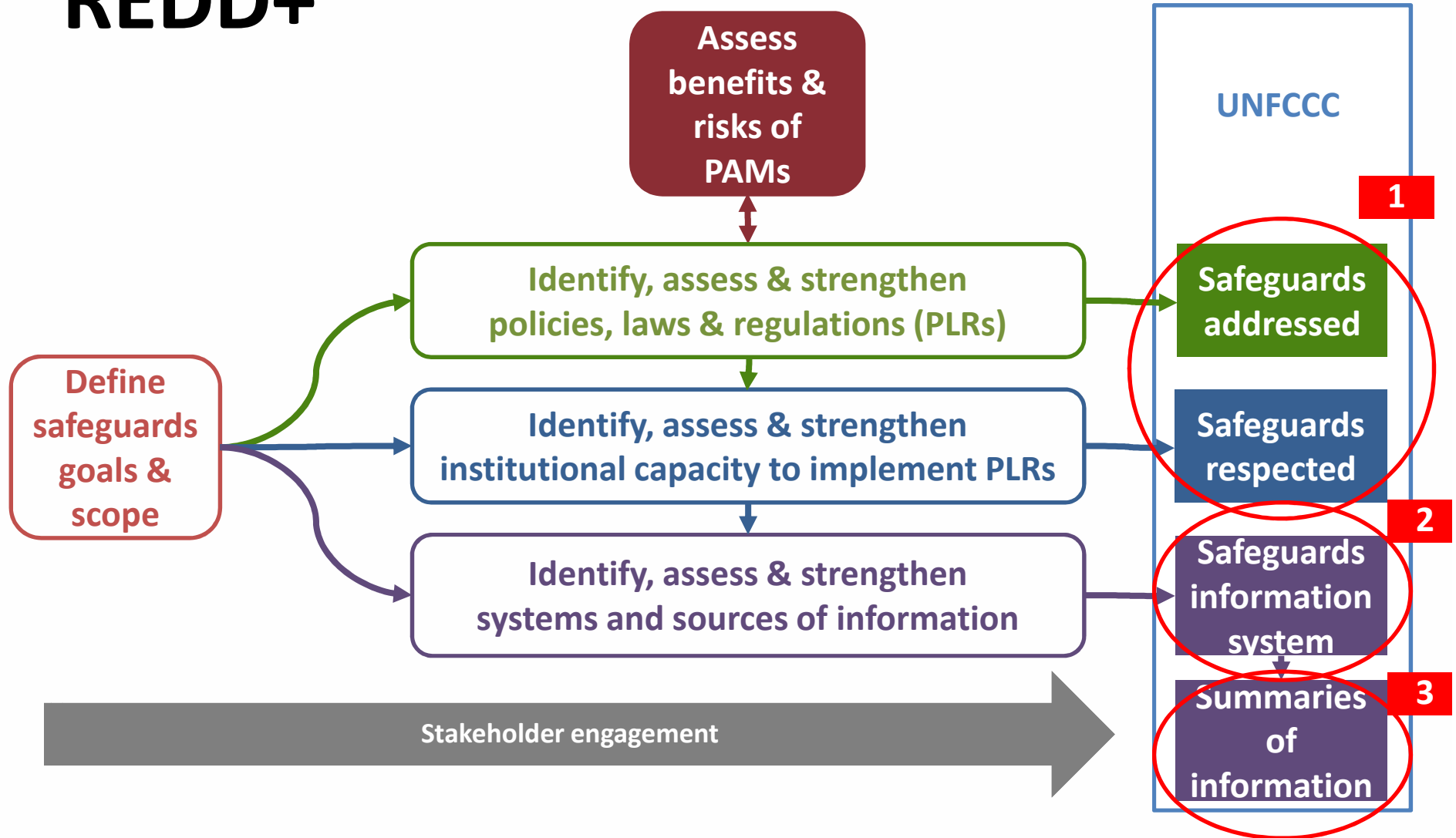
Respect for TK
and cultural
heritage

Clarity

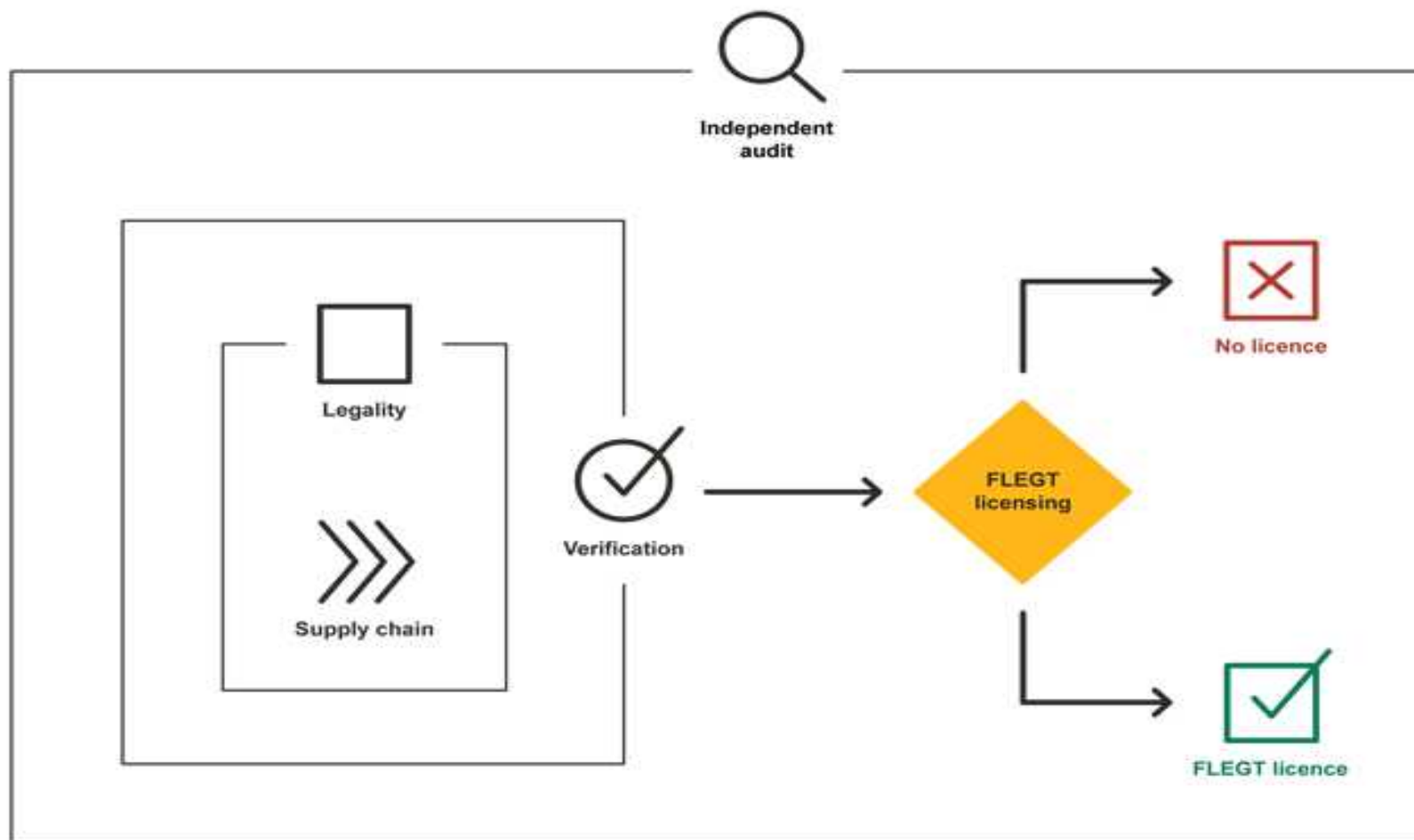
Rights to lands,
territories &
resources

APPROACHES TO SAFEGUARDS

REDD+



FLEGT – TLAS



Source: EU FLEGT Facility

COMMON CHALLENGES

Procedural

Information

Systems & procedures

Scope & depth

Information management, interagency information sharing

Ease of understanding: language

Participation

Technical capacity

National ownership & legitimacy

Lack of comprehensive knowledge, skills and abilities in FLEGT and/or REDD+ (policies and measures)

Roles of CSOs, IPs, LCs beyond consultation

Institutional feedback, oversight & accountability systems

Lack of political incentives for interagency or inter-ministerial coordination

Competing political agenda/elite capture

Justice

GRMs

Institutional challenges to address FLEGT or REDD+ specific grievances

Substantive

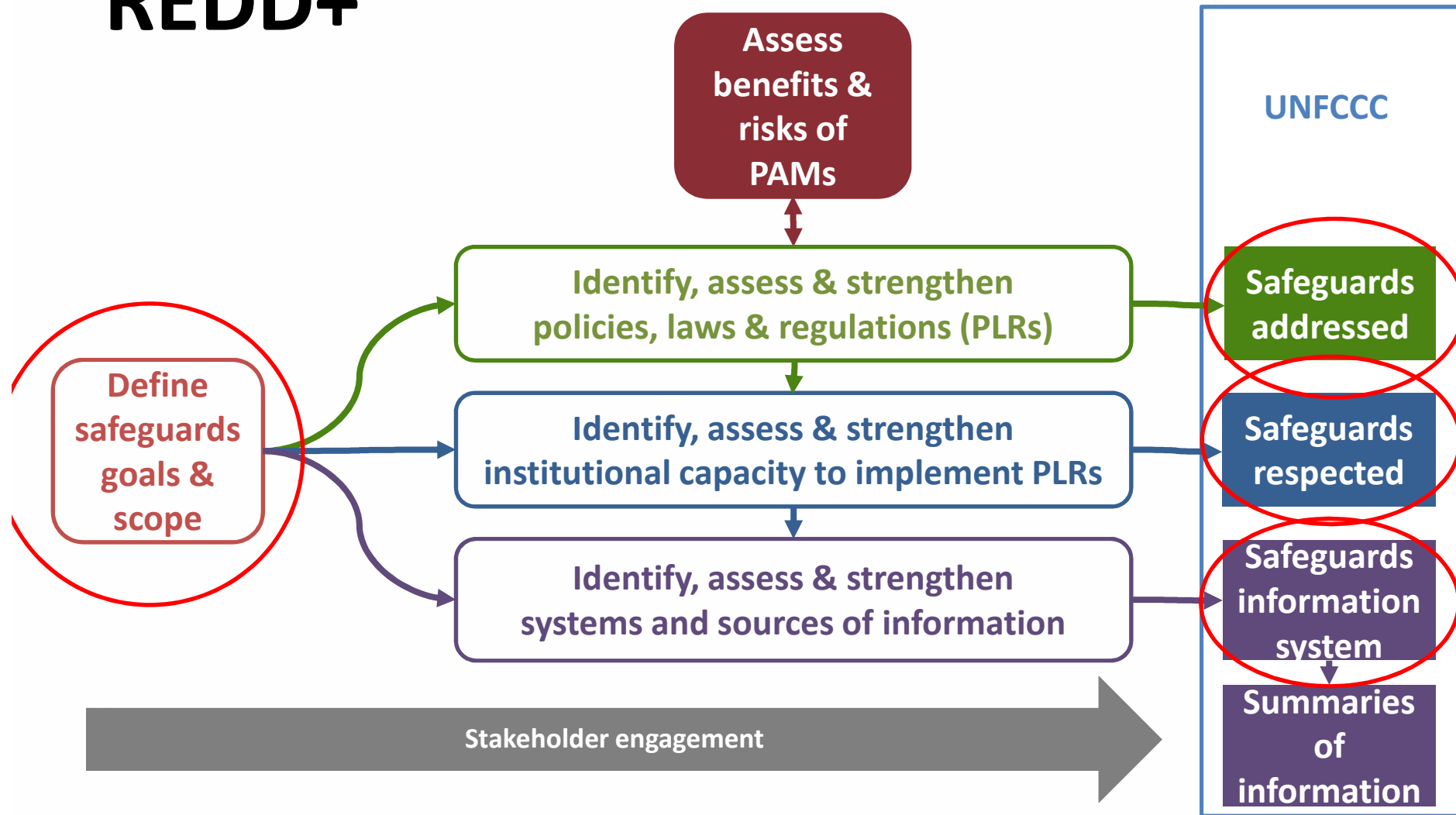
Lack of clarity around rights to land, territories & resources

Statutory vs customary laws and practices

Lack of recognition for traditional knowledge to manage resources

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGY: REDD+ PERSPECTIVE

REDD+



Defining Safeguard Goals & Scope

GOALS

- What safeguards a country chooses to apply to REDD+?
 - UNFCCC Cancun safeguards (basic requirement)
 - FLEGT?

SCOPE

- What activities will be covered by the chosen safeguards?
 - Safeguards *should* cover all REDD+ activities indicated in the national strategy/action plan
 - Could be applied more widely, forestry sector-wide (FLEGT) or across multiple land-use sectors

Policies, Laws & Regulations Analysis

*What does it mean to
Address & Respect the Cancun Safeguards?*

“Address”

- Are coherent policies, laws, regulations (PLRs) and associated institutional arrangements in place to deal with potential benefits and risks?

“Respect”

- Are the PLRs effectively applied and implemented in practice by the associated institutional arrangements to bring real and positive outcomes on the ground?

Assessing Policies, Laws and Regulations (Address)

How effectively do existing PLRs address the benefits and risks of the proposed policies and measures in the NS/AP and/or TLAS?

Primarily, national government-codified PLRs

But could include private sector corporate social (and environmental) responsibility policies and industry standards

- What to do with identified weaknesses, gaps or inconsistencies?
 - Existing texts of laws might be amended or new provisions drafted to strengthen the PLR framework, or new regulations drafted to support the operationalization of PLRs

Assessing capacity to implement PLRs (Respect)

- Do the relevant institutions have the appropriate mandate, procedures and capacity to implement the relevant PLRs?
 - Institutions are primarily government but could also constitute non-state actors (such as private sector implementation of CSR policies)
- Identify existing capacities together with any weaknesses, gaps or conflicts
- Propose gap-filling measures to incrementally strengthen institutional mandates, procedures and capacity to implement PLRs over time
 - VPA Annex on the implementation schedule
 - VPA Annex on accompanying measures
 - VPA Annex on the joint implementation committee

Monitoring: Safeguard Information System

- Defining safeguard information objectives
 - What are the different domestic and international information needs that the system will respond to? E.g. VPA TLAS?
- Determining information needs and structure
 - What information is needed to demonstrate risks are being mitigated and benefits are enhanced?
 - How should this information be structured (e.g. narrative statements, indicators) to optimise accessibility and value of content?
- Assess existing information systems and sources
 - What does a country already have in place, in terms of institutional arrangements, to meet information needs, and are there any gaps?
 - VPA Annex on Public Information
 - VPA Annex on Independent Auditing

KEY MESSAGES

Key messages

FLEGT and REDD+ face similar forest (and broader) governance challenges, but social safeguards provide opportunities to address these challenges

Incentives exist to improve forest governance through social safeguards: market access (FLEGT), results-based payments (REDD+)

Complementarity in PLR analysis and measures to address gaps, weaknesses and inconsistencies

Mutually reinforcing monitoring systems and procedures



Thank you!

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