



INDIAN LAW
RESOURCE CENTER

**Comments and Recommendations on the UN-REDD Programme's
Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria
*Draft for Consultation, June 30, 2011***

By
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August 2011

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With the generous support of the C.S. Mott Foundation

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ACRONYMS AND TERMS

**American Convention
American Declaration
Center
FPIC
Guidelines**

American Convention on Human Rights
American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man
Indian Law Resource Center
Free, Prior and Informed Consent
Guidelines for Seeking the Free, Prior and Informed
Consent of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest
Dependent Communities

**Inter-American Court
ICECSR**

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
International Covenant on Economic, Social and
Cultural Rights

ILO Convention 169

International Labor Organization Convention No. 169
“Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention”

**PSNR
Principles and Criteria
UN Declaration
UN-REDD**

Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources
Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria
UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UN-REDD Programme

I | Introduction

Our recommendations relate to the rights of indigenous peoples because we work to secure recognition and protection for the rights of indigenous peoples in the Americas. In general, we recommend that the Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (Principles and Criteria) are reformulated to more specifically address the rights of indigenous peoples.

Getting REDD+ right is critical to the very existence of countless indigenous communities. REDD+ implicates an entirely new property regime and places value upon the environment in which indigenous peoples live, work, pray and depend upon to maintain their cultures, languages and ways of life. Without robust safeguards in place, REDD+ will contribute to wide-spread loss of indigenous peoples' lands, territories and natural resources, along with the loss of rights to self-determination and self-government. For indigenous peoples, land loss and the loss of the ability to self-govern leads to a series of negative consequences; with most communities experiencing significant declines in health, economic stability and culture.

As a UN agency, the UN-REDD Programme (UN-REDD) must adopt strong safeguard policies as established by the UN itself. UN-REDD cannot have it both ways. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) adopted by the General Assembly, the highest UN agency, and the UN Special Rapporteur report on "Indigenous Peoples' Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources" are key instruments for UN-REDD policy development purposes. We hope UN-REDD serves as a leader in this area to encourage other multilateral climate initiatives to incorporate full respect for the human rights of indigenous peoples in every REDD+ program.

Finally, the Indian Law Resource Center (Center) is disappointed that UN-REDD has not exhibited more openness and transparency with this process. We note that UN-REDD did not publically disclose the Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (Principles and Criteria). Civil society organizations only obtained copies of this important policy document because an official on the UN-REDD policy board member shared it with select organizations. In the future, we expect UN-REDD to share such important policy documents with the public and allow for a public comment period.

II | Discussion on the Center's suggested changes to the Principles and Criteria

1. International law standards on the rights of indigenous peoples should be more effectively incorporated into the Principles and Criteria. The current draft includes language on the process of FPIC, but provides no context. It is not clear what decisions would be governed by FPIC. Instead of just referring to FPIC, the Principles and Criteria should also emphasize the substantial rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination, self-government and to own and control their lands, territories and natural resources.
2. We recommend an entire principle on respect for indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources (PSNR). This concept encompasses the right of indigenous peoples to exercise self-determination and self-government, and to own, control and manage their lands, territories and natural resources. In her report on PSNR, the former Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Issues, Erica-Irene Daes explained that respect for PSNR is critical to the survival of indigenous peoples.¹ She related a key selection from the *Awes Tingni* case to explain how the rights of indigenous peoples to life, exercise of self-determination and property are interconnected.

Indigenous groups, but the fact of their very existence, have the right to live freely in their own territory; the close ties of indigenous people with their land must be recognized and understood as the fundamental basis of their cultures, their spiritual life, their integrity, and their economic survival. For indigenous communities, relations to the land are not merely a matter of possession and production but a material and spiritual element which they must fully enjoy, even to preserve their cultural legacy and transmit it to future generations.²

Several concepts from this selection are worth highlighting. First, indigenous peoples have the right to live freely in their own territory. This means that they have the right to manage their lands, territories and resources and use these resources to further their economic, cultural and spiritual existence. Second, indigenous peoples depend on the exercise of this level of self-determination in order to maintain their cultural identity now and in the future.

¹ U.N. Econ. & Soc. Council [ECOSOC], Sub-Comm. on the Promotion & Protection of Human Rights, *Final report: Indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources*, U.N. Doc. E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/30 (July 13, 2004) (prepared by Special Rapporteur Erica-Irene A. Daes).

² *Id.*, para. 25 (citing *Mayagna (Sumo) Awes Tingni Community v. Nicaragua*, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Series C No. 79, I/A Court H.R. para. 159 (Jan. 31, 2001)).

Center recommendation:

Principle 3 – Respect of Indigenous Peoples’ Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources

3. Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes, “by virtue of that right [self-determination] they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.”³ The right of self-government is closely related to the right of self-determination and allows indigenous peoples to autonomously govern their internal and local affairs,⁴ and “maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions.”⁵ The International Labor Organization Convention 169 “Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention” (ILO Convention 169) recognizes that indigenous peoples have the right to control their own institutions, ways of life, and economic development.⁶ Additionally, the ILO Convention 169 recognizes that indigenous peoples have the right to regulate their natural resources by “participat[ing] in the use, management and conservation of [their natural] resources.”⁷ In the *Saramaka* case, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (Inter-American Court) explained how the right to self-determination and self-government is related to the rights of indigenous peoples to own and control their lands, territories and natural resources.⁸ The Court found that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) recognized that indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination and by virtue of this right, they may “freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,” and may “freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources” in order that they are not “deprived of [their] own means of subsistence.”⁹ The Court determined that Article 21 of the American Convention on Human Rights (American Convention) must be interpreted consistently with the ICESCR.¹⁰ The right to self-determination of indigenous

³ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Art. 26, G.A. Res. 61/295, Annex, U.N. Doc.A/RES/61/295/Annex, art. 3 (Sept. 13, 2007).

⁴ *Id.*, art. 4.

⁵ *Id.*, art. 5.

⁶ International Labor Organization, Convention 149, Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, June 27, 1989, preamble.

⁷ *Id.* art. 15(1).

⁸ *Saramaka People v. Suriname*, Preliminary Objections, Merits, Reparations, and Costs, Case 172, I/A Court H.R. ¶93(28 Nov. 2007).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

peoples includes the right to manage and use lands, territories and natural resources.

Center recommendation:

Criterion 8 – Respect for indigenous peoples’ self-government rights and right to self-determination

4. The right of indigenous peoples to own and control their lands, territories and natural resources is recognized by numerous human rights instruments and customary international law. The UN Declaration recognizes that “indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and natural resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.”¹¹ Other articles in the UN Declaration require states to take affirmative steps recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands.¹² The ILO Convention 169 has similar language.¹³ It states, “the rights of ownership and possession of the peoples concerned over the lands which they traditionally occupy shall be recognized.”¹⁴ The Inter-American Court has found that the right of indigenous peoples to possess and use their ancestral territories is recognized by the American Convention,¹⁵ and the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man (American Declaration).¹⁶ The right of indigenous peoples in the Americas to own and control their lands, territories and natural resources is protected by articles in the American Declaration¹⁷ and is necessary for the maintenance of their cultures.¹⁸

Center recommendation:

Criterion 9 – Respect the rights of indigenous peoples to full ownership over their lands, territories and natural resources

¹¹ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, *supra* note 1, art. 26(1).

¹² *See id.*, arts. 26(3), 27.

¹³ International Labor Organization, Convention 169, *supra* note 4, art. 14.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*, Merits, Reparations and Costs, Series C No. 146, I/A Court H.R. para. 120(f) (17 June 2007).

¹⁶ *Maya Indigenous Community of the Toledo District v. Belize*, *supra* note 2, para. 115; *Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community v. Nicaragua*, Merits, Reparations and Costs, *supra* note 2, para. 149.

¹⁷ *Mary and Carrie Dann v. United States*, Case No. 11.140, Inter-Am. C.H.R., Report No. 75/02, para. 131 (27 Dec. 2002) (the right of indigenous peoples to their lands and territories protected by the American Declaration, Article II (right to equality), Article XVIII (rights to due process and fair trial), and Article XXIII (right to property)).

¹⁸ *Yakye Axa Indigenous Community v. Paraguay*, *supra* note 13, para. 146 (17 June 2007).

5. The Principles and Criteria fail to specifically address the rights of indigenous peoples to participate in the benefits (economic and otherwise) derived from the development or commercialization of their lands, territories and natural resources. Where project activities take place on indigenous lands or involve their natural and cultural resources, indigenous peoples are more than stakeholders; they are rights holders. Indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over their natural resources (PSNR) should be a guiding legal principle. PSNR "might properly be described as a collective right by virtue of which the State is obligated to respect, protect, and promote the governmental and property interests of indigenous peoples (as collectivities) in their natural resources."¹⁹ ILO Convention 169 affirms that indigenous peoples have rights to share in benefits related to the exploration or exploitation of natural resources from their lands and territories.²⁰ Of particular relevance to REDD+ initiatives is the determination by the Inter-American Court in the *Saramaka* case that Inter-American jurisprudence may not be interpreted to "impose an additional burden on members of the Saramaka people by making them seek concessions from the State to continue to access the natural resources they have traditionally used, such as timber and non-timber forest products."²¹ More recently, in the *Endorois* case, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights determined that the absence of benefit-sharing with indigenous peoples violates the right to development, which is protected under the Article 14 of the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights.²² Domestic laws also mandate benefit sharing with indigenous peoples for the development or commercialization of their natural resources.²³ Accordingly, the use or sale of the natural resources of indigenous peoples should be accompanied by equitable benefit-sharing with the affected community.

Center recommendation:

Criterion 10 – Ensure equitable benefit-sharing with indigenous peoples when using or selling their natural resources

¹⁹ U.N. Econ. & Soc. Council [ECOSOC], Sub-Comm. on the Promotion & Protection of Human Rights, *Final report: Indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources*, U.N. Doc. E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/30 (July 13, 2004) (*prepared by* Special Rapporteur Erica-Irene A. Daes).

²⁰ International Labor Organization, Convention No. 169, *supra* note 4, art. 15(2).

²¹ *Saramaka People v. Suriname*, *supra* note 6, para. 45.

²² In the Matter of The Center for Minority Rights Development (Kenya) and Minority Rights Group International on behalf of the Endorois Welfare Council v. The Republic of Kenya, decision issued by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in May, 2009, endorsed by the African Union on February 4, 2010, para. 229.

²³ *See i.e.*, Ley No. 445: Ley del Regimen de Propiedad Comunal de Los Pueblos Indigenas y Comunidades Etnicas de Las Regiones Autonomas de La Costa Atlantica de Nicaragua y de Los Rios Bocay, Coco, Indio y Maiz, Art. 34 (indigenous communities are direct beneficiaries of the benefits derived from the development of natural resources located within their territories.)

6. The forcible relocation of indigenous peoples is a violation of international law. Several international human rights law instruments prohibit such relocation. The UN Declaration recognizes that, “no relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned.”²⁴ The ILO Convention 169 also recognizes that “relocation shall take place only with [the community’s] free and informed consent.”²⁵ Finally, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement also prohibits such relocation with respect to indigenous peoples.²⁶ In May, 2011, the World Bank Board approved an updated sustainability framework for the International Finance Corporation, including an updated Performance Standard 7. Performance Standard 7 prohibits the forced relocation of indigenous peoples, and instead, requires their FPIC before any relocation.²⁷

Center recommendation:

Criterion 11 – Indigenous peoples shall not be relocated without their free, prior and informed consent

7. The rights of indigenous peoples to maintain, protect and have access in privacy to their sacred sites should not be violated as a result of REDD+ projects. Freedom of religion and culture is a foundational principle of contemporary human rights law. Further, international law recognizes that the effective exercise of indigenous peoples’ cultural and religious rights requires the protection of sacred sites, including rivers, lakes, trails, mountains, and other features of the natural world. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which binds all members of the United Nations, provides that: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes the freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”²⁸ The UN Declaration recognizes that “indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop, and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and

²⁴ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, *supra* note 1, art. 10.

²⁵ International Labor Organization, Convention No. 169, *supra* note 4, art. 16(2).

²⁶ United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, U.N. Doc. E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2 (1998), principle 6(2)(c).

²⁷ International Finance Corporation [IFC], Performance Standard 7, para. 15, available at [http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/policyreview.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/Updated_PS7_August1-2011/\\$FILE/Updated_PS7_August1-2011.pdf](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/policyreview.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/Updated_PS7_August1-2011/$FILE/Updated_PS7_August1-2011.pdf)

²⁸ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948, art. 18.

ceremonies... [and] the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites.”²⁹ The UN Declaration requires that states shall enable indigenous peoples to access such sites.³⁰ ILO Convention 169 requires states to take measures “in appropriate cases to safeguard the right of the peoples concerned to use the lands not exclusively occupied by them, but to which they have traditionally had access for their... traditional activities.”³¹

Center recommendation:

Criterion 12 – Respect for the rights of indigenous peoples to access their sacred sites in private

8. We recommend that an additional criterion is adopted to ensure full respect for indigenous peoples’ land tenure systems and self-government rights over their lands, territories and natural resources. UN-REDD must clearly state that REDD+ programs will not alter the land tenure systems of indigenous peoples or interfere with their rights to self-government. Indigenous peoples have the right to use, own, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional occupation or use, as well as those they have otherwise acquired.³² The ILO Convention 169 also recognizes that indigenous peoples “have the right to decide their own priorities for the process of development as it affects their... lands they occupy or otherwise use.”³³ Additionally, “they shall participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of plans and programmes for national and regional development which may affect them directly.”³⁴

Center recommendation:

Criterion 13 – No project supported by UN-REDD shall alter the land tenure systems of indigenous peoples nor shall it regulate the customary use of natural resources by indigenous peoples on the lands and territories that they may own, possess, or use without the affected community’s free, prior and informed consent

²⁹ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, *supra* note 1, art. 12(1).

³⁰ *Id.*, art. 12(2).

³¹ International Labor Organization, Convention No. 169, *supra* note 4, art. 14(1).

³² United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, *supra* note 1, art. 26(2).

³³ International Labor Organization, Convention No. 169, *supra* note 4, art. 7(1).

³⁴ *Id.*; and see, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), *Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Protected Areas: Principles, Guidelines and Case Studies*, BEST PRACTICE PROTECTED AREA GUIDELINES SERIES NO.4, (Javier Beltrán and Adrian Phillips, eds., 2000), at Principles 1 and 4.

9. Within the Amazon region, there are several indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation. The situation led Peru,³⁵ Ecuador³⁶ and Brazil,³⁷ among other countries, to adopt domestic laws to protect them. Likewise, the Inter-American Development Bank adopted a safeguard to prevent any contact with them as a consequence of a project.³⁸ The failure to address the issue of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation is a shortcoming of the Principles and Commentaries, especially considering that UN REDD projects operate in countries in the Amazon. UN REDD should not support any projects that will affect indigenous communities in voluntary isolation. Such projects have the potential to infringe several human rights, including the right to life, right to health, right to humane treatment, land and natural resource rights, etc. The Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a regional instrument currently under development, affords special protections to indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation under Article XXVI.³⁹ This provision has been agreed upon by indigenous representatives and state officials in the OAS. The importance of protecting communities in voluntary isolation has also been emphasized by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, which has ordered precautionary measures against countries, such as: Ecuador⁴⁰ and Peru,⁴¹ advising them to adopt protective measures to prevent human rights violations against indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact. The best way to protect natural habitats and the people who preserve them is by preventing investment in projects that may force contact with them.

³⁵ See generally Law 28736 for the Protection of Indigenous or First Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (establishing a legal framework to protect indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact located in the Peruvian Amazon region).

³⁶ See Presidential Decree 2187 (creating protected areas where indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation live and prohibiting infrastructure and extractive industry projects in such areas).

³⁷ See Law 6001 on Indians (recognizing the existence of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and declaring that their lands are free from resource extraction).

³⁸ Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Development Bank (OP-765), Feb. 22, 2006, 9.

³⁹ Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, *Record of the Current Status of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, OEA/Ser.K/XVI, GT/DADIN/doc.334/08 rev. 5, 3 Dec. 2009, Art. XXVI (emphasis added).

Article XXVI.

1. Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact have the right to remain in that condition and to live freely and in accordance with their cultures. (Agreed upon by consensus in October, 2005 – Sixth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus)

2. The states shall adopt adequate policies and measures with the knowledge and participation of indigenous peoples and organizations to recognize, respect, and protect the lands, territories, environment, and cultures of these peoples as well as their life, and individual and collective integrity. (Agreed upon by consensus in October, 2005 – Sixth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus)

⁴⁰ The Tagaeri and Taromenami Indigenous Peoples v. Ecuador, Inter-Amer. HR Comm., Precautionary Measures, 2006.

⁴¹ Indigenous Peoples of Mascho Piro, Yora, and Amahuaca in voluntary isolation v. Peru, Inter-Amer. HR Comm., Precautionary Measures, 2007.

Center recommendation:

Criterion 14 – Projects affecting indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation shall not be supported

III | Center recommendations for the definition section:

1. We note that this document is incomplete because of its reference to the draft UN-REDD Guidelines for Seeking the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities (Guidelines), which is not yet available. As the process of FPIC is critical to many aspects of the principles and criteria, UN-REDD should provide for a series of public consultations for the Guidelines and all the policy documents that refer to the Guidelines once they have been made available to the public.
2. On full and effective (stakeholder) participation, we recommend that UN-REDD adds language promoting projects implemented by indigenous peoples themselves, such as: “With respect to those projects occurring on the land, territories of indigenous peoples or affecting their natural resources, countries should promote the implementation by the affected indigenous community itself wherever possible.” Empowering indigenous communities to control and manage REDD+ projects not only meaningfully promotes the principles of benefit-sharing and self-government rights, but it may also prove extremely effective in meeting the overall goals of REDD+.⁴²

⁴² See, e.g. The Katoomba Group, Baker & McKenzie Legal Analysis – Surui REDD Project (2009), http://www.katoombagroup.org/events/baker_mckenzie.pdf.

IV | Conclusion

We strongly urge UN-REDD to more fully incorporate a human rights-based approach into the Principles and Criteria. We recommend UN-REDD to adopt an approach that incorporates respect for the PSNR of indigenous peoples, which encompasses the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and self-government, and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples to own and manage their lands, territories and natural resources.

Other critical considerations include equitable benefit sharing for indigenous peoples, a policy that forbids the forcible relocation of indigenous peoples, protection for sacred sites, protection for indigenous peoples' land tenure systems and natural resources, and protections for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation.

We look forward to continuing the dialog on these and other important issues with UN-REDD and others developing REDD+ programs.

V | Appendix

Table of Principles and Criteria, suggestions noted in bold type.

<i>Principle 1 – Comply with standards of democratic governance</i>
Criterion 1 – Ensure the integrity and transparency of fiduciary and fund management systems
Criterion 2 – Develop and implement activities in a transparent, accountable, legitimate and responsive manner
Criterion 3 – Ensure the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders in policy design and implementation, with special attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups
<i>Principle 2 – Respect and protect stakeholder rights</i>
Criterion 4 – Promote and enhance gender equality and women’s empowerment
Criterion 5 – Seek free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities
Criterion 6 - Avoid the involuntary resettlement as a result of REDD+;
Criterion 7 – Respect and protect cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
<i>Principle 3 – Respect of Indigenous Peoples’ Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources</i>
Criterion 8 – Respect indigenous peoples’ self-government rights and right to self-determination
Criterion 9 – Respect the rights of indigenous peoples to full ownership over their lands, territories and natural resources
Criterion 10 – Ensure equitable benefit-sharing with indigenous peoples when using or selling their natural resources
Criterion 11 – Indigenous peoples shall not be relocated without their free, prior and informed consent
Criterion 12 – Respect for the rights of indigenous peoples to access their sacred sites in private
Criterion 13 – No REDD+ project shall alter the land tenure system of indigenous peoples nor shall it regulate the customary use of natural resources by indigenous peoples on their lands and territories that they may or may not own, without the indigenous peoples’ free, prior and informed consent
Criterion 14 – Projects affecting indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation shall not be supported
<i>Principle 4 – Promote and enhance sustainable livelihoods</i>
Criterion 15 – Ensure equitable and transparent benefit distribution among relevant stakeholders
Criterion 16 – Respect and enhance economic, social and political well-being
<i>Principle 5 – Contribute to the coherent low-carbon, climate-resistant and environmentally sound development policy, consistent with commitments under international conventions and agreements</i>
Criterion 17 – Ensure consistency with and contribution to national climate policy objectives, including mitigation and adaption strategies and international commitments

Criterion 18 – Address the risk of reversals including potential future risks to forest carbon stocks and other benefits to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of REDD+
Criterion 19 – Ensure consistency with and contribution to national poverty reduction strategies and other sustainable development goals
Criterion 20 – Ensure consistency with and contribution to national biodiversity conservation, other environmental and natural resource management policy objectives, national forest programmes, and international commitments
<i>Principle 6 – Protect natural forests from degradation or conversion to other land uses, including plantation forest</i>
Criterion 21 – Ensure that REDD+ activities do not cause the conversion of natural forest to other land uses, including plantation forest, and make reducing conversion due to other causes (e.g. agricultural, timber and fuelwood extraction, infrastructure development) a REDD+ priority
Criterion 22 – Minimize the degradation of natural forest by REDD+ activities and make reducing degradation due to other causes (e.g. agriculture, timber and fuelwood extraction, infrastructure development) a REDD+ priority
<i>Principle 7 – Maintain and enhance multiple functions of forests to deliver benefits including biodiversity, conservation and ecosystem services</i>
Criterion 23 – Ensure that land use planning for REDD+ explicitly takes account of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation in relation to local and other stakeholders’ values, potential trade-offs between different benefits
Criterion 24 – Ensure new and existing forests are managed consistent with international human rights standards and to maintain and enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity important in both local and national contexts
<i>Principle 8 – Minimize indirect adverse impacts on ecosystem services and biodiversity</i>
Criterion 25 – Minimize harmful effects on carbon stocks of forest and non-forest ecosystems resulting from displacement of changes in land use (including extractive industry)
Criterion 26 – Minimize harmful effects on biodiversity and other ecosystem services of forest and non-forest ecosystems resulting from displacement of changes in land use (including extractive industry)
Criterion 27 – Minimize other indirect impacts on biodiversity, such as those resulting from intensification of land use