

Safeguarding Biodiversity in the Course of Climate Change:

The principles and requirements that govern GHG emissions reductions from the land-use sectors are numerous and vary in terms of scopes and inclusions. Hence, the lack of policy coherence presents significant barriers in achieving the action to reduce land use emissions. To overcome the significant gaps in the current framework that limit its effectiveness and threaten the mitigation action plans, Iran significantly work on:

- Enhancing participatory governance;
- Empowering local stakeholders involvement; and
- Keeping biodiversity at the centre of social consideration and development activities.

A notable gap that represents the lack of policy coherence is the failure to address agricultural systems adequately. Sustainable development and productivity of agricultural systems and food security should take into account the diversity of the agricultural systems with possible adaptation co-benefits.

Iran through land-use management program promotes adequate social, environmental and governance measures to incentivize the right climate outcomes.

Landscapes are rich and complex environments, of which humans and their activities form an integral part. A useful implication for identifying and understanding the wide range of economic, socio-cultural, and ecological functions of the landscape is that of landscape products and services. Landscape services are similar to those of ecosystem services, with the difference that a landscape is

broader and composed of networks of ecosystems, which also includes urban areas.

For achieving the multiple objectives like food security, economic development, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation/adaptation an integrated approach would be needed. It is also widely recognized that the land-use sector has a high potential for achieving positive mitigation and adaptation outcomes. An integrated approach to land-use management might also help to address complementary issues in the land-use sector, such as food security, energy and water supply.

Achieving full synergy between national mitigation and adaptation approaches in the near-term is unlikely due to the complexity and resource-intensity of the approach.

Although a more integrated approach to land-use management is needed, it is clear that greater policy and institutional integration alone will not be sufficient to achieve the multiple climate and societal objectives and priorities of the land-use sector. Iran emphasizes the importance of a multi-objective perspective, which can be enhanced by participatory governance structure.

In order to maximize climate outcomes, Iran support multi-objective perspective by identifying and supporting common core enabling conditions, such as participatory governance, Right-based Approach (RbA), community participation and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The process of designing and implementing climate adaptation strategies depend on ensuring participation by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities in the identification, assessment and implementation of adaptation policies. Conversely, the absence of sufficient transparency and public participation may undermine the legitimacy of mitigation actions.

The effects of climate change are likely to have progressively increasing impacts on human livelihoods and directly affect people's rights, particularly in a sector like land-use that supports diverse livelihoods. These impacts include:

- Risk of severe ill health and disrupted livelihoods resulting from storm surges, sea level rise and coastal flooding;
- Systemic risks due to extreme weather events leading to breakdown of infrastructure networks and critical services; and
- Risk of food and water security and loss of rural livelihoods and incomes.

Adopting the RbA to designing and implementing climate change measures in the land-use sector can help alleviate those risks. The RbA goes beyond a singular focus on human rights and is closely interlinked with good governance, including the protection of key procedural rights such as public participation and accountability. The RbA also integrates the conservation of biodiversity that support local livelihoods.

The RbA to climate change include:

- Consistency with international obligations, including those linked to indigenous peoples' rights;
- Promote multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits approach to policy design and implementation;
- Transparency and accountability; and
- Public participation

Adopting the RbA to mitigation in the land-use sector can help to support people's legitimate rights to livelihoods, their land and resources and to a healthy environment.

Strengthening the land and resource rights of indigenous peoples and local communities have been shown to lower deforestation,

reduce green house gas emissions and improve resilience to climate change. In the broader context of land-use, the recognition and protection of rights, such as agricultural land use rights are also seen as core enablers for positive climate outcomes, supporting the case for an RbA to reducing emissions from land-use.

In order to truly maximize the social and economic outcomes of climate actions in the land-use sector, Iran apply a broader, more comprehensive rights based approach.

The sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services can play a crucial role in achieving desired climate outcomes. Biodiversity conservation facilitates mitigation, for example through carbon sequestration and emission reductions. The conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems services by providing buffer zone can also help people to adapt to climate change that protect human settlements and offering a diverse range of livelihood sources. Generally, the more diverse the ecosystem, the more resilient it will be to the impacts of climate change.

As it was decided in Paris Agreement, it is important to ensure coherence relations between climate mitigation and adaptation policies, programs and projects with those relating to biodiversity conservation and economic development.

Such an approach, which recognizes good governance, an RbA and biodiversity conservation as key enabling conditions that need to be incentivized could be incorporated in the form of relevant safeguards, objectives and principles, including:

- Land-use activities implemented under transparent and effective governance structures;
- Land-use activities implemented through a rights-based approach;

- Land-use activities implemented through conservation of natural forests and biodiversity;
- Land-use activities implemented in consistency with the implementation of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals;
- Land-use activities implemented through greater integration of land-use planning at the national level;
- Land-use activities implemented as a cost-effective strategy, to reduce atmospheric GHG concentrations, and slow down the rate of anthropogenic climate change.

Thus the future strategic framework for the Convention in order to coincide with, and encourage alignment with, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development should include:

- The strategic objectives and expected impacts;
- The implementation framework, including funding for the strategy;
- The roles of the Convention's subsidiary bodies;
- The Global Mechanism; and
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements.

The progress in developing national targets to measure progress towards land degradation neutrality, which the 2030 Agenda calls on all countries to strive to achieve by 2030 could be a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD.

The important role of sectoral action in the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), will pave the way to fully embed and mainstream climate action in a wider development policy and planning.

Further, the following practical steps and the political will would be needed to enable implementation at the sectoral level:

- The role of sectoral plans in the implementation of NDCs;
- Benefits and risks of sectoral NDC implementation;
- Effective governance and coordination between sectors;
- Financing action at the sectoral level; and
- Sector-level monitoring, reporting and verification.

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