



The National REDD+ Safeguards Guidelines (NRSNG) in brief

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has taken a global lead in seeking to combat climate change since 2005, at COP11 in Montreal, Canada, when PNG and Costa Rica introduced the concept of REDD+ to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), particularly by proposing measures to realize the carbon abatement opportunity offered by preserving and sustainably managing tropical forests. Since then, the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) through the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) and its key stakeholders with support from development partners have progressed REDD+ readiness, demonstration and implementation in the country.

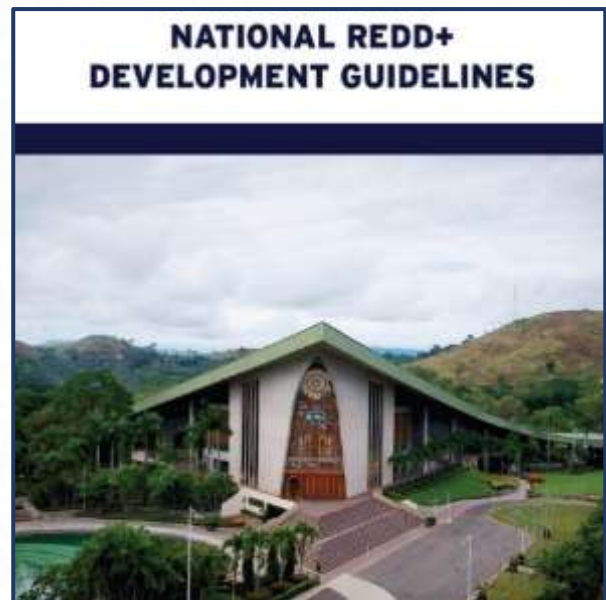
Under the UNFCCC, PNG has established all four REDD+ design elements (National REDD+ Strategy, Forest Reference Level, National Forest Monitoring System, and Safeguard Information System) required for participating in REDD+. To ensure social and environmental risks are minimized and that benefits from REDD+ implementation are enhanced, CCDA had developed and completed specific safeguards guidelines to strengthen PNG's adherence to UNFCCC safeguard requirements. The National REDD+ Safeguards Guidelines (NRSNG) developed include the; **National REDD+ Development Guidelines (RDG)**, **National REDD+ Free Prior and Informed Consent Guidelines (FPIC)**, **National REDD+ Benefit Sharing and Distribution Guidelines (BSD)** and **National REDD+ Grievance Redress Mechanism Guidelines (GRM)**.

The NRSNG represent a significant milestone in Papua New Guinea's efforts to address climate change and promote low carbon growth and sustainable development. They provide at an in-country safeguards framework for the implementation of REDD+ activities while safeguarding local communities and biodiversity at the national level as well as subnational/project level.

a) National REDD+ Development Guidelines (RDG)

The RDG is a mandatory reference document for all REDD+ implementers and prospective and active project developers as it carry out the design, execution, monitoring and reporting on REDD+ activities. The RDG can be used by implementing national and sub-national government agencies, judicial authorities, local government, organizations of local communities, forest users, customary landholders and local communities, civil society, private sector, academia, and any individual (s) or group(s) concerned or interested in REDD+ implementation.

The RDG seeks to improve the governance and



implementation of REDD+ initiatives both at the national and sub national level, with due consideration for the international context and different market related modalities to access forest carbon finance. Consequently, this RDG aims to benefit REDD+ stakeholders, especially women, youth and vulnerable or minority groups, with the goals of maximizing monetary and non-monetary benefits, eradicating poverty, sustaining livelihoods, social stability and rural development.

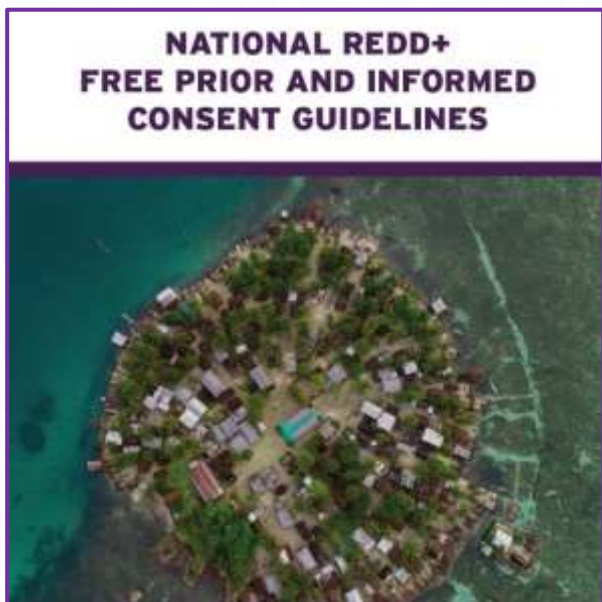
The RDG seeks to improve the governance and implementation of REDD+ initiatives to be consistent with PNG's constitution and environmental, natural resource and customary laws, existing obligations under international laws, including human rights laws and other related instruments.

The purpose of the RDG is to;

- i. ensure that all REDD+ initiatives in PNG comply with internationally recognized technical modalities as agreed under the UNFCCC and VCM standards (for instance, Verra and CCBS) to reduce emissions
- ii. contribute to the improvement and development of the policy, legal and organizational frameworks regulating climate change, mitigation, REDD+, adaptation and related initiatives across all sectors
- iii. enhance the transparency and improve the functioning of existing and future systems in implementing REDD+
- iv. strengthen the capabilities and operations of REDD+ stakeholders and promote cooperation between these stakeholders

b) National REDD+ Free Prior and Informed Consent Guidelines (FPIC)

The FPIC Guidelines give more details on the procedure related to applying FPIC and further guidance on the different approaches to consult at



various levels and giving effect to the Climate Change Management Act 2015 (as Amended) which recognizes the rights of customary landholders through the FPIC process and provides guidance on how to obtain consent.

The objective of the FPIC Guidelines are to;

- i. assist users to identify when FPIC is required, at what level it shall be applied, who gives and who seeks consent
- ii. provide the procedures for FPIC application under three (3) main consultation modalities (national, sub-national and project) to be employed as National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) policies and measures and projects are being implemented under the two (2) main approaches specifically that of the national approach and project approach, however, there may be instances where more than one modality may be applied for a specific activity
- iii. ensure all target groups of NRS-related policies, actions, measures, and projects will be well-informed on the meaning and application of FPIC in PNG

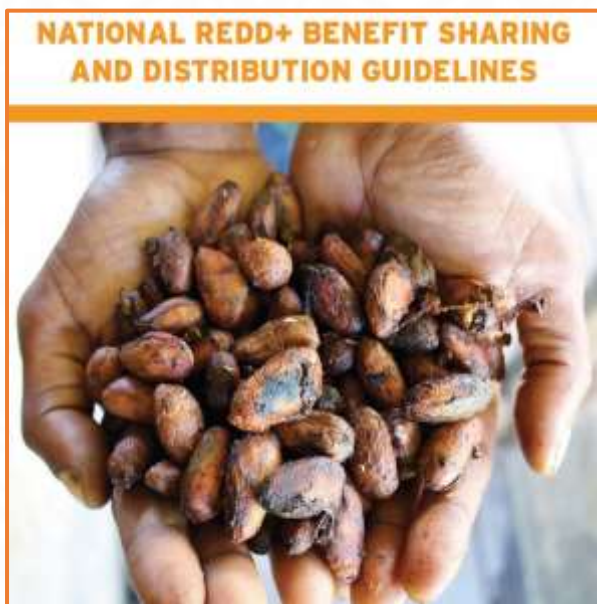
The FPIC Guidelines present the institutional arrangements for effective FPIC application for respective jurisdictions within the context of NRS implementation, protect landholder rights, ensuring informed decisions are made, emphasizing on prior consultation and participation, recognizing Consent as a right, empowering communities, ensuring accountability and compliance, and promoting conflict resolution mechanisms.

c) National REDD+ Benefit Sharing and Distribution Guidelines (BSD)

The BSD aims to ensure effective, transparent, and fair, distribution of REDD+ benefits to the relevant parties that contribute to and ensure permanence of emissions reductions and conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services; and to promote and track financial investments in REDD+ for desired and equitable outcomes across all scales of the benefit sharing and distribution system; and to build confidence in national capabilities to encourage future investments to catalyze transformational change within the forest and land use sector towards a new responsible economy and stronger community livelihoods.

The BSD enable the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) as the mandated Authority and as specified in the Climate Change (Management) 2015 (as Amended), s 10 (d) to apply the following: *administer compensation or incentive funds, grants, donor money and other funding derived from national and international climate finance sources under the direction of the Board to assist in the development of climate compatible economic endeavors and climate adaptation and mitigation programs in Papua New Guinea.*

The BSD Guidelines lays out the intended guidance and procedures for compliance of National, Project and Jurisdictional REDD+ results-based finance and



distribution of incentives (monetary and non-monetary benefits) in relation to relevant sections of the Climate Change (Management) Act 2015 (as Amended) and the National REDD+ Strategy. The BSD Guidelines applied to all relevant REDD+ actors across all levels (scales) of the REDD+ benefit sharing and distribution system through a combined vertical and horizontal approach, operating within PNG.

d) National REDD+ Grievance Redress Mechanism Guidelines (GRM)

The GRM specifically outlined the steps required from intake to referral and who is responsible, and the actions involved. The GRM is administered from CCDAs as the government agency mandated with the power to coordinate all Climate Change/REDD+ related National REDD+ Grievance Redress Mechanism Guidelines activities, structures and systems by virtue of the Climate Change Management Act 2015 (as

Amended) and also by virtue of status as the Nationally Designated Authority (NDA) under the UNFCCC. The GRM Guideline is multifaceted and involves multiple actors all contributing in some measure towards the overall objectives of addressing grievances/issues that may arise during implementation of REDD+ activities.

The GRM is;

- i. *an intermediary step between proactive stakeholder dialogue and formal GRMs*

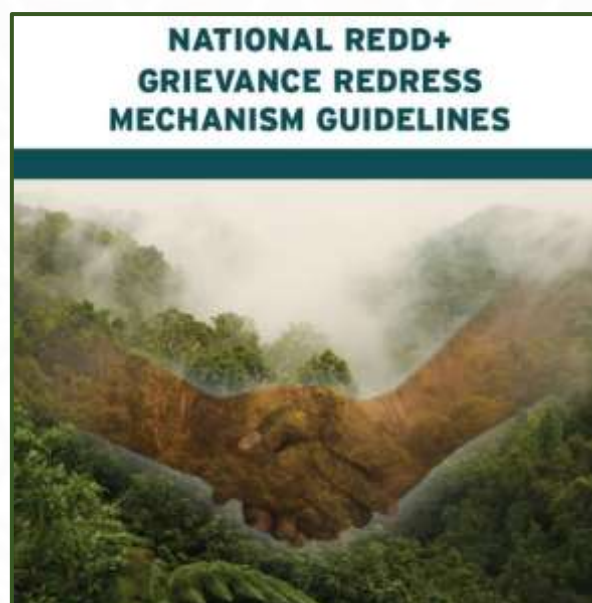
The GRM is an informal mechanism created to provide a facilitative approach towards resolving grievances that fail to be addressed as part of stakeholder dialogue and consultation between key REDD+ stakeholders involved in the implementation of the REDD+ activities and the National REDD+ Strategy policies and measures. It is the intermediary step between the informal and the formal measures of grievances redress available within the country, such as the courts and shall only be used after initial stakeholder dialogue has been exhausted.

- ii. *preventive in nature*

It provides another layer or additional option for grievance redress which helps to manage the way in which land and resource related disputes at the subnational level are handled and hopefully to deter from further referrals to formal systems of dispute resolution. This means, that the initial process of close and extensive stakeholder dialogue needs to be fully exhausted before initiating this GRM process.

- iii. *strengthens safeguards implementation in relation to REDD+ activities*

It is anticipated that REDD+ implementation may dynamically impact the types of conflicts created in relation to the use of forest, land and natural resources in forest areas. It is therefore, imperative that effective GRMs are in place to address contentious issues, complaints or disputes that arise during the period of its implementation, as part of a necessary national safeguards system in PNG that will ensure social and environmental risks arising from REDD+ implementation are addressed efficiently, effectively and equitably.





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