

## **Understanding the Relationship between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forest and People ...**

### **THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT**



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# FOUR HIGH LEVEL MESSAGES

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- Synergies possible, but should not be taken for granted
- Looking beyond safeguards ... towards integration of social objectives
- Remember what we have done before in the forest sector
- Despite our best efforts, trade-offs will remain

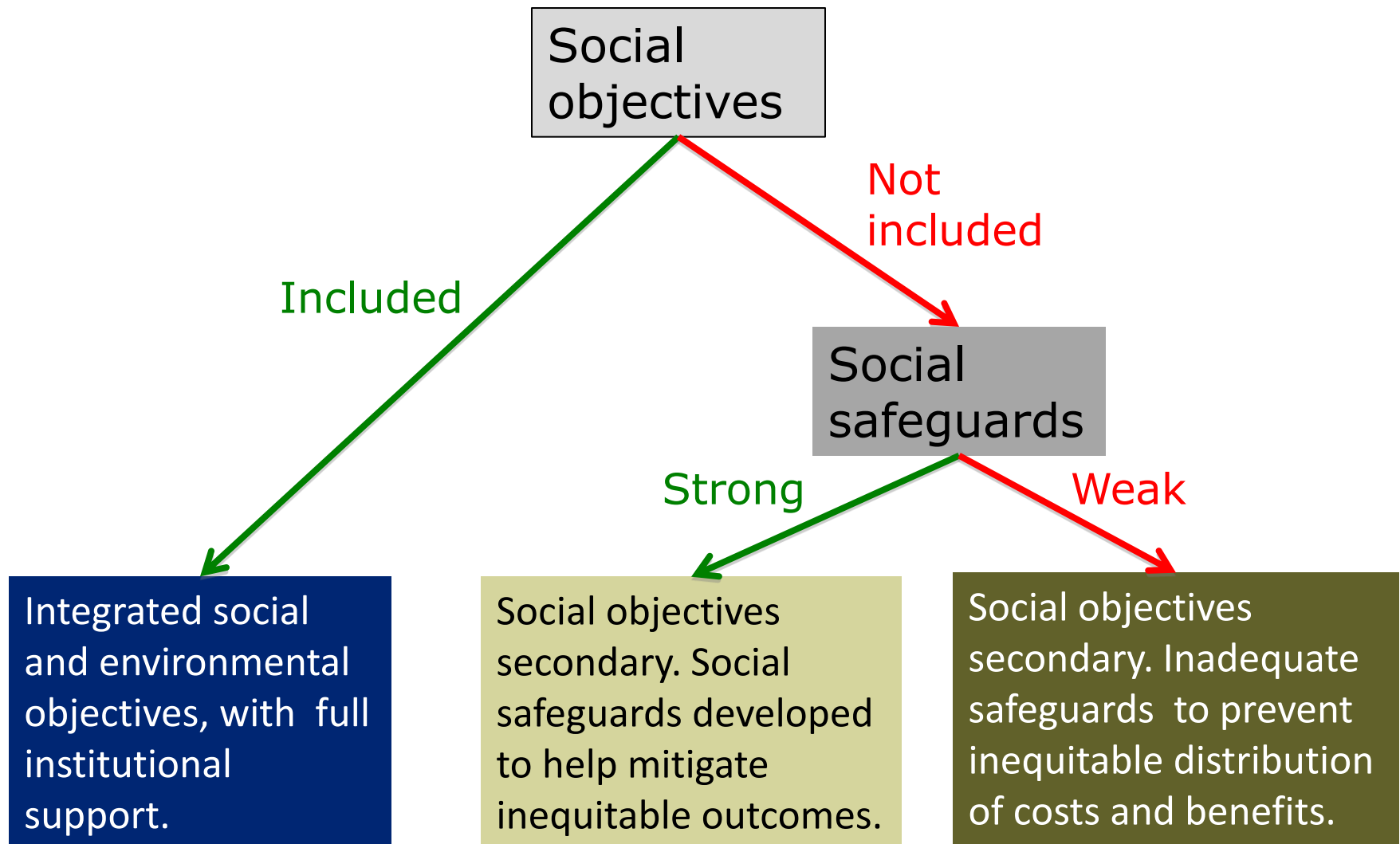
# 1. SYNERGIES POSSIBLE, BUT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED

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- REDD+ can benefit local communities, including the most vulnerable
  - Through enhancing flows of ecosystem services, upon which the rural poor are most dependent
  - By leveraging new sources of finance which can reward local communities for management
- BUT, these opportunities can easily be lost
  - If the vulnerable are explicitly excluded as beneficiaries (e.g. because of unclear tenure), or high barriers to entry (e.g. forest certification)
  - There may be social COSTS associated with restrictions on access and use of forests

## 2. LOOKING BEYOND 'SAFEGUARDS' ...?

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### 3. REMEMBER WHAT WE'VE DONE BEFORE

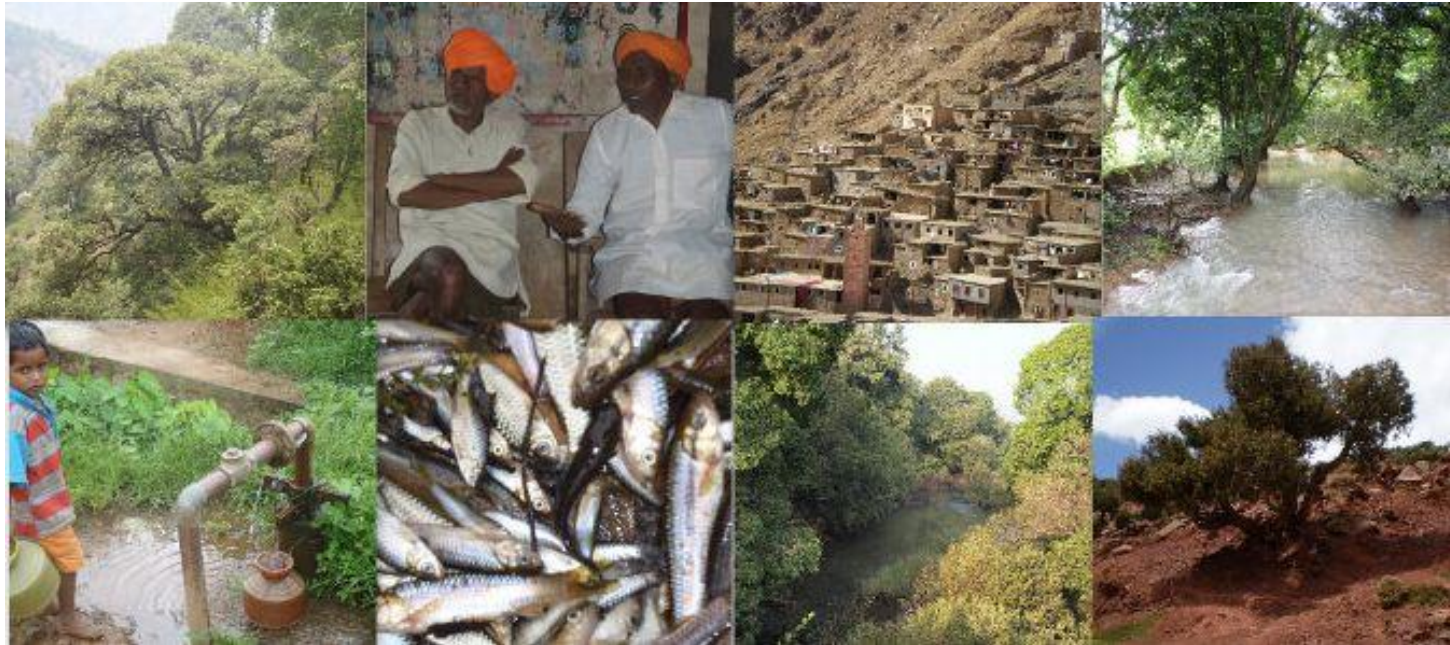
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- Previous interventions in the forestry context show that 'win-win-win' is difficult
  - Skewed distribution of costs and benefits; elite capture by powerful groups
  - Lack of participatory, transparent and accountable governance
- Unless REDD+ learns from this experience, risk of social trade-offs remains high
  - Challenge asymmetries of power and protect the interests of the most vulnerable (e.g. secure tenure and management rights)
  - Create inclusive structures for distribution of authority and downward accountability

## 4. TRADE-OFFS WILL REMAIN

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- Carbon, biodiversity and social/economic objectives will not always coincide
- Decision makers have to make choices:
  - i. Acknowledge social/economic costs, but do nothing as environmental objectives are paramount
  - ii. Compensate losses financially, but recognise that social costs may remain high
  - iii. Compensate AND invest in secure alternative livelihoods to offset some social costs
  - iv. Accept that the social/economic costs are so important that they over-ride environmental objectives ... walk away?



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