

Can REDD+ social safeguards reach the ‘right’ people?

The Paris Agreement confirmed REDD+ as a key policy instrument for climate change mitigation; it explicitly recognises the need to respect human rights in all climate actions.

Social safeguarding processes in REDD+ are still being developed but can learn from experiences of World Bank social safeguards.

Using the case study of a REDD+ pilot project in Madagascar, we look at the characteristics of those identified as eligible for safeguard compensation.

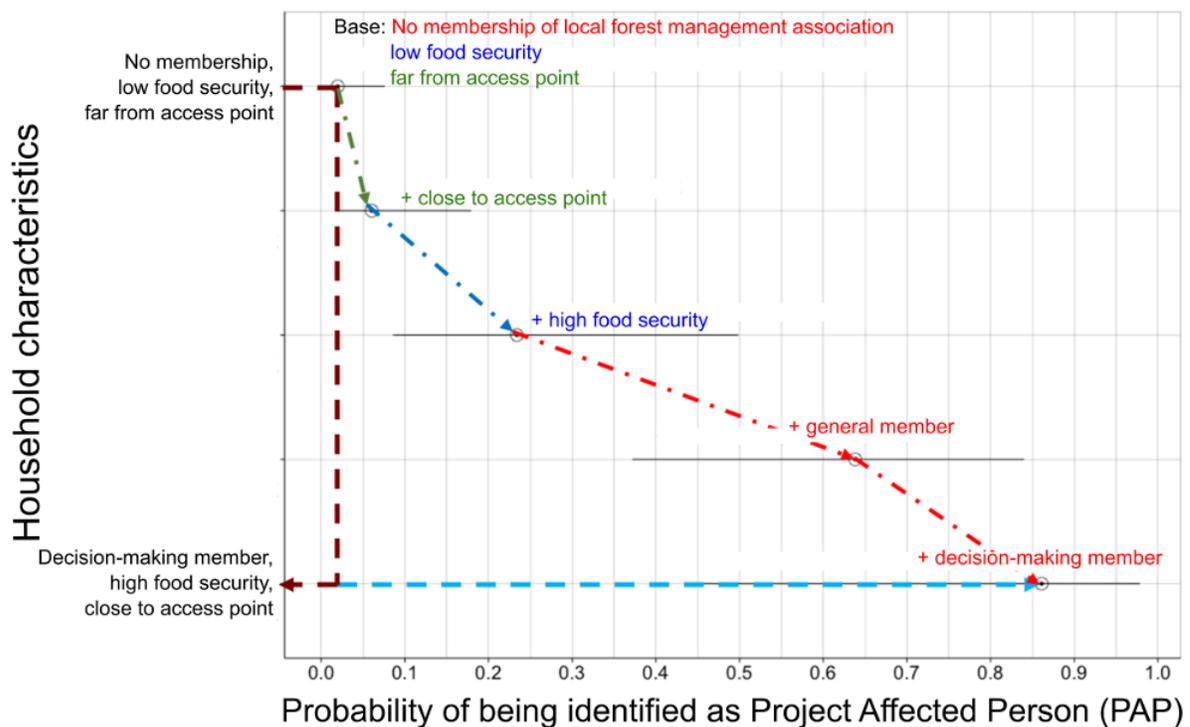
Local elites and those living closer to roads were more likely to receive compensation (despite their livelihoods being generally less affected by the REDD+).

Difficult access, poor information on the distribution of human populations, and individual’s unwillingness to self-identify as dependant on illegal land clearance all played a role in the poor targeting of compensation.



Conclusions and recommendations: Existing safeguard commitments are not being fulfilled and those implementing social safeguards in REDD+ should not continue with business as usual. The optimal strategy may be to compensate all households in affected communities rather than carry out costly (and ultimately ineffective) processes to identify affected households. Safeguards will be prone to failure unless those entitled to compensation are aware of their rights and enabled to seek redress.

Study details: There is extensive debate about the potential impact of the climate mechanism REDD+ on the welfare of forest-dwelling people. To provide emission reductions, REDD+ must slow the rate of deforestation and forest degradation: such a change will tend to result in a local opportunity cost to farmers. Social safeguard processes to mitigate negative impacts of REDD+ can learn from existing safeguard procedures such as those implemented by the World Bank. Madagascar has a number of REDD+ pilot projects including the Corridor Ankeniheny-Zahamena (CAZ). Nearly two thousand households around the corridor have been identified as ‘project affected persons’ (PAPs) and given compensation. We compare households identified as project affected persons with those not identified. We found households with more socio-political power locally, those with greater food security, and those that are more accessible were more likely to be identified as eligible for compensation while many people likely to be negatively impacted by the REDD+ project did not receive compensation.



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