



Mid-Term Progress Report

MEXICO

Date of submission or revision: March 20, 2015

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

Readiness Fund

COMISIÓN NACIONAL
FORESTAL

MARCH 2015



Disclaimer: The World Bank does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this document submitted by REDD Country Participant and accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any consequence of its use. The boundaries, colors, denominations, and other information shown on any map do not imply on the part of the World Bank any judgment on the legal status of any territory or the endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.

The Facility Management Team and the REDD Country Participant shall make this document publicly available, in accordance with the World Bank Access to Information Policy and the Guidance on Disclosure of Information for the FCPF Readiness Fund (Annex 3 of the Common Approach, revised August 9, 2012).

Note: [FMT Note 2012-7 rev](#) lays out the process for REDD Country Participants to submit, and the Participants Committee (PC) to review mid-term progress reports and requests for additional funding of up to US\$5 million.

COMISIÓN NACIONAL
FORESTAL

Table of Contents

List of Acronyms	1
Introduction.....	2
1. Overview of the Progress Made in the Implementation of the R-PP	4
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation.....	4
1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements.....	4
1b. Organization, Consultation and Outreach.....	8
2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation.....	13
2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Policy and Governance	13
2b. REDD+ Strategy Options.....	16
2c. Implementation Framework.....	17
3 - Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level.....	22
4 – Forest Monitoring System and Information on Safeguards	23
4a. National Forest Monitoring System.....	23
4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards.....	25
2. Analysis of Progress Achieved in those Activities Funded by the FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	27
3. Review of Country Compliance with the Common Approach.....	35
4. Updated Financing Plan for the Overall Readiness Preparation Activities, including Funds Pledged by, and Brief Description of Activities Supported by, Other Development Partners.....	36
5. Grant Reporting and Monitoring Report (GRM)	38
6. Summary Statement of Request for Additional Funding to the FCPF.....	39

List of Acronyms

AD	Activity Data
ATREDD+	REDD+ Early Actions
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CDI	National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples
CIDRS	Inter-Ministerial Commission for Sustainable Rural Development
CONABIO	National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity
CONAF	National Forestry Council
DGGFS-SEMARNAT	General Directorate for Forestry and Soil Management-SEMARNAT
EF	Emission Factors
ENAREDD+	National REDD+ Strategy
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GT-ENAREDD+	ENAREDD+ Working Group of the National Forestry Council
GT-REDD	Working Group on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
INECC	National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change
INEGI	National Institute of Statistics and Geography
INFyS	National Inventory of Forests and Lands
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDRS	Law on Sustainable Rural Development
LGCC	General Law on Climate Change
LGDFS	General Law for Sustainable Forest Development
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
MAD-MEX	Monitoring Activity Data for Mexico
NCCS	National Climate Change Strategy
NDP	National Development Plan 2013-2018
NGHGI	National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
NSS	National Safeguards System
PATD	Public Agents for Territorial Development
PROMARNAT	Sectoral Program on the Environment and Natural Resources
PRONAFOR	National Forestry Program
REDD+ TAC	REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee
SAGARPA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food
SCCP	Special Climate Change Program
SEMARNAT	Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Introduction

Mexico has embraced REDD+ as one of the pillars of climate change mitigation. Preparation for the National REDD+ Strategy is being carried out within Mexico's legal and institutional framework, which includes the General Law on Climate Change and the General Law on Sustainable Forest Development. They furnish the tools and innovative structures needed to address the challenges of climate change and are also relevant for REDD+.

The *National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+)* is still in the development phase through a participatory process,¹ beginning with the presentation of "Mexico's Vision for REDD+: Towards a National Strategy."² The Strategy contains key objectives and definitions that inform the development of ENAREDD+ and underline the importance of including public policies that favor sustainable rural development, while incorporating and strengthening community forest management and the conservation of biodiversity. The ENAREDD+ is aligned with the aims, objectives and strategic mitigation measures for the forestry sector that are included in the Climate Change Strategy.

Mexico has made significant strides in the assessment of the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as possible options for promoting REDD+ in the wider context of sustainable rural development. During the preparation process for ENAREDD+, Mexico has developed REDD+ Early Actions (ATREDD+), a set of institutionally articulated efforts at the subnational level, including local and state governments, which aim to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in a specific landscape.

The ATREDD+ intervention model includes specific policy and intervention instruments that are aligned and designed to test out innovative models of governance and create opportunities for the economic and social development of communities. This model is being developed in a complementary manner, building on more than ten years of CONAFOR's experience in the implementation of programs in the country, including community forest management, capacity creation and strengthening for territorial management, the development of chains of production, among other programs.

Over the past few years, Mexico has designed a number of projects and initiatives aimed at strengthening climate change mitigation measures in the forestry sector. The following are some of the most significant of these initiatives: Forests and Climate Change (FIP), RDevelopment of Governance mechanisms at the Local level (Latin American Investment Fund – LAIF of the European Union), Strengthening of the REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Mexico and the development of South-South Cooperation (Norway-UNDP-FAO), as well as the project to promote the establishment of the National REDD+ Safeguard System (UN-REDD+).

¹ The participatory platforms include the Technical Advisory Committee CTC-REDD, the REDD+ Working Group of the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Climate Change (GT-REDD of the CICC)

² Mexico's vision for REDD+ was presented during COP 16 in 2010 and establishes Sustainable Rural Development as the vehicle for implementing REDD+ in Mexico, as it promotes a territorial and multisectoral approach for effectively reducing the pressures of deforestation and forest degradation.

Listed below is a summary of the steps taken in the R-PP Readiness Preparation Process in Mexico, using for each one of the R-PP component the traffic light methodology employed in FCPF monitoring and evaluation reports³:

Significant Progress	
Solid Progress, greater level of development required	
More development required	
Still no progress	

Summary of REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Mexico

Component	Subcomponent	Status
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	
	1b. Consultation, participation and outreach	
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance	
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	
	2c. Implementation Framework	
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	
3. Reference Level/Reference Emissions Level		
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	
	4b. Information System for Safeguards	

The main objective of the FCPF in Mexico is to support the readiness preparation process by disbursing funds for an inclusive analytical and participatory process, culminating in the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+). The three main deliverables expected from this funding are:

- The final version of ENAREDD+, including feedback from the various stakeholders.
- A completed Environmental and Social Management Framework, including feedback from various stakeholders.
- A grievance redress mechanism for REDD+ at the State level, piloted in an Early Action Area (ATREDD+).

With this in view, FCPF financing is focused on two of the R-PP components:

- Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation
- Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

³Available at

<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2014/october/FCPF%20REDD%20Country%20Progress%20 MEXI CO.pdf>

1. Overview of the Progress Made in the Implementation of the R-PP

1. Readiness Organization and Consultation

1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements

1a.1 Legal, Policy and Planning Instruments

General Law on Climate Change

The General Law on Climate Change (LGCC)⁴ was promulgated in June 2012 and entered into force in October of the same year. This Law is intended, among other things, to regulate emissions of greenhouse gases and compounds in order to stabilize their concentration in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference within the climate system, taking into consideration the provisions of Article two of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other related provisions.

With regard to climate change mitigation, the LGCC stipulates that CONAFOR should devise strategies, policies, measures and actions to arrive at a zero percent level of carbon loss in original ecosystems, with a view to their incorporation into forest policy planning instruments for sustainable development, taking into consideration sustainable development and community forest management.

In addition, the promulgation of the LGCC has strengthened the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Climate Change (CICC), which was originally created by presidential decree and on the basis of Article 21 of the Planning Law. Article 45 of the LGCC incorporates the CICC and consolidates it as a space for promoting crosscutting public policies on climate change. In accordance with the LGCC, the CICC will operate as a standing body, whose members will be comprised of the heads of the following Ministries: Environment and Natural Resources; Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food; Health; Communications and Transport; Economy; Tourism; Social Development; the Interior; the Navy; Energy; Public Education; Finance and Public Credit, and External Relations. The Commission itself has a standing advisory body; the Council on Climate Change.

The functions of the CICC include the following: *i)* To promote coordinated climate change-related actions by federal public administration units and entities; *ii)* To formulate and implement national policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and ensure their inclusion in the corresponding sectoral programs and actions; *iii)* To develop crosscutting and comprehensive criteria for public policies to address climate change, to be implemented by centralized and para-state federal public administration units and entities; *iv)* To approve the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS), and *v)* To participate in the development and implementation of the Special Climate Change Program (PECC), among others.

To fulfill its functions, the CICC has a number of working groups, one of which is the Working Group for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (GT-REDD),⁵ which is described in section 1b of this document.

⁴ Available at http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LGCC_291214.pdf

⁵ Article 49 of the LGCC

General Law for Sustainable Forest Development (LGDFS)

Changes made in forestry legislation, specifically the General Law for Sustainable Forest Development, LGDFS, are among the most significant areas of progress in national REDD+ readiness preparation.

On 4th June 2012, the Official Gazette of the Federation published the Decree by which some provisions were revised and new ones added to the General Law for Sustainable Forest Development.⁶ The Second Transitional Provision stipulates that the Head of the Federal Executive Branch, within a period of no more than three years subsequent to the entry into force of such Decree, shall implement a national monitoring, reporting and verification system (MRV), to assess and systematize the reduction of emissions resulting from actions to prevent and combat the deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems (REDD+), as mentioned in Article 45, section IX of the Decree.

Moreover, Article 134 Bis was added to the Decree and stipulates that those owners and legitimate holders of forest lands, who, as a result of sustainable forest management, conserve and/or improve environmental services, shall receive the economic benefits arising from such services.

This Article further establishes that legal and policy instruments to regulate and promote the conservation and improvement of environmental services must guarantee observance of the safeguards recognized under international law, as well as the following: I. Free, prior and informed consent of *ejidos*, indigenous peoples and communities; II. Equitable benefit sharing; III. Legal certainty and respect for property rights and rights of legitimate possession and access to natural resources by owners and legitimate land holders; IV. Territorial, cultural, social and gender- neutral equity and inclusiveness; V. Plurality and social participation; VI. Transparency, access to information and accountability; VII. Recognition and respect for all forms of internal organization, and VIII. Mainstreaming, comprehensiveness, coordination and complementarity among the policies and instruments of the three branches of Government.

Law on Sustainable Rural Development (LDRS)

Within the framework of Sustainable Rural Development, Mexico seeks to move towards the formulation of a crosscutting and intersectoral agenda around the issues of conservation, sustainable management and restoration of forest ecosystems. In this regard, the Law on sustainable rural development promulgated in 2011, provides that public policies in relation to rural areas must be coordinated, in order to promote economic development without negative environmental impacts.

National Forestry Program (PRONAFOR)

It is important to note that both the Integral Territorial Management Model, with its approach of Sustainable Forest Development, and the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) have been successfully incorporated into the 2014-2018 National Forestry Program, published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on 28th June 2014.⁷ The Program (PRONAFOR) is the document that sets forth the objectives, strategies and lines of action to be followed by the Federal Government for achieving the targets established for the period 2014-2018, in accordance and alignment with the objectives of the National Development Plan 2013-2018 (PND) and the Sectoral Program on the Environment and Natural Resources 2013-2018 (PROMARNAT) for the same period. This is in compliance with the provisions of the General Law on Sustainable Forest Development (LGDFS) and the Federal Law on Para-State Entities.

⁶ Available at <http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/259.pdf>, page 76

⁷ Available at <http://www.conafor.gob.mx:8080/documentos/docs/4/5382Programa%20Nacional%20Forestal%202014-2018.pdf>

In this regard, the following targets and strategies of the National Forestry Program are worthy of note:

- **Objective 4. To promote and strengthen forest governance and the development of local capacity.** Multisectoral territorial management models for rural communities will be applied at varying levels, with a view to enhancing the skills of the rural sector in land use methods. Moreover, forest governance systems will be promoted at several levels, while mechanisms for social participation will be strengthened and promoted to support planning, consultation and dialogue between the government and the society. Such measures should ensure that the owners of land, rural communities and indigenous people are duly represented and contribute to the effective and consistent application of the programs in forested regions, taking due account of such factors as gender and the youth, with special and differentiated consideration for indigenous peoples and communities.

Similarly, careful note will be taken of the experience accumulated in the community forest development program to strengthen local capacity among the following groups: ejidos, communities, indigenous peoples, social organizations, forest land owners, as well as owners and administrators of forest resources. This should allow them to develop organizational capacity, enhance knowledge, entrepreneurial talents and skills for self-management, planning, forest management and the development of forest enterprises.

Specifically, Strategy 4.1 defines the Lines of Action that relate to the integrated territorial management model (Table 1).

Table 1. Lines of Action of Strategy 4.1 of the National Forest Program 2014-2018

Strategy 4.1 Develop and promote models of integrated territorial management	
Lines of Action	
4.1.1	Promote and consolidate systems for multisectoral collaboration at the local level, with a view to integrated territorial management.
4.1.2	Promote the integration of planning models at the regional and local levels for integrated territorial management.
4.1.3	Strengthen social organizations in the forestry sector to promote projects that have an integrated territorial management approach.

- **Objective 5. To promote and facilitate an enabling institutional framework for sustainable forest development.** Through this objective, the National Forestry Program seeks to develop a strategy for promoting linkages among public policies and programs that have a multisectoral territorial management approach, as well as to promote the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) arising from deforestation and the degradation of woodlands and forests (Table 2).

Table 2. Lines of Action of Strategies 5.1 and 5.5 of the National Forestry Program 2014-2018

Strategy 5.1 Promote the articulation and coordination of public policies and programs that have a multisectoral territorial management approach.	
<i>Lines of Action</i>	
5.1.1	Promote the alignment of objectives and incentives among sectors and branches of government involved in the management of forest resources.
5.1.2	Strengthen the position of the forestry sector within the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Sustainable Rural Development.
5.1.3	Establish agreements for coordinated action with and among the various services of the three branches of government that work in the forestry sector.
5.1.4	Ensure that the agrarian policy strengthens social ownership in ejidos, communities and among indigenous peoples.
Strategy 5.5. To promote the reduction of GHG emissions arising from deforestation and the degradation of woodlands and forests.	
<i>Lines of Action</i>	
5.5.1	Develop a national strategy for reducing GHG emissions arising from deforestation and the degradation of woodlands and forests.
5.5.2	Promote the mainstreaming, coordination, coherence and integrated implementation of programs and policies that are favorable to REDD+.
5.5.3	Implement a system for monitoring, reporting and verification of GHG emissions arising from deforestation and forest degradation.
5.5.4	Incorporate a National System of Social and Environmental Safeguards.

1a.2 Inter-institutional Coordination

Given Mexico's approach for REDD+, institutional arrangements that promote forest-related policies and rural development play a vital role. In light of the foregoing, partnerships have been developed to strengthen coordination and collaboration among the various institutions, in order to have a greater national impact. In 2011, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the National Forestry Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA). The aim was to establish coordination mechanisms between both institutions and develop joint initiatives, actions and projects to promote territorial development in forest areas where agriculture is being carried out, as well as to promote climate change programs and strategies that give greater viability to economic activities and improve the living standards of rural dwellers.

The following are some of the themes around which collaboration has been established:

- a) The Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and other climate change-related activities on predominantly forested land, where agriculture production is carried out.
- b) The promotion and support of local and regional initiatives for integrated watershed management, as a strategy for encouraging sustainable rural development.

- c) The systematization of the procedures for establishing and implementing the initiatives, actions and projects on the basis of which a methodology may be devised.
- d) Spatial location of activities and projects implemented.
- e) Establishment of linkages for the exchange of information needed to better fulfill the objectives.
- f) The development of training activities, streamlining and provision of support and resources to ensure that the actions proposed under REDD+ are compatible with agricultural activities carried out in forested areas.

In 2011, a cooperation agreement was signed between CONAFOR and the General Direction for Forestry and Soil Management (DGGFS) of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). Under the terms of this agreement, the parties pledged to strengthen cooperation and generate information, including through electronic links, to integrate the National Forest Management System and the National Forestry Information System. The parties further seek to develop joint proposals in relation to procedures and methodologies that guarantee that the information generated is compatible and credible and that the authorities involved are similarly reliable.

Since 2012, a cooperation agreement has existed between the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), for implementing the Special Program for the Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in the Yucatan Peninsula (PEPY). Under this agreement, the CONABIO acts as a public agent for territorial development (APDT).

Another ongoing inter-institutional coordination arrangement is the 2013 agreement between CONAFOR and the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI). Under this agreement, the parties consent to collaborate in actions to foster sustainable forest development among indigenous people and communities, through the promotion and implementation of activities to protect, conserve, restore and ensure the sustainable use of forest resources and ecosystems. The agreement lists the specific activities required to achieve this objective, including the following: a) promote sustainable forest development, with a view to improving the living standards of indigenous peoples and communities; b) establish links for the exchange of information, and c) encourage the participation of indigenous communities in the protection, conservation, restoration and monitoring of forest resources.

In addition, CONAFOR has strengthened cooperation with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), within the context of the development of the National Forest Monitoring System in order to; (i) validate cartographic information (Official Products), (ii) provide technical support from the system for the development of INEGI cartographic products, (iii) strengthening the capacity of laboratories for determining the quantity of carbon in soils and the vegetation mantle.

1b. Organization, Consultation and Outreach

1b.1 Participatory platforms for building ENAREDD+

There has been wide-ranging response and participation by civil society and other stakeholders in the preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+). Below are the main platforms for consultation, participation and information for providing and/or receiving feedback on the REDD+ process in Mexico:

a. REDD+ Working Group (GT-REDD) of the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Climate Change

The need to ensure intersectoral coordination to address climate change, together with Mexico's commitment to ensuring a sustainable approach to rural development, have led to the creation of two inter-ministerial

commissions: the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Climate Change (CICC)⁸ and the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Sustainable Rural Development (CIDRS).⁹ In accordance with the provisions of the General Law on Climate Change, the CICC established the REDD Working Group (GT-REDD), with a mandate to promote REDD+ in Mexico and devise the corresponding national strategy.

GT-REDD+ of the CICC met on three occasions,¹⁰ in the course of 2014, to discuss and seek feedback on the following issues: ENAREDD+ draft text, ENAREDD+ Consultation Plan and ENAREDD+ Communication Strategy. In 2015, the working group will seek to expand on the platform's agenda and strengthen inclusiveness and participation among its various members.

b. ENAREDD+ Working Group of the National Forestry Council

The National Forestry Council (CONAF) is a consultative and advisory body on matters pertaining to the General Law on Sustainable Forest Development (LGDFS), and on matters for which its opinion is sought. Its membership is comprised of representatives from academia, indigenous communities, the industrial sector, non-governmental, professional and social organizations (ejidos and communities), state councils and governments. It is supported by five technical committees that provide guidance in the review and discussion of issues, agreements made in plenary sessions and give guidelines for issuing opinions and making proposals on the policies and criteria governing forestry activities.

The ENAREDD+ Working Group was established as part of CONAF on 30th July 2013 and has actively participated in contributing input on the ENAREDD+ draft texts.¹¹ Finally, at the Extraordinary Session of the National Forestry Council held in February 2015, the final draft of the National REDD+ Strategy was favorably received.

c. REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee (CTC-REDD+)

The National REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee (CTC-REDD+), was established in 2010 as a collaborative and specialized forum to analyze and assess the REDD+ process. Through a number of thematic working groups,¹² the Committee has provided significant input in the National Strategy and in other REDD+ Readiness Preparation activities.

CTC-REDD+ is a national participatory platform for dialogue among stakeholders, with representatives from diverse government institutions, non-governmental organizations, representatives of ejidos, communities and associations, members of academia and the private sector. A number of Working Groups (WGs) are also represented, including the REDD+ State Strategy Working Group, created in August 2013 to guide the development and the content of REDD+ strategies in those states where REDD+ Early Actions (ATREDD+) are carried out. The Working Group is also tasked with ensuring that these strategies are aligned with ENAREDD+

⁸ Comprised of the Ministries of: External Relations; Social Development; Natural Resources and the Environment; Energy; the Economy; Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food; Communication and Transport. The following Ministries are invited to attend sessions: Health; Finance and Public Credit and the Ministry of the Interior. (Published in the Official Gazette of the Federation, 2005).

⁹ Consisting of the Ministries of: Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food; the Economy; Environment and Natural Resources; Finance and Public Credit; Communication and Transport; Health; Social Development; Agrarian Reform; Public Education; and Energy (Official Gazette of the Federation, 2001).

¹⁰ The GT-REDD+ has met 9 times since its creation.

¹¹ There were 8 sessions from July to December 2013, while 5 sessions were held in 2014, to discuss ENAREDD+.

¹² The following working groups have met between 2010 and 2014: Working Group (WG) for the Development of the Initiative for Reducing Emissions (formerly Working Group on Critical Issues), the Working Group on strengthening the CTC, the Working Group on Safeguards and the Working Group on State Strategies.

objectives in accordance with the circumstances prevailing in each state. The group is an open forum for discussion and feedback among participants from state governments, civil society and CONAFOR state administrations.

For approximately six years,¹³ before its formal establishment in 2010, CTC-REDD+ issued calls for participation to a large number of civil society organizations. They responded by actively participating in meetings, reviewing documents and providing valuable information on the issue (*See Annex 1. Systematization of the Participatory Process 2010-2013*). To date, CTC-REDD+ has met on 22 occasions.¹⁴

d. State CTCs

During the first months of 2011, CONAFOR stepped up its dialogue with state governments and other local stakeholders, such as municipal associations, to discuss various options for the REDD+ implementation framework. These subregional processes have also included efforts to promote the creation of Technical Advisory Committees (CTCs) at the regional and state levels.

The Technical Advisory Committee for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Plus (CTC-REDD+) was established in Chiapas on 20th August 2011. This committee aims to work in a coordinated manner on projects and activities with a climate change mitigation focus, and which include the themes of deforestation and forest degradation. Furthermore, the *REDD+ Technical Advisory Council of Campeche* was set up on 5th September 2011, with active stakeholder participation from ejidos, associations, NGOs, among other social actors.

One of the achievements of CTC-REDD+ of Campeche has been to decide on eligibility criteria for demonstration projects aimed at the sustainable management of resources. In November 2011, CTC-REDD of the Yucatán Peninsula was established to provide follow-up, input and tools for the regional REDD+ mechanism and the agreement signed by the three states (Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatán) to establish the Regional REDD+ and Climate Change Strategy. In addition, CTC-REDD+ Oaxaca and CTC-REDD+ Chihuahua have been established, while CTC-REDD+ Puebla is currently being consolidated.

e. Roundtable for Indigenous and Rural Communities

The CONAF Roundtable for Indigenous Peoples and Rural Dwellers was established in 2014. It aims to provide support and feedback on the ENAREDD+ consultation process, specifically with respect to the following points: i) to learn more of the content of the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+); ii) provide additional input to the ENAREDD+ Consultation Plan; iii) develop a joint methodology for implementing ENAREDD+ Consultation, with emphasis on modalities directed at rural and indigenous communities, to ensure that they are culturally relevant; iv) make recommendations on timelines within which Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities should process internally ENAREDD+ information before the consultation begins. This should be done in accordance with the protocol for carrying out consultation among indigenous peoples and communities and in accordance with the guidance of the CDI; v) evaluate the ENAREDD+ Consultation Process and make recommendations at each phase; and vi) help to systematize the comments and opinions expressed during the consultation phase and make recommendations for their inclusion in the final ENAREDD+ document.

¹³ Although CTC-REDD+ was formally established in May 2010, the Technical Advisory Committee of the Program for the Payment for Environmental Services (CTC-PSA), established the Committee informally in 2008, under the name REDD Working Group of CTC-PSA, on the recommendation of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR).

¹⁴ Dates of the sessions may be viewed at <http://www.conafor.gob.mx/web/temas-forestales/bycc/redd-en-mexico/participacion/>.

The following organizations make up the Roundtable: State Union of Community Foresters of Oaxaca, A.C. (UESCO), the National Union of Communal Forest Organizations A.C. (UNOFOC), the Governing Council of the Mexican Network of Rural Forestry Organizations A.C. (RED MOCAF), the Indigenous Tourism Network of Mexico (RITA), the Wirrarica Interstate Union of Ceremonial Centers of Nayarit, Jalisco and Durango, and the Union of Sierra de Juarez Communities, A.C. (UCOSIJ).

1.b.2 Consultation on the REDD+ Strategy

Since 2010, Mexico has sought to ensure participatory development of ENAREDD+, through an ongoing process of interaction with a wide range of society actors. The outcome of that interaction was the compilation in November 2014 of the new ENAREDD+ draft text. The draft will be the subject of a public consultation process, where the free and voluntary participation of ejidos, agrarian communities and indigenous people and communities will be sought. The overall aim of the consultation is to collect opinions, provide feedback and arrive at agreement or consent with regard to the aim, components and lines of action of ENAREDD+. This will be achieved through full and effective participation, the exchange of ideas, mutual learning and understanding among the stakeholders.

The consultation process will take place in the course of 2015, with a view to coming up with an inclusive and integral instrument by the year 2016. The aim of this exercise is to arrive at a national strategy that is culturally, socially and environmentally relevant and functional, based on a process that is voluntary, open, free and inclusive.

Some of the specific objectives of the consultation are: a) to provide information to stakeholders about the development of ENAREDD+, its structure and content, through an extensive process of communication that is participatory and culturally appropriate; b) gather opinions on the structure and content of ENAREDD+, seeking the agreement or consent of ejidos, indigenous people and communities on the objective, the components and lines of action of ENAREDD+; and c) document and systematize the consultation process.

The ENAREDD+ consultation will be conducted among various stakeholders involved in the exploitation and management of forests, in particular:

- Indigenous people and communities, through the authorities and institutions elected as their representatives, in accordance with their customs, procedures and traditional practices;
- Ejidos and agrarian communities that are owners of forest lands, through designated representative bodies, in conformity with the agrarian law;
- Owners of forest lands, land holders and forest dwellers;
- Groups engaged in forest management;
- Members of academia; and
- Any other party interested in REDD+.

The consultation is expected to be conducted in three phases: the information phase, consultation and the systematization of the results. A preliminary phase is also planned, for building initial consensus on the procedures to be followed. A process of participatory communication and education is being considered for the information phase, in order to disseminate information on REDD+. The consultation (face-to-face and virtual) will take place in phase two; the third phase will consist of the mainstreaming of stakeholder opinions and recommendations.

There is currently a draft text of the Consultation Plan,¹⁵ which is being analyzed by the ENAREDD+ Working Group of CONAF, with a view to producing a final version by the month of May.

1. b.3 Communication and Outreach

In October 2014, CONAFOR introduced the paper: *Communication Strategy for REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Mexico*.¹⁶ The central focus of this document was to contribute to the preparatory process for REDD+ in Mexico by promoting social participation through an extensive participatory and multi-directional communication strategy, involving information, outreach and dialogue, access to information, transparency and accountability.

The elements that comprise the Communication Strategy for REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Mexico are: a vision for communication, principles and characteristics, approaches, conceptual definitions, groups of stakeholders, key messages, tools and resources, objectives, target scenarios, strategic axes and main lines of action. It is important to note that the Communication Strategy was shared with nine external specialists and that the October draft includes their comments and observations.

In addition, varied materials for the dissemination and communication information on REDD+ in Mexico have been created, and include:

- The ENAREDD+ website, www.enaredd.gob.mx.
- The *Basic Guide to Forests, Climate Change and REDD+ in Mexico*,¹⁷ a document that clearly and succinctly presents the most relevant information on the causes and effects of climate change, as well as the relationship between the phenomenon and Mexico's forest ecosystems, illustrating the REDD+ mechanism and the history of its development.
- The official logotype for REDD+ in Mexico, which has been registered with the Mexican Institute for Industrial Property and consists of six elements that together, depict Mexico's vision on Sustainable Rural Development (see image 1).
- Two polidípticos (or foldable brochures), with one version on woodlands and another on forests, with a print-run of 5,500 copies.¹⁸ These are targeted mainly at owners of forest lands and provide information on climate change and its consequences and carbon flows, an overview of integrated land management with a focus on sustainable rural development.
- Materials for ENAREDD+ consultation (these are described in greater detail under section two of this report).



Image 1. Official Logotype of REDD+ for Mexico

¹⁵ Available at <http://www.enaredd.gob.mx>

¹⁶ Available at <http://www.enaredd.gob.mx>

¹⁷ Available at

<http://www.conafor.gob.mx:8080/documentos/docs/35/4034Gu%C3%ADa%20B%C3%A1sica%20de%20Bosques,%20Cambio%20Clim%C3%A1tico%20y%20REDD%20.pdf>

¹⁸ Available at <http://www.conafor.gob.mx/portal/index.php/temas-forestales/biblioteca-forestal>

Finally, the following outreach and communication interventions were carried out in virtual and physical forums:

- i. Training of 381 CONAFOR officers, through the on-line course on Forests, Climate Change and REDD+ in Mexico.
- ii. Participation of CDI in the radio program on climate change, as part of activities commemorating the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, broadcast nationally on 20 radio stations, covering 954 municipalities and accessible to 22 million potential listeners.
- iii. 10 Community courses on Community Forestry, with 172 participants receiving training on forests, climate change, REDD+, ENAREDD+ consultation, as well as an information kit for distribution.
- iv. A Workshop involving Indigenous Cultural Radio Broadcasting Systems of the CDI. The Workshop featured analysis and feedback on broadcasting material and the production of radio programs for disseminating information on REDD+ and the consultation process.
- v. A Workshop on the translation of texts, by the National Institute of Indigenous Languages (INALI), with a view to producing materials in the languages of indigenous peoples. During this Workshop, translation was provided for the following materials: a comic strip, entitled “REDD+: We’re All in this Together;” a folded brochure, or polidíptico, called “+woods and +forests in the face of climate change,” a basic presentation and poster, entitled: “Join the consultation!”
- vi. Publication of the second issue of the electronic magazine: “Forestry Innovation,” which discusses the ENAREDD+ consultation.

2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation

2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Policy and Governance

In Mexico, various studies and analyses have been produced that have provided some insight into the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the country. They have also helped to identify areas where information is required and/or where gaps exist in legislation, policy and governance. While funding for these studies has been supplied from different sources, they have been conducted in close collaboration with CONAFOR. Some of these studies are relevant to REDD+ and are listed below:

Legal Framework

- Diagnostic study of gaps and omissions within the legal framework relevant to REDD+ in Mexico, produced by the Center for Legal and Environmental Studies, A.C., with funding from the Mexican REDD+ Alliance.¹⁹ The study analyzes the national laws, regulations and codes pertaining to the forestry sector, as well as Mexico’s forestry programs and policies. The document also provides an analysis of the legal framework applicable to REDD+ in five selected states.
- Legislative analysis: Support in the dialogue between the Legislative and Executive Powers for REDD+ implementation in Mexico, developed by GLOBE Mexico in March 2014. It presents an assessment of the Agrarian Law, the Law on Sustainable Forest Development, the General Law for Sustainable Forest Development, the General Law on Ecological Balance and Protection of the Environment, as well as the General Law on Wildlife.

¹⁹ Available at [http://www.alianza-mredd.org/uploads/ckfinder_files/files/1_1_2_1%20Diagnostico%20Normativa%20aplicable%20REDD%2B%20\(ANEXOS\)%20CEJA\(4\).pdf](http://www.alianza-mredd.org/uploads/ckfinder_files/files/1_1_2_1%20Diagnostico%20Normativa%20aplicable%20REDD%2B%20(ANEXOS)%20CEJA(4).pdf)

- An analysis of the relevant and applicable legal framework in Mexico in relation to safeguards,²⁰ produced by Climate Law and Policy, with funding from MREDD+. The report assesses Mexico's relevant and applicable legal framework in respect of safeguards and offers a clear explanation of how the Mexican legal framework may be used to operationalize the safeguards, help identify existing gaps and supply recommendations to address identified gaps.
- Baseline Studies on Governance and Indigenous Identity in the states of Campeche, Yucatan and Quintana Roo. These studies establish baselines for the monitoring and analysis of the impact of components of the Special Program for the Yucatan Peninsula in each of the states that make up the peninsula. The studies quantify the level of social capital and decision making (governance) in relation to productivity, conservation, social development and land use changes. State transfers to the ejidos selected for the studies from various State sectors was also analyzed: e.g. the environmental sector (SEMARNAT), forestry (CONAFOR), agricultural production (SAGARPA) and social development (SEDESOL).

Drivers of deforestation and degradation in Mexico

- Article: "Deforestation and Degradation in the Context of REDD+: the case of Jalisco and the Yucatan Peninsula," by Margaret Skutsch, Beth Bee and GaoYan of the UNAM Center for Research in Environmental Geography, 2013.²¹
- An Analysis of Changes in Soil Use and Cover, Carbon Reference Scenario and Preliminary Draft of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Mechanism in the Ten Municipalities of the Inter-Municipal Board of Río Ayuquila, Jalisco, produced by the Center for Research in Environmental Geography (CIGA) - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), University Center of the South Coast (CUCSUR) University of Guadalajara (UDG) in 2012.²²
- Article: Morales-Vaquera, L., Skutsch, M., Jardel-Peláez, E., Ghilardi, A., Kleinn, C., and John Healey. 2014. Operationalizing the Definition of Forest Degradation for REDD+, with Application to Mexico. *Forests* 2014, 5(7), 1653-1681.
- Article 'Dealing with locally-driven degradation: A quick start option under REDD+' by Margaret M Skutsch, Arturo Balderas Torres and other authors from the Center for Research in Environmental Geography, UNAM in 2011.
- Systematization and analysis were carried out in relation to the study of deforestation and forest degradation in Mexico in the last 20 years, using remote sensing methods and techniques and field studies by José Manuel Canto Vergara and María Luisa Cuevas Fernández in 2013, with funding from the REDD+ Alliance of Mexico. This document is a compilation of the best available information on the use of remote sensors in the study of the processes of deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems in Mexico.
- Systematization, analysis and spatial distribution of works related to the study of carbon content in land and coastal ecosystems in Mexico over the last 20 years. Database of existing historic carbon content estimations works for the last 20 years.²³
- MAD-MEX article: Automatic Wall-to-wall Cover monitoring for Mexican REDD-MRV Program using all Landsat data. *Remote Sensing*, by Gebhardt, *et al.* 6, 30th April 2014. 3923-3943
- A National, Detailed Map of Forest Aboveground Carbon Stocks in Mexico, by Oliver Cartus, *et al.* *Remote Sensing*, 6, 16th June, 2014. 5559-5588.

²⁰ http://www.conafor.gob.mx/web/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/20-Marco-Legal-Salvaguardas_FINAL_feb2014.pdf

²¹ Available at <http://www.cbmjournal.com/content/6/1/16>

²² Available at http://redd.ciga.unam.mx/files/InformeFinal_JIRA_May10_12.pdf

²³ Available at <http://www.alianza-mredd.org/carbono/index.php>

- 'Identification of activities for reversing deforestation and degradation in Chiapas,' describes productive activities that involve the sustainable management of forest resources and which form the basis of the development of REDD+ strategy in Chiapas. These activities may, in time, serve as an input for the development of investment plans.
- Diagnostic study of the drivers of deforestation in Chiapas, MREDD+ Consultancy
- Review of MAD-Mex data for monitoring changes in land use/soil coverage (with emphasis on the processes of deforestation), agreement with CIGA-UNAM
- Analysis of spatial patterns of change: identification of hotspots of change at the national level, agreement with CIGA-UNAM
- Assessment of existing inputs for the analysis of forest degradation in Mexico and proposals for mapping and monitoring. Agreement with CIGA-UNAM.
- Framework for the analysis of hotspots for deforestation and forest degradation at the local level. Agreement with CIGA-UNAM.

Deforestation may be the outcome of a one-step process (e.g. a change in land use), or the result of severe degradation bringing about a gradual breakdown in the functions and processes of a forest ecosystem. This will engender a change in the condition of the forest, causing it to lose its original characteristics (including vegetation cover). In general, land use changes are caused by pressure from regional, national or international markets to extract wood products, conduct mining operations, convert woods and forests into agricultural lands, as well as from tourism, urban, industrial and infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads and highways). In this regard, there are insufficient measures in place for controlling land use changes, while coordination between the legislature and the various sectors of the state is either ineffective or absent (CONAFOR, 2013).

In the case of forest degradation, the processes are more complex, as they may result from a temporary variation (e.g. shifting agriculture) or gradual changes in forest cover (Skutsch et al., 2013). So far, there has been no detailed study of degradation at the national level. However, preliminary figures reveal that around 250,000 ha per year or an annual average of 8.225GgCO₂ of forest lands were affected by degradation between 2000 and 2010 (CONAFOR, 2014).

Forest degradation is a process caused by pressure from local users, whose exploitation of the resources reduces the carrying and regenerative capacity of forests due to, for example, selective logging, overgrazing, the expansion and intensification of shifting agricultural practices and the extraction of fuelwood, timber, wood poles and other forest products. Forest degradation may be linked as much to the poor management of a common resource as to the subdivision of lands into individual plots, especially in forests. Special mention should be made of the development of pests and diseases that affect forests, as well as the prevalence of forest fires. Depending on their causes, severity and frequency, these factors can contribute to deforestation or forest degradation, depending on whether or not the affected area can renew its original vegetative cover in the medium or long term.

Due to the multiple causes that affect the condition of Mexico's forests, rates of deforestation and forest degradation vary from one region to the next. With regard to deforestation levels in REDD+ Early Action states, the State of Jalisco has a deforestation rate of more than 30,000 ha per year and is one of the states with the highest rate of forest cover loss. In the case of Chiapas, deforestation over the period under examination was more than 50,000 ha per year, with 57 percent of emissions being attributable to the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector. These emissions resulted from the transformation of forests into agriculture and pastureland for livestock grazing. In the Yucatan Peninsula (Yucatan, Campeche and Quintana Roo), over the

period 2000-2010, deforestation rates amounted to over 80,000 ha per year (source data based on INEGI series III, IV and V).

2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

2b.1 National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+)

In 2010, Mexico presented its REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)²⁴ to the Participants Committee of the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF). The proposal was approved in March of the same year.

Since 2010, Mexico has worked to develop the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+) through a participatory process. Also in 2010, the CICC published the document entitled *Mexico's Vision for REDD+: Towards a national strategy*,²⁵ which contained key objectives and definitions that informed the development of the strategy, and which underscored the importance of including public policies that favor sustainable rural development, while incorporating and reinforcing community forest management and the conservation of biodiversity.

The study: *Elements for the Design of a National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+)*,²⁶ was produced in 2011 and published in November of the same year. The study was further strengthened by feedback from CTC-REDD+, as well as the inputs and comments of GT-REDD+ of the CICC. This led to a new version of the ENAREDD+, which was presented in October 2012 (as Draft 1).²⁷

The draft was submitted for analysis and feedback from stakeholders, through existing national and state platforms such as the National and State CTCs, GT-REDD+ and the CICC. In July of 2013, a new version of ENAREDD+ (Draft 2)²⁸ was presented for consideration to CTC-REDD+ and other platforms, such as the ENAREDD+ Working Group of the CONAF. Subsequently, following the inclusion of comments and observations, Draft 3 of the ENAREDD+²⁹ was produced in April 2014, with a fourth draft³⁰ being presented in November of the same year. In February 2015, the fourth draft received a favorable assessment by key stakeholders through CONAF, which means that Mexico has now a final draft of the ENAREDD+. This final draft will be submitted for public consultation in 2015.

²⁴ Available at <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Jun2011/R-PP%20Mexico%20FINAL%20APROBADA%2001-06-11.pdf>

²⁵ Spanish Language Version Available at http://www.conafor.gob.mx:8080/documentos/docs/35/2521Visi%C3%B3n%20de%20M%C3%A9xico%20para%20REDD_.pdf and English Version Available at http://www.conafor.gob.mx:8080/documentos/docs/35/2520Visi%C3%B3n%20de%20M%C3%A9xico%20para%20REDD_.In%20gles.pdf

²⁶ Available at http://www.conafor.gob.mx:8080/documentos/docs/35/4859Elementos%20para%20el%20dise%C3%B1o%20de%20la%20Estrategia%20Nacional%20para%20REDD_.pdf

²⁷ Available at http://www.conafor.gob.mx:8080/documentos/docs/35/5303Elementos%20para%20el%20dise%C3%B1o%20de%20la%20Estrategia%20Nacional%20para%20REDD_.pdf

²⁸ Available at http://www.conafor.gob.mx:8080/documentos/docs/35/4861Estrategia%20Nacional%20para%20REDD_.pdf

²⁹ Available at http://www.conafor.gob.mx:8080/documentos/docs/35/5559Elementos%20para%20el%20dise%C3%B1o%20de%20la%20Estrategia%20Nacional%20para%20REDD_.pdf

³⁰ Available at <http://www.conafor.gob.mx/web/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ENAREDD-consulta-final.pdf>

The objective of the ENAREDD is to reduce the emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, while conserving and increasing forest carbon stocks, within the framework of sustainable rural development in Mexico and with a guarantee of effective application and compliance with the safeguards and principles stipulated in this strategy and the prevailing legal framework. The following components are central to ENAREDD+ implementation:

1. - Public policies and legal framework: to achieve cross-sectoral action, coordination, coherence and the integrated implementation of programs and policies that favor REDD+, generate mutual benefits and adapt to the context of different forest landscapes in rural areas.
- 2.- Financing schemes: these should aim to create and establish a financing system that is flexible, multi-faceted, diverse, graduated and efficient and that makes it easier over the long term to conserve the climate-related, socio-economic, environmental and other benefits derived from forests.
- 3.- Institutional arrangements: these are intended to ensure that institutional structures and mechanisms have the required capacity and can operate at different levels; among federal institutions and between federal and state and municipal bodies, for the conception, implementation and effective coordination of REDD+ activities and their related components (financing, monitoring and others), in accordance with their assigned areas of competence.
4. - Reference levels: to develop a national reference level, that may be broken down into state reference levels in order to facilitate assessment of REDD+ activities undertaken by individual states, including carbon capture projects for climate change mitigation activities in the forestry sector. Subdivision into state reference levels is intended to ensure environmental integrity and the consistency and transparency of the mechanism within a coherent and open nested approach.
5. - Monitoring, reporting and verification: to develop a robust and transparent national system of forest monitoring for the monitoring, reporting and verification of climate change mitigation-related activities in the forestry sector. The system should enhance the monitoring and oversight of the effectiveness of forest policies, be as transparent and clear-cut as possible and promote local and community participation.
6. - Safeguards: to incorporate a National Safeguard System (SNS) and a Safeguard Information System (SIS) for monitoring and reporting and for ensuring compliance with the safeguards set forth in the UNFCCC Cancun Agreements (decision 1/CP.16), in accordance with the provisions of decision 12/CP.17, adopted at Durban in 2011, as well as articles 1 and 2 of the Mexican Constitution and Article 134 Bis of the LGDFS.
7. - Participation, communication and disclosure: to guarantee communication, social participation, transparency and accountability among communities, social organizations and the government, in order to achieve REDD+ objectives and ensure compliance with its safeguards.

2c. Implementation Framework

2c.1 Intervention Model in REDD+ Early Actions

Given the focus of REDD+ in Mexico, the Intervention Model Document in REDD+ Early Actions prepared by CONAFOR will be published in April 2015 in order to present the characteristics of the intervention model.

This model includes the information collected to date on the causes and dynamics of deforestation in the country, which differs depending on the region, but generally includes changes in land use through the establishment of induced grassland for breeding livestock and to a lesser extent for agriculture, the limited use of forest areas, the lack of investment in forest-related industries, the low income from forests, illegal logging industries, the lack of security regarding the rights of users (forest resources), poverty and lack of income opportunities related to forestry, natural disasters, and the manner in which public policies (CONAFOR, 2013) are implemented. There are also underlying causes such as poor governance, weak social capital, and weak enforcement of the legal framework.

The intervention strategy suggested for eliminating the direct and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation seeks to improve horizontal coordination of public policies, especially in the agricultural and environmental sectors and in mechanisms for intergovernmental cooperation, which would give a new impetus to rural development by promoting sustainable land management models.

For Mexico, the model of integrated land management with a focus on sustainable rural development proposed by REDD+ is a scheme that recognizes that deforestation and forest degradation processes have sources that are both internal and external to the forestry sector, so only through mainstreaming of public actions and policies and a territorial approach will it be possible to restructure and reduce pressures on these resources. To achieve this, the intervention model takes into account four key elements:

i. Actions specifically designed to meet the needs of the region in terms of forests and climate change.

The richness of the intervention strategy lies in the fact that its elements can be adapted to each of the conditions existing at the site; however, there are very general recommendations based on the different processes of deforestation, forest management, economic development, and social and environmental issues addressed. As an example of this first element of the intervention strategy, the Special Programs, which constitute CONAFOR's efforts to direct resources to specific sites with high rates of deforestation and degradation, were designed with the intent of stopping the inaction in relation to deforestation and starting to create and strengthen sustainable productive activities.

It is noteworthy that these Programs only consider for implementation activities carried out through grants awarded by the National Forestry Commission, with the expectation that they will have more and better impacts on the various ecosystems, actors and persons living in the country's forest areas. The activities promoted through the Programs can be grouped into the following categories:

- Strengthening social and human capital (community planning, training, seminars, workshops); Restoration and productive reconversion (comprehensive restoration, silvopastoral and agroforestry systems, etc.);
- Conservation (payment for environmental services, best management practices);
- Sustainable forest management; and
- Studies (productive alternatives, environmental impact statement, etc.).

ii. The territorial governance model that promotes the participation of various actors at different levels in a territory under the principle of collaborative actions to achieve results in the reduction of emissions.

There has been a drive for the diversification of agents in the territory who can contribute to capacity building at various levels within the territorial unit and to strengthen the mechanisms of trust, transparency, and leadership of agents and/or technical advisors. In this regard, the intervention model

seeks to support the training and bringing together of Public Agents for Territorial Development (PATD) [*Agentes Públicos de Desarrollo Territorial APDT*] to promote wider landscape-level spatial integration.

The PATDs are entities that act in the interests of the public, working at regional or landscape level, helping in regional development planning, and promoting actions for sustainable management of natural resources. They have their own technical staff and have financial management capacity.

- iii. **Institutional arrangements to strengthen coordination between sectors and promote Sustainable Rural Development.** Through the intervention model coordination at various levels must be promoted as well as the strengthening of governance to achieve the necessary complementarity of public policies in favor of Sustainable Rural Development. The existence of the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Climate Change (ICCC) and the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Sustainable Rural Development (CIDRS) at the national level and the ICCC at the state level provides the basis for coordinated working arrangements between SEMARNAT and CONAFOR with SAGARPA, which take account of multisectoral coordination efforts. Another example of coordination schemes is the establishment of CONAFOR collaboration agreements with other federal institutions (SAGARPA, SEMARNAT, SEDESOL or other institutions of the Federal Public Administration), as well as state governments.
- iv. **Linking of policies and programs in other sectors** that are conducive to joint efforts and coordination of resources with other agencies. Given the landscape approach, the implementation model represents an opportunity to coordinate the policies and programs of other institutions to complement and strengthen CONAFOR's efforts to address deforestation and degradation of forests and jungles. The horizontal coordination of public policies especially in the agricultural sector will give new impetus to rural development by promoting sustainable land management models.

The Government of Mexico seeks to promote the four elements of the intervention model described above, to which end the REDD+ Early Actions (ATREDD+) have been established. The ATREDD+ are a combination of efforts made by institutions at state level that are aimed at addressing the causes of deforestation and degradation and reversing the trend of change of use of forest land, thereby contributing to improving the living conditions of the inhabitants.

These ATREDD+ are being developed in five Mexican states: Jalisco, Campeche, Chiapas, Quintana Roo, and Yucatan (Table 3). These areas focus on diverse uses of the land and activities from different sectors, and this is an element that should be highlighted because of the integrated territorial management approach that is included in the REDD+ process in the country.

Table 3. Surface area of the five states where early actions are being taken

State	Total surface area (km ²)	Forest cover* (km ²)	Area receiving priority attention (ATREDD+) (km ²)
Jalisco	77,965.88	49,838.80	33,348.67
Chiapas	73,611.94	36,784.76	52,658.98
Campeche	57,277.33	41,804.89	43,309.99
Yucatán	39,533.02	27,512.92	14,574.29

Quintana Roo	44,556.28	37,120.96	33,146.42
--------------	-----------	-----------	-----------

* According to INEGI's Land Use and Vegetation Map 1: 250,000, series V (2013), with the six IPCC categories.

The ATREDD+ that are established at the state or regional level contain priority areas of attention (Figure 2).



Figure 2. REDD+ Early Actions

The criteria for targeting REDD+ Early Actions and their priority areas of attention were that such areas should have:

- Major forest areas subject to powerful forest-loss processes and forest carbon. This process was supported by the inputs available in the land use and vegetation coverage information provided by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI);
- A high environmental value, particularly as regards biodiversity and hydrology arising from analyses of biodiversity conservation priorities and analyses of existing gaps conducted by the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity [*Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad CONABIO*];
- Development needs, demonstrated by existing national poverty indicators; and
- Local stakeholders and experiences relevant to implementation of innovative models that show results in the short term.

2c. Social and Environmental Impacts

The process of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) in Mexico formally begins with the SESA National Workshop in May 2011. However, Mexico has been conducting workshops, meetings, and activities with civil society groups in the REDD+ readiness process that even if they were not labeled as SESA are a part of this

process. Thus, the process of building ENAREDD+ has included workshops, meetings, and activities that have been conducted with civil society groups and different stakeholders, which are a cornerstone of the SESA process.

In 2011, workshops were held within the framework of the SESA process. On May 12 and 13 of that year the SESA National Workshop was held and resulted in: (i) The SESA matrix which integrates and prioritizes the factors to be considered to ensure benefits and avoid the risks of REDD+, and (ii) The creation of the SESA monitoring group. The workshop was attended by representatives of *ejidos* and forest communities, farmers' organizations, indigenous peoples, women, NGOs, as well as state and municipal governments. In the same year, based on feedback from the activities under the Forest Investment Plan, three workshops were held in the state of Jalisco and three on the Yucatan Peninsula where general information on SESA was presented and recommendations were obtained by the stakeholders to strengthen the process of social and environmental assessment in the country.

The SESA Work Plan³¹ was developed in 2014. It provides information about how the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment will be consolidated bearing in mind that in recent years there has been an analytical and participatory process which led to the creation of ENAREDD+.

According to the SESA Work Plan, in this same year analysis and systematization of the analytical and participatory process as well as updating of the map of key actors began. Annex 1 contains the main results of the systematization of the participatory process up to 2013, as well as the map of actors and classification of the type of role they play and their connection to the different sections of ENAREDD+.³²

³¹ <http://www.conafor.gob.mx/web/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Anexo-1.-Plan-de-trabajo-SESA.pdf>

³² Developed in 2014 by PRONATURA SUR, .A.C. for the National Forestry Commission in the Consultancy for systematizing the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process during the REDD+ readiness phase in Mexico.

3 - Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level

The FCPF has not funded activities related to the reference level in Mexico, however, the following describes the main developments in the country.³³ Mexico presented its proposal for Mexico's Forest Reference Emission Level to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) last December 8, 2015.

The Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) was developed at national level based on three inputs:

- INEGI's Land Use and Vegetation Series (Maps) and
- The National Inventory of Forests and Lands;
- CONAFOR's statistics on forest fires (surface area); and
- INEGI's methods of estimation as part of the Biennial Update Report (BUR).

This reference level includes emissions from deforestation and forest fires, while emissions from degradation are included in an Annex to show the proposed methodology and it can be evaluated.

The value of the FREL is 45,073 GgCO₂e per year³⁴ and represents the annual average emissions projected for the 2011-2015 period, based on analysis of historical emissions for the 2000-2010 period.³⁵

Currently, the reference level presented is below the level of UNFCCC's technical evaluation. It is expected that the final document incorporating the experts' recommendations in ensuring compliance with the principles of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will be published in October 2015 on the UNFCCC website.

³³ The FREL component has been developed with the support of the Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South Cooperation project with Norwegian Government funding and technical support from UNDP and FAO:
<http://www.mrv.mx/index.php/es/>

³⁴ Giga grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per year.

³⁵ The document can be viewed in Spanish on the site http://unfccc.int/files/land_use_and_climate_change/redd/application/pdf/nivel_de_referencia_de_las_emisiones_for_estados_de_mexico.pdf, and in English on the site http://unfccc.int/files/land_use_and_climate_change/redd/country/application/pdf/frel_mexico_english_version_jan15f.pdf

4 – Forest Monitoring System and Information on Safeguards

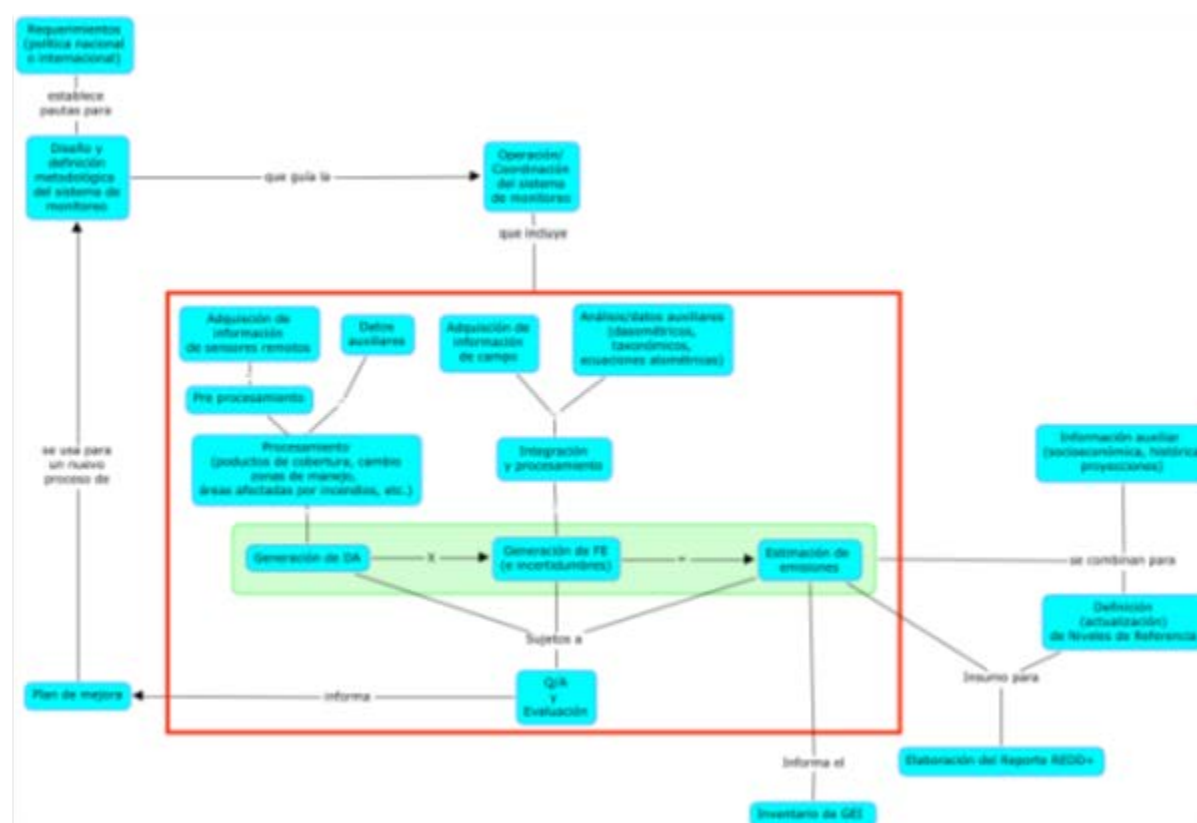
4a. National Forest Monitoring System

In recent years, the Government of Mexico has been building its National Forest Monitoring System [*Sistema Nacional de Monitoreo Forestal SNMF*] which will begin operations in July 2015.³⁶ It builds on previous efforts and is being carried out under close interagency coordination, mainly between: CONAFOR, CONABIO, INECC and INEGI, which have validated the system's processes and products, ensuring its sustainability over time.

The FCPF has not funded activities related to the forest monitoring system which has been developed mainly through the “Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South Cooperation” project funded by the Norwegian Government with technical support from UNDP and FAO.³⁷

Mexico uses a combination of making forest inventories based on field measurements and methods based on remote sensing to estimate anthropogenic emissions by the sources and absorption by the sinks of greenhouse gases related to forests, forest carbon stocks, and changes in forest areas.

The following diagram shows how the process of estimating the content, and changes in content, of carbon in forests is integrated.



³⁶ The reform of the LGDFS on June 4, 2012 indicates that the Federal Government will have a timeline of no more than three years in which to implement a national system for monitoring, recording and verifying in order to assess and systematize the reduction of emissions arising from actions to prevent and combat deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems (REDD+).

³⁷ <http://www.mrv.mx/index.php/es/>

Figure 3. Combination of activity data and emission factors and the process of estimating them

The information regarding Emission Factors (EF), Activity Data (AD), and emission estimates are briefly described below, as well as the tools and processes that have been developing and/or improving the national forest monitoring system. It is important to note that in order to process the data on EF and AD and estimates of emissions, protocols and tools have been designed that will allow them to be implemented in a systematic, repeatable way and with the possibility making enhancement adjustments as inputs change.

Emission Factors

Mexico has extensive experience in the design and development of its National Inventory of Forests and Lands (INFyS) [*Inventario Nacional Forestal y de Suelos* (INFyS)] because it has carried out two surveys since 2004 in five-year cycles. The first cycle of the inventory was conducted from 2004 to 2009 and the second cycle from 2009 to 2013. Mexico's INFyS is a planning tool for the forest sector in the country and it has become a multipurpose inventory. It has 26,220 clusters where over 100 variables are recorded.³⁸

With the INFyS, Mexico is in a position to make comparisons and analyses that describe trends and changes in the key environmental and forestry management parameters of the national forest ecosystems including biomass and carbon that will allow it to develop emission factors for use in estimates of GHG emissions from deforestation and degradation.

In 2014, with the intent of improving emission factors, Mexico developed four protocols: two for updating the protocol for estimating carbon in tree biomass, adding the dynamics of change in vegetation from INFyS data and the procedure for estimating carbon in mineral soil, a major reservoir in forests—in some forest ecosystems containing up to 50% of the total carbon—and the other two for estimating emissions and removals by forest disturbances such as forest fires and products derived from forest harvesting in order to be aware of the information available and to what extent an estimate can be made with the country's available data.

During 2015, all protocols mentioned above will be integrated in order to have a single Protocol on Estimating Emission and Absorption Factors, which will describe in a transparent manner how the system of estimating emission factors works and their results. That system uses INFyS data and information on the density of wood and carbon fractions nationwide.

With the implementation of the tool mentioned, Mexico integrated a database of emission and removal factors under IPCC guidelines which may be accessed online from the second half of 2015. In 2014, 24 factors were captured, representing 10% of the total. Capture of the emission factors and absorption of the remainder will be carried out in 2015, as well as the additional estimation of emission factors related to carbon stocks in dead wood and litter, and disturbances such as firewood collection and fires.

³⁸ These include: ecological data, geographical description, species diversity, forestry management variables in tree, shrub and herbaceous layers and qualitative information on the site conditions, such as orographic features, altitude, slope, physiography, land use, soil depth, presence of erosion-degradation, and the extent of their impact.

Activity Data

Regarding the development of information based on remote sensing, Mexico has five Land Use and Vegetation Series maps, which are produced by INEGI, based on visual interpretation of satellite images (Landsat and Spot). These series contain more than 200 different kinds of land use and type of vegetation, with a resolution of 1:250,000 with a timeline of about every five years.

As part of the readiness process, a tool called *Monitoring Activity Data for Mexico, MAD-MEX* (Gebhart et al. 2014) has been developed,³⁹ with which coverage maps for the years 1993, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010 have been produced, taking into account 32 kinds of coverage that can be grouped according to the different needs of CONAFOR. In 2015, the MAD-MEX system will be up and producing maps on changes of coverage and land use (based on Landsat or RapidEye).

As regards improving the activity data, in this year 2015 the “Automated Land Cover Classification and Change Detection” protocol will be updated including validation of products related to land cover and land cover change. Additionally, there will be collaboration with the University of Maryland to have canopy density maps that will detect forest degradation nationally from Landsat and RapidEye images, which will later be incorporated into the MAD-MEX platform.

Moreover, INEGI, the official institution responsible nationally for generating maps, has begun the process of inter-institutional validation of the mapping products generated with the MAD-MEX system so that they can be considered official products for the generation of annual reports on the status and dynamics of land cover.

Estimates of Emissions

Mexico has presented five National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (INEGI) to the UNFCCC. Developing each of them has given Mexico experience and it has learned lessons for INEGI’s development in the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector. In 2015, it will submit its Biennial Update Report (BUR) using products generated from the NFMS information.

As regards the integration of the components of emission factors and activity data to estimate emissions and removals, in 2015 there will be advances in the integration of the measurement and monitoring system for automated estimation of emissions and removals associated with the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector.

During 2015, work will be done on a proposal to institutionalize the NFMS so that the capabilities built so far and the tools and procedures developed are transferred and integrated as part of the actions that CONAFOR will implement under REDD+.

4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

In order to address potential negative impacts and promote the multiple benefits of REDD+ in an efficient manner, in 2010, during the sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 16) of the UNFCCC held in Cancun, a set of seven safeguards for REDD+ were agreed on which aim to mitigate the risk of negative social and environmental impacts

³⁹ MAD-MEX: Automatic Wall-to-Wall Land Cover Monitoring for the Mexican REDD-MRV Program Using All Landsat Data is available at <http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/6/5/3923>

arising from the implementation of REDD+ actions and promote the benefits that go beyond reducing carbon emissions, such as good forest governance, full and effective participation, and preservation of biodiversity.

Mexico has given express recognition to the REDD+ safeguards and the draft National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+) contemplates the development of a National System of Safeguards (NSS) and a Safeguards Information System (SIS) to monitor, report on, and ensure compliance with the safeguards established under the UNFCCC having regard to the provisions of Decision 12/CP.17 adopted in Durban in 2011, as well as Articles 1 and 2 of the Mexican Constitution, and Article 134 Bis of the General Law of Sustainable Forest Development.

The country plans to have a Safeguards Information System (SIS) built on existing systems at national level that allow comprehensive information to be presented and compliance with the safeguards to be monitored.

However, it has also been recognized that having this information system does not necessarily guarantee compliance with the safeguards, and that for this to happen it is necessary to have a support system or structure. Given the existing system of governance in the country, particularly the legal, institutional, and compliance frameworks, these will be combined and linked and used to implement the safeguards. This system or structure is known as the National Safeguards System (NSS).

The NSS will define how compliance with REDD+ safeguards in Mexico are guaranteed and the activities to which they shall be applied. It will also identify the laws and institutions that support their implementation and the enforcement aspects of the system that allow for dispute resolution, redress of grievances, and reporting and feedback on this information.

The three main elements of the NSS are:

- Legal Framework
- Institutional Framework
- Compliance Framework

To achieve progress in the design and implementation of the NSS in Mexico,⁴⁰ a series of measures or steps to be followed have been identified which will not necessarily be consecutive and include:

- i. Promoting a process of participation and communication during the design and implementation of the NSS;
- ii. Identifying and analyzing the legal, institutional, and compliance framework relevant to REDD+ safeguards;
- iii. Defining the architecture and operation of the NSS;
- iv. Determining how the NSS and SIS will operate between national and State levels; and
- v. Designing the SIS.

⁴⁰ For more details, see the document "Designing a National Safeguards System," available at: <http://www.conafor.gob.mx/web/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Designing-a-National-Safeguards-System.pdf>

2. Analysis of Progress Achieved in those Activities Funded by the FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant

In Mexico, the funding from the FCPF's Readiness Preparation grant aims to develop a participatory and inclusive process for carrying out the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+) in Mexico. The expected outcomes of this project are:

- Final version of the ENAREDD+ to include comments and feedback from various stakeholders and sectors
- A solid Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) validated by various actors
- The piloting of a feedback and grievance redress mechanism for REDD+ at the state level in a REDD+ Early Action area

Also, the grant involves the development of activities to strengthen other states (other than the ATREDD+ ones) in the context of REDD+ readiness and in advance of the implementation expected at the national level once the ENAREDD+ is published.

Below is a description for each component of the activities undertaken to date and those expected to be developed in the coming year as well as the resources allocated for each of the components under financing from the FCPF:

Category of disbursements		Authorized	Disbursed	Available	Committed	Balance
Grant TF010261 (in dollars)*						
1	Component 1a: (i) (ii) (iii), 1b: (iii) (iv), Component: 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d.	2,328,000	0	2,328,000	96,085	2,231,915
2	Component 1b: (i)	672,000	0	672,000	0	672,000
3	Component 1b: (ii)	800,000	0	800,000	1,053,764	-253,764***
					1,020,408**	-1,020,408
	Subtotal	3,800,000	0	3,800,000	2,170,257	1,629,743

Table 4. Funds Committed under FCPF funding under the disbursement categories.

* Exchange rate 1 US\$ = 14.718 MXN. BANCO DE MÉXICO on December 31, 2014

** Corresponds to the resources that will be committed by May 2015, including the resources allocated to the Regional Forest Program to Promote Social Organization, Planning and Development (PROFOS, Spanish acronym). This resource will be considered committed once CONAFOR publishes the criteria to participate in the PROFOS in April.

*** A grant restructuring paper has been submitted to World Bank management requesting to re-allocate proceeds from disbursement category 1 to category 3, to respond to the high demand from CSOs under the PROFOS program.

Component 1. Organization and Consultation

a. Actions implemented to date

As mentioned in Section 1 of this document, Consultation on ENAREDD+ will take place in 2015 with the intent of collecting opinions, feedback, and reaching agreement or consensus on the objective, components, and lines of action of ENAREDD+ through full and effective participation, exchange of views, learning, and mutual understanding with those stakeholders.

In order to provide feedback on the planned consultation activities, CONAFOR convened the Panel of Experts on December 4, 2014: Consultation on ENAREDD+ and critical steps and elements to be included in the Consultation Plan, the purpose of which was to promote a meeting space for information and dialogue on the ENAREDD+ Consultation Plan that would result in knowledge of the proposed Consultation Plan as well as analysis and discussion of ideas or themes that reinforce the proposal.

On the panel there were 72 participants from the following organizations: AgroDer, RED MOCAF, CONOSIL, UNOFOC, SEMARNAT, SAO, CONPROSAC, CDI, RED NOREMSO, Local Association of Foresters of the Purépecha plateau, Quetzalpapalotl, ECRMM Alliance (*Ejidots* and “*Comunidades Reserva Mariposa Monarca*”), A.C., C.I. Nicolás Romero municipality of Zitácuaro, Poblados unidos de la costa Jalisco Emiliano Zapata A.C., Silvícola Ocote Real, ARS LIMAXTUM A.C., Unión de comuneros del Valle de Oaxaca Tlaxiáac de cabrera, Rainforest Alliance, UICN, CONAGUA, FMCN, RITA, FUNDAR A.C., BIOASESORES, Reforestamos México, CNC, UNECOF, UNPJMEJ, RIOD MEX, Geoconservación, Grupo Semilla A.C, Government of the state of Durango, Iniciativa campesina A.C., AMBIO, CONABIO, CONANP, and Consultoría forestal de Mohinora S.A. Chihuahua (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Attendees on the Panel of Experts: Consultation on the ENAREDD+

The main results from the panel were:

1. Give information about the proposal and critical path of the ENAREDD+ Consultation Plan and receive recommendations to improve the Plan;
2. Give information about the consultation protocol with indigenous peoples (part of the ENAREDD+ consultation plan) and thus contribute effectively from the different sectors;

3. Collect ideas to fill the gaps in the consultation process that takes into account all issues and groups in order to bring together the greatest number of platforms for social participation, in order to strengthen sustainable rural development;
4. Know and disseminate the strategy which should be inclusive and respectful, taking into account local peculiarities; and
5. Share, learn, contribute to, and understand the scope and modalities of the Consultation on ENAREDD+ and understand how society, institutions, and civil society will participate.



Figure 5. Working session for the Panel of Experts: Consultation on the ENAREDD+

Given that the consultation includes an information and dissemination phase, a dissemination process was implemented through Forest Sector Social Organizations [*Organizaciones Sociales del Sector Forestal OSSF*] in 2014, by means of the support V. Project Implementation for the Dissemination of ENAREDD+ concept in the framework of the Program for the Promotion of Social Organization, Planning and Regional Forestry Development [*Programa de Fomento a la Organización Social, Planeación y Desarrollo Regional Forestal PROFOS*] 2014. Through this modality, it was the OSSFs that, through a project implementation team, implemented various activities to disseminate the topic. As a result, an amount of \$1,053,764 was invested for a total of 34 national and regional projects.

As part of the activities for dissemination through the OSSFs, CONAFOR organized five introductory REDD+ courses for social organizations participating in the program, with 129 attendees who were trained in forests, climate change, REDD +, ENAREDD+ consultation, and they received an information package for dissemination.





Figure 6. Introductory courses aimed at social organizations in the Forestry sector for disseminating information about REDD+





Figure 7. Informational material produced for disseminating information on ENAREDD+ and translations of the informational materials into Maya and Nahuatl

Moreover, dialogue and capacity building was promoted at the state level (states in addition to ATREDD+ states) for REDD+ readiness in 2014, in particular the development of workshops starting in the states of Puebla, Veracruz, the state of Mexico and Oaxaca, in which representatives of state governments, state offices of federal agencies, organizations of forest producers, organized civil society, and academia participated.

b. Activities planned in the coming months with FCPF funding

Consultation will take place during 2015 so as to have an inclusive and comprehensive instrument in 2016 with the aim of having a national cultural, social and environmentally relevant and viable strategy built through a voluntary, open, and inclusive process.

The specific objectives of the consultation include: a) Reporting, through an extensive process of participatory and culturally relevant communication, subjects of interest on the process of drafting the ENAREDD+, its structure and content; b) Obtaining opinions on the structure and content of the ENAREDD+, seeking agreements or consensus of the holders of community-owned land (ejidos) and indigenous people with regard to the objective, components, and lines of action of ENAREDD+; and c) Documenting and systematizing the consultation process.

In this regard, the Consultation Plan will be implemented in three phases: the information phase, the consultation phase, and the systematization of results phase. In the first, a classification of hearings will be done in order to address the complexity and diversity of the aspects involved in the REDD+ process in a comprehensive manner; in the second, there will be face to face and virtual consultations as well as consultations with indigenous peoples; and in the third, the views and recommendations of stakeholders will be incorporated.

One of the key activities that are part of the consultation process in its face to face modality is the consultation through the OSSF through PROFOS. In this modality, PROFOS will have a specific component to support Project for the consultation of the ENAREDD+ targeted to indigenous peoples and local communities. These projects, implemented by the OSSF to work with their members to collect opinions related to the content of the ENAREDD+ final draft. During this process, the OSSF should guarantee the participation of women, youth, vulnerable groups and key actors for REDD+, promoting a dialogue, reflection and analysis of the different topics among these actors. It's planned that these projects will be implemented in a 4 month period.

Finally, products for dissemination that are expected to be printed during 2015 are:

- Notebook with five computer graphics on REDD+;

- Reprint of basic guidelines on forests, climate change and REDD+ in Mexico;
- Various promotional materials: bags, pens, and USBs;
- Posters in Maya and Nahuatl inviting persons to the consultation; and
- The “*En esta REDD estamos todos*” [we are all REDD now] comic book with a story about disseminating the REDD+ process.

Component 2. Development of the National REDD+ Strategy

2a. Evaluation of land use change agents, forest policy and legislation, and governance

As mentioned in Section 1 of this document, Mexico has made significant progress in the evaluation of the main causes of deforestation and forest degradation and possible options for promoting REDD+ in the broader context of sustainable rural development. In complementarity to the work that has been done to date and already scheduled, FCPF financing aims to support analytical work and dialogue on the major challenges faced in implementing REDD+.

In 2015, there will be systematization of lessons learned in the five ATREDD+ states and dialogue with various departments will be encouraged in order that joint actions for integrated land management may be undertaken.

One example of this is the Productive Landscapes Forum, organized by CONAFOR, SAGARPA, and the World Bank,⁴¹ with the aim of promoting dialogue on reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+) and integrated land management among decision-makers of government agencies from different sectors. The forum is expected to generate inter-agency collaboration agreements supporting the implementation of joint actions that result in integrated land use management schemes. To this end, discussions on possible collaboration schemes will be held at the territorial level, based on national and international success stories.

2b. Options for the REDD+ Strategy

As mentioned above, ENAREDD+ was formulated from a participatory and analytical process that started with the publication of the REDD+ Vision in Mexico in 2010. This has now resulted in the final draft of ENAREDD+, which will be consulted in 2015.

Additionally, FCPF activities under this subcomponent seek to support analytical work and a series of dialogues between different stakeholders about critical issues identified, and identify the impacts and effectiveness of the various options for implementing REDD+.

Additionally, CONAFOR and the World Bank's Program on Forests (PROFOR) are carrying out the Options Assessment Framework, a tool for identifying and assessing the capabilities of the country in relation to REDD+ benefit sharing. The application of this tool during 2014 included developing an initial report, feedback on it through a webinar and rating exercise in a regional workshop attended by the states of the Yucatan Peninsula. For the last phase of the project a national workshop will be held to review and discuss the partial results and define a roadmap for the implementation of the REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism.

2c. Implementation framework

⁴¹ With Financing from the World Bank's Program on Forests (PROFOR).

As part of the financing through the FCPF Readiness Preparation grant, the piloting of a grievance redress mechanism for REDD+ in the Yucatan Peninsula is being contemplated, with particular emphasis on identifying the specific needs of indigenous peoples, women and other vulnerable groups at the state and/or regional level. The proposed methodology will be piloted in a specific area in order to make adjustments and adapt the mechanism prior to its establishment in the states.

To this end, a preliminary proposal has been developed for the terms of reference for developing those activities, which comprise:

- Analysis of the relevant institutional and compliance framework applicable to the REDD+ safeguards in the three states of the Yucatan Peninsula;
- Analysis of the specific needs of, and traditional ways used by, indigenous peoples and women in accessing information, expressing complaints and grievances, and resolving disputes;
- Historical analysis of disputes in the Yucatan Peninsula and methods of resolving forestry issues;
- Development of a proposal to incorporate a grievance redress mechanism, taking into account the gaps that were identified in the analyses;
- Development of the proposed methodology for piloting the grievance redress mechanism
- Piloting of the grievance redress mechanism for REDD+ addressing gaps and making the results obligatory

2d. Social and environmental impacts

In relation to the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, during 2014 an initial systematization of the participatory process was carried out in Mexico (see Annex 1).

The systematization of the analytical and participatory process in Mexico will be completed in 2015 and the analysis of environmental and social risks of the components and lines of action of the current ENAREDD+ proposal will come to an end. These two activities will provide valuable inputs for the preparation of the SESA report and the subsequent development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

Emissions Reduction Initiative (Carbon Fund)

Mexico presented its Emissions Reduction Initiative proposal to Carbon Fund Participants in April 2014, and this was selected to proceed to the next step. This means that between 2014 and 2015, CONAFOR will work actively on the development of an Emissions Reduction Program (ER-Program for its acronym in English). To this end, in November 2014 CONAFOR signed a letter of intent with the World Bank to begin preparing Mexico's Emissions Reduction Initiative document (see timeline in Figure 8).

**las fechas de las reuniones del PC y CF son tentativas y pueden cambiar*

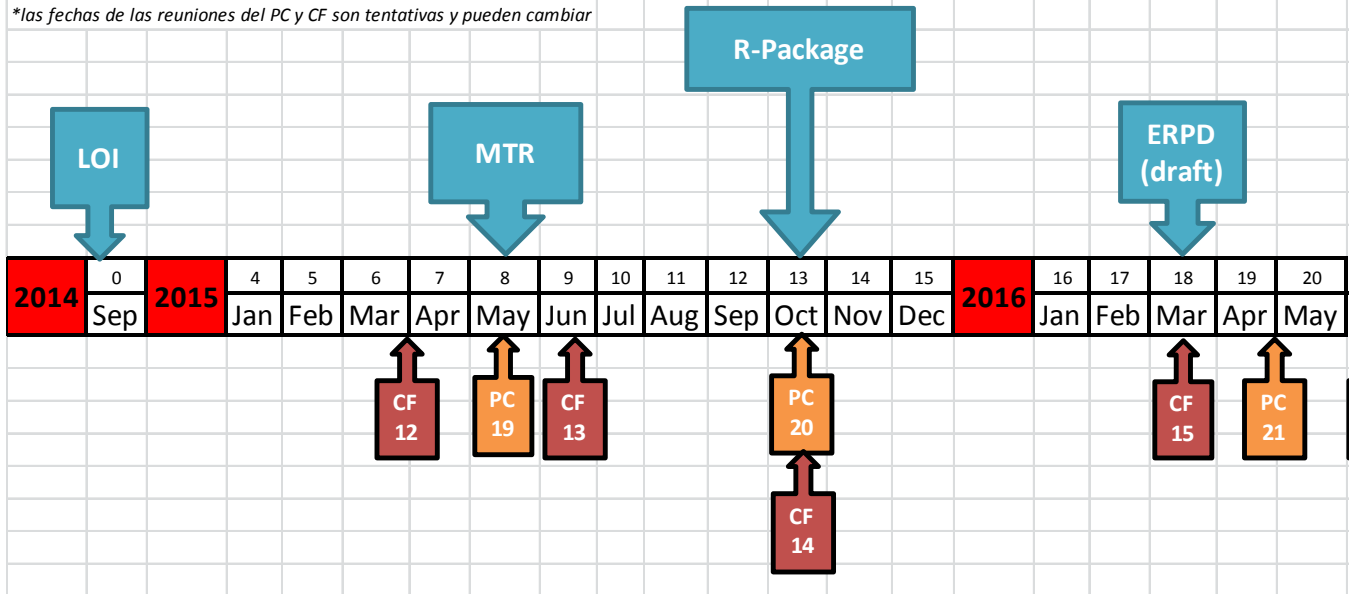


Figure 8. FCPF Timeline for the Emissions Reduction Program Document (ERPD) and the Readiness Package MEXICO

3. Review of Country Compliance with the Common Approach

The World Bank is the FCPF's implementing partner in Mexico, and for this reason, World Bank safeguard policies must be observed in the implementation of activities carried out with FCPF financing. In accordance with the assessment note written prior to the formalization of the preparation grant for the country, the social policy on Indigenous Peoples (OP.4.10) is applicable for Mexico.

In keeping with Mexico's REDD+ approach and under the terms of the current version of the ENAREDD+, there will be no acquisition of land, displacement of persons, nor restrictions on the use of resources in protected natural areas. However, the policy of Involuntary Resettlement (OP.4.12) could be triggered if the approach adopted in the current version of the ENAREDD+ were to be modified.

The Bank's environmental policies that bear relevance to Mexico are: Environmental Assessment (OP/BP4.01), Natural Habitats (OP/BP4.04), and Forests (OP/BP 4.36). Moreover, it has been noted that the policies on Pest Management (OP 4.09) and Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11) could also apply, depending on the approach contained in the final version of the ENAREDD+.

One of the activities funded by the FCPF is the development of the Social, Environmental and Strategic Assessment tool (SESA). The SESA mechanism consists of a mix of analytical and participatory approaches, aimed at identifying possible risks and benefits associated with strategy options. The SESA process seeks to incorporate social and environmental considerations during REDD+ preparation, in order to achieve as its main outcome the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

In the case of Mexico, the grant from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) supports a process of analysis, together with other activities necessary for identifying possible risks and benefits associated with REDD+ implementation. It also provides for the participation of the key actors in the REDD+ process, especially for the consolidation of the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+).

The SESA Work Plan provides information on how the Social and Environmental Assessment is expected to be carried out, bearing in mind that over the past few years, a participatory and analytical process has led to advances in the ENAREDD+.

In addition, and as was explained in Section 4b of this report, Mexico has expressly acknowledged the REDD+ Safeguards. Furthermore, the draft of the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+) also provides for the development of a National Safeguard System and a Safeguard Information System to monitor, report on, and ensure compliance with the safeguards established under the UNFCCC, consistent with the provisions of Decision 12/CP.17 adopted in Durban in 2011, as well as Articles 1 and 2 of the Mexican Constitution and Article 134 Bis of the General Law on Sustainable Forest Development.

4. Updated Financing Plan for the Overall Readiness Preparation Activities, including Funds Pledged by, and Brief Description of Activities Supported by, Other Development Partners

Below is the financing plan in accordance with the estimate presented in the R-PP, which was carried out taking into account the following considerations:

- The current funds under the Readiness Preparation grant will cover in full the activities planned to achieve the three outcomes concerning which a commitment was made.
- The Readiness Preparation grant covers only funding for components 1 and 2, so it is complementary to the funds from other sources of financing for REDD+ readiness.
- The funds from other sources of financing have been instrumental in advancing the readiness process in Mexico and have been earmarked for several complementary activities, forming a comprehensive financing package in the country.
- Lessons learned as part of the readiness process as well as new guidelines internationally (especially under the Warsaw Framework) have identified additional requirements necessary to ensure strong and satisfactory progress in the period between readiness and implementation.

Uses of Funds (in US\$ thousands)								
R-PP Component		Total needed	<u>Funds pledged (B)[2]</u>	<u>Funds used [3]</u>		<u>Funds available (= B – C)[4]</u>	<u>Financing gap (= A – B)[5]</u>	<u>Request to FCPF[6]</u>
				Funds Committed (C)	Funds Disbursed			(if any)
1. Institutional arrangements and consultation on ENAREDD+	1a. Management systems for national readiness	10,580	7,610	96	-	7,514	2,970	2,970
	1b. Consultation and participation of stakeholders	1,608	1,608	2,074*	-	-466	-	-
2. Development of ENAREDD+	2a. Assessment of land use policy and governance	288	288	-	-	288		-
	2b. Strategy options for REDD+	124	124	-	-	124		-
	2c. Implementation Framework	23,750	21,718	11,530	3,058	10,188	2,032	2,032
	2d. Assessment of social and environmental impacts	530	530	-	-	530		-
3. Development of a reference scenario		16,006	16,006	12,715	10,062	3,291		-
4. Design and monitoring system								

TOTAL	52,886	47,884	26,415	13,120	21,469	5,002	5,002
Sources of Funds (in US\$ thousands)							
FCPF [Support the REDD+ readiness activities including the development of a participatory and inclusive process for the finalization of the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+) in Mexico]	3,800	2,170*	-	1,630			
UN-REDD Program (if applicable) [Specify activities being supported by the UN-REDD]	650	-	-	650			
Other Development Partner 1 (Government of Norway) [Strengthen the capacities of Mexico to develop a national Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system necessary for the implementation of REDD+]	15,356	12,715	10,062	2,641			
Other Development Partner 2 (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)) [Support rural communities in the territory of the Borrower to manage forests sustainably, build social organization, and generate revenue]	25,660	10,587	2,122	15,073			
Other Development Partner 3 (French Development Agency) [Create inter-municipal governance bodies to bring together public agents for territorial development]	2,418	943	937	1,475			
TOTAL	47,884	26,415	13,121	21,469			

*US\$ 1,020,408 of this amount correspond to the resources that will be committed by May 2015, including the resources allocated to the Regional Forest Program to Promote Social Organization, Planning and Development (PROFOS, Spanish acronym). This resource will be considered committed once CONAFOR publishes the criteria to participate in the PROFOS in April.

5. Grant Reporting and Monitoring Report (GRM)⁴²

The Delivery Partner prepares a mid-term grant monitoring report, which provides a quantitative report on the progress and results of FCPF-financed activities from the Delivery Partner's perspective, and the Delivery Partner's assessment of overall Readiness progress, and should be annexed to the mid-term progress report.

⁴² *Grant Reporting and Monitoring* is the format and system that is used for reporting on FCPF activities where the World Bank is the Delivery Partner.

TF010261
Mexico: FCPF Readiness Grant
FCPFR - FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

Task Team Leader: Carole Megevand (00000242803)
Approving Manager: Emilia Battaglini (00000021097)

Summary Information

TF Status	ACTN
Recipient Country	Mexico
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	7632 - LCSAR - HIS
Grant Start Date / End Date	03/19/2014 to 04/30/2017
Program Manager	Simon J. Whitehouse
Original Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Grant Amount	3,800,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	0.00
Disbursed 07/01/2013 to 04/30/2015	0.00
Donor	TF602001 - MULTIPLE DONORS

This GRM report includes the following sections: Overview, Outcome, Components/Outputs, Execution, Program(FCPFR), Processing, Attached Documents, Disbursements, Internal Comments.

OVERVIEW

Overall Assessments and Ratings

Grant Objectives:

The immediate objective of the FCPF Readiness Grant is: is to support a participatory and inclusive process for the finalization of Mexico's National REDD+ strategy (ENAREDD+).

Overall progress from 07/01/2013 to 03/31/2015 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Rating: Satisfactory

Comment:

Background: An Assessment note for a REDD+ Readiness project in Mexico had already been prepared in 2011. However, the operation never materialized: at that time, the nature and scope of REDD+ were not clearly defined and the CSO community was highly critical that REDD+, if not well designed, could adversely impacts vulnerable populations, including Indigenous peoples. Considering the risk associated to the FCPF operation too high, the Government of Mexico decided at some point not to sign the grant agreement. Over the last three years, the understanding of the REDD+ mechanism improved at the international level as well as in Mexico and the criticism from the CSO community drastically reduced. The dialogue on FCPF was re-initiated in May 2013, when CONAFOR renewed interest in the FCPF Readiness Grant.

Starting July 2013, the WB and CONAFOR teams have worked together to prepare a new Assessment note, acknowledging the advanced stage of its REDD+ Readiness process: the FCPF grant accordingly focuses on a subset of components as per the R-PP that were selected jointly with CONAFOR, taking into account the following criteria: (i) comparative advantage of the World Bank, (ii) financing of full set of activities (with no co-financing required that could jeopardize the achievement of the project objective), and (iii) complementarity with activities financed by other donors and government. As a result, the Grant Agreement for the FCPF operation on REDD+ Readiness was signed on March 19, 2014 by the World Bank and counter-signed on March 27, 2014 by the Government of Mexico. The Grant was then declared effective on July 7, 2014.

Since effectiveness, major progress has been made Grant Implementation:

1. Component 1: Organization and Consultation

1a. National Readiness Management Arrangements

The CONAFOR has demonstrated a high capacity to coordinate all efforts in terms of REDD+ at the national level. While the Unit of International Affairs leads the process, other units within CONAFOR as well as other public entities are highly involved in the process. In addition, CONAFOR has shown strong commitment for a participatory approach that will culminate with the national consultation on the REDD+ Strategy (during the second half 2015).

1b. Stakeholders Consultation and Participation

The consultation process on the National REDD+ Strategy is conducted in three phases: (i) Information & Dissemination, (ii) Consultation and (iii) Consolidation.

CONAFOR has finalized the first phase on Information & Dissemination, using many different media (virtual, physical) to ensure wide dissemination of basic information on REDD+ and allow for informed discussions during the Consultation phase. Through its national Program PROFOS (*Programa de Fomento a la Organización Social, Planeación y Desarrollo Regional Forestal*), CONAFOR supported 34 local NGOs to facilitate the diffusion on REDD+ (for a total of more than \$1 million). Selected NGOs received training through five introductory REDD+ courses for social organizations participating in the program, with 129 attendees who were trained in forests, climate change, REDD+, consultation on the Strategy, and in order to ensure consistent information, they all received an information package for dissemination.

In December 2014, CONAFOR convened an expert panel to finalize the plan for the second phase (consultation), which aims at a highly participatory and inclusive consultation process to reach an agreement on the national REDD+ strategy, with regard to the objective, lines of action and the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy.

The World Bank team considers the implementation of the informative phase as a best practice, particularly its inclusive and culturally-adapted approach. It encourages the FCPF team to disseminate this experience through the stakeholder platform.

2. Component 2: Development of the REDD+ Strategy, including the following sub-components:

Mexico has produced a fourth draft of the ENAREDD+, the Mexico's National REDD Strategy, which received a favorable assessment by key stakeholders through CONAF in February 2015. The final version of the REDD+ Strategy that will be submitted to public consultation during the second half of 2015 can be found at <http://www.enaredd.gob.mx/>. This second phase of the Consultation (outreach and dialogue with key stakeholders at national, state and local level) will be launched during the summer 2015. The proposed timeline is to have an approved National REDD+ Strategy by the end of the calendar year 2015.

The SESA report is under finalization and will be disseminated in May 2015: it will include a systematic review of the comments received so far from the various stakeholders, the final version of the Consultation Plan as well as the outcomes of the risk assessment of the strategic options conducted in December 2014.

CONAFOR is piloting Feedback and Grievance mechanisms at the local level in the Peninsula de Yucatan: particular attention is given to identifying and analyzing the existing gaps at the state level. The pilot focuses on indigenous peoples, women and other vulnerable groups and lessons learnt from the pilot would inform the methodology to be then replicated in other states. In particular, the current pilot aims at:

- identifying the existing feedback and grievance mechanisms used by state governments that can apply to REDD+ as well as challenges and opportunities for its implementation in this context.
- Strengthening the grievance mechanisms at the local level including: i) analysis of processes used by local communities, indigenous peoples and women to express and deliver complaints, feedback, etc., focusing on both inputs and outputs; ii) Analysis and recommendations of viable practices to strengthen local mechanisms in Early Action Areas; iii) Pilot in an Early Action Area and development of a methodology to replicate and improve the feedback and grievance mechanism at the local level, including a link to the national level MAC.

Overall progress from 07/01/2013 to 03/31/2015 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Rating: Satisfactory

Comment:

Since the Grant Agreement was declared effective on July 7, 2014, a lot of progress has been made in the implementation of the Readiness activities. It is worth noting that due to budgetary requirements, all the activities described above have been pre-financed by CONAFOR (for a total amount of disbursement of US\$1.15 million) and will be shortly reimbursed by the Bank.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant: This first grant consists of a preparation (Readiness) to potential future large-scale payment for Emission Reduction

Expected follow up (if any): Large-scale Emission Reduction Program (ER-Program)

Comment on follow up: Mexico has presented to the Carbon Fund Participants an Early Idea for Emission reduction Program (ER-PIN) at the jurisdictional level. This ER-PIN has been considered of good quality and Mexico has been selected in the Carbon Fund pipeline to prepare an ER Program that could generate carbon credits that the Carbon Fund would acquire. Such ER Program will also build on the on-going FIP investments in the Early Actions Areas for REDD+. Mexico has started the process of ER Program Document (ER-PD) preparation and plans to present the ER PD to the Carbon Fund in March 2016.

End Date of Last Site Visit: March 6, 2015

Restructuring of Grant: A reallocation of proceeds between 2 categories has just been completed, to respond to the higher than anticipated demand under the PROFOS program.

Activity Risk

Rating: Modest Risk (Original Risk Rating is Modest Risk)

Comment: The overall risk is rated Moderate.

REDD+ in Mexico benefits from CONAFOR's good capacity and commitment, and from well-established and well-perceived environmental and community forestry programs in most segments of society. However, the overall risk rating is driven up to Moderate by the risks associated with the perception that the future mechanism may not benefit -or even adversely impact- forest communities, including indigenous populations and other vulnerable groups (including women and youth). As indicated by several stakeholders, there is a risk that, if not carefully prepared, REDD+ may not deliver the expected outcomes and may in some cases aggravate existing circumstances of inequalities especially for indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups. Therefore, legitimate and effective stakeholder involvement has been made a priority under the FCPF grant.

Critical Issues and Pending Actions for Management Attention

There are currently no issues and actions for Management attention.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2013 to 03/31/2015

Grant Outcome Indicators

Grant outcome indicators are listed below.

1. A final version of ENAREDD+ reflects the comments and feedback from the various sectors and stakeholders.

Baseline Value: Final draft ENAREDD+ available
Date: 03/31/2014
Progress to Date: Final draft produced ready for full consultation (and Consultation Plan agreed with representative group of stakeholders)
Date: 03/31/2015
Target Value: All comments collected will be reflected in the final version of the ENAREDD+
Date: 12/30/2015

2. A technically strong ESMF has been finalized and validated by a broad range of stakeholders.

Baseline Value: No ESMF
Date: 03/31/2014
Progress to Date: The systematization of the analytical and participatory process in Mexico has been completed. The SESA report is under finalization: it will include a systematic review of the comments received so far from the various stakeholders, the final version of the Consultation Plan as well as the outcomes of the risk assessment of the strategic options conducted in December 2014. The Terms of Reference for the preparation of the ESMF is under finalization.
Date: 03/31/2015
Target Value: ESMF finalized
Date: 12/30/2015

3. A state-level comprehensive feedback and grievance mechanism for REDD+ is piloted in one Early Action Area.

Baseline Value: FGM only at national level
Date: 03/31/2014
Progress to Date: ToRs have been prepared and are being finalized.
Date: 01/30/2015
Target Value: state-level FGM piloted in one of the Early Action Areas
Date: 12/30/2015

COMPONENTS/OUTPUTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Organization and Consultation (FCPF amount: US\$2,558,000).

Implementation Rating:	Highly Satisfactory (considered as "best practice")
Status:	Under Implementation
Planned Output:	The FCPF grant would support the continuing dialogue and participative process with stakeholder groups, within and outside government
Actual Output:	First phase of the Consultation process has been finalized (incl. through dissemination campaign on REDD+ under the PROFOS program)

Development of the REDD Strategy. (FCPF amount: US\$1,242,000)

Implementation Rating:	Satisfactory
Status:	On going
Planned Output:	The FCPF grant builds on the many studies of drivers of deforestation and goes the extra-step in identifying how to set up incentive to properly tackle them: for instance, the forum on "Productive Landscapes in Mexico" was a platform for public entities (and particularly CONAFOR and SAGARPA) to strategically discuss the modalities of coordination at the territorial level: a roadmap has been established between CONAFOR and SAGARPA to join forces to promote a landscape approach, that can tackle the drivers of deforestation
Actual Output:	National REDD+ Strategy adopted, including an in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation,

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name:	P120417 - MX FCPF REDD Readiness
Project Status:	Lending
Global Focal Area:	Climate change
Product Line:	CN - Carbon Offset

Implementing agency and contact details

Agency:	CONAFOR
Contact:	Ana Karla Perea
Address:	Periférico Poniente #5360 Col. San Juan de Ocotán, Zapopan, Jalisco, C.P. 45019
Phone: +	52-33-3777-7000 ext 1710
Email:	aperea@conafor.gob.mx
Website:	www.conafor.gob.mx

Implementation performance ratings from 07/01/2013 to 03/31/2015 with regard to:

Project Management:	Satisfactory
Brief Comment:	The FCPF Readiness activities are implemented in a satisfactory manner. All activities related to consultation are considered "best practices" and Mexican experience should be showcased in FCPF platforms.

Financial Management:	Satisfactory
Brief Comment:	None
Counterpart Funding:	Highly Satisfactory
Brief Comment:	For budgetary reasons, withdrawal application will only be submitted beginning of 2015. Meanwhile, CONAFOR has financed all the activities that are implemented as planned
Procurement:	Satisfactory
Brief Comment:	None
Monitoring and Evaluation:	Satisfactory
Brief Comment:	None

Additional Comments on Implementation Performance:

Technical supervision missions have been conducted on a regular basis (May 2014, November 2014, and March 2015) and have all reported satisfactory progress.

PROGRAM

Program Specific Questions

1 .Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+-related initiatives, including those funded by others.

There is a very strong articulation of the FCPF activities with the other REDD+ related activities financed through other sources (FIP and IBRD) as well as other donors. CONAFOR has a very strong capacity to coordinate all the REDD+ related activities and seek synergies.

2 .Describe any important changes in the technical design or approach related to the Grant activities.

No change has been made: reallocation of proceeds between two disbursement categories has just been completed to respond to the higher than expected demand under the PROFOS program; this does not affect the implementation of all the activities planned under the grant agreement and enhance the participatory process for the consultation of the National Strategy.

3 .Describe progress in addressing key capacity issues (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this Grant.

No capacity gap was identified during preparation/implementation of the grant.

4 .Describe progress in addressing social and environmental issues (including safeguards) related to the Grant. Is the SESA conducted in accordance with the Common Approach?

Mexico has developed a sound SESA work plan that is currently under implementation.

5 .Is the ESMF prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?

Yes

6 .Describe progress in stakeholder consultation, participation and disclosure related to this Grant.

Consultation with key stakeholders has been on going on REDD+ for the last 4 years. The Consultation process now focuses on the latest version of the National REDD+ Strategy and is conducted through three phases (information & dissemination, Consultation and Consolidation). The approach developed by CONAFOR is considered "best practice".

6. Summary Statement of Request for Additional Funding to the FCPF

The FCPF readiness fund plays a fundamental role in the REDD+ readiness process, as it will be used to complete the ENAREDD+, develop national consultation, and pilot a grievance redress mechanism at state level. Through other funding sources, particularly the FIP, UN-REDD, and in partnership with the Government of Norway and the French Development Agency, progress has been made in consolidating the readiness process under other components not included in the FCPF.

Lessons learned as part of the readiness process as well as new guidelines internationally (especially under the Warsaw Framework), have identified additional requirements necessary to ensure strong and satisfactory progress in the period between readiness and implementation.

The additional funds (total of US\$ 5 Million) requested from the FCPF will be used to cover these additional needs identified, which are described below:

1. The institutionalization of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) to ensure sustainability in the long term (US\$ 2,970,000)

With support from Norway, a robust and transparent NFMS has been developed, technical capacities have been strengthened, and standardized protocols and tools have been established that have allowed the country to present the FREL and other reports such as the BUR and the FRA.

The NFMS has been developed according to the capacities and systems in Mexico. Setting it up has at all times been the responsibility of national institutions, coordinated by CONAFOR, and a system has been developed that is at one and the same time robust and sufficiently flexible that allows for continuous improvement. An example of this is that the current NFMS is able to monitor deforestation, and degradation will be integrated in the near future. Furthermore, in the medium term all REDD+ activities will be incorporated into the system, and in the long-term all carbon pools.

The institutionalization of the NFMS requires a series of actions that are being implemented gradually. An example is the National Inventory of Forests and Lands (INFyS) the implementation of which is stipulated in the General Law of Sustainable Forest Development in addition to which it falls under CONAFOR's portfolio. Moreover, there is the Law of the National System of Statistical and Geographical Information, which regulates the characteristics required for geographic information and official cartographic products of the country.

CONAFOR has also integrated the topics of monitoring, reporting and verification of REDD+ in official forest policy planning instruments, recognizing its responsibility to design and implement actions to comply with the mandate of the Law.

However, to ensure full institutionalization of the NFMS sustained efforts will still be required to address gaps in the law that require specific actions such as amendments of laws or the issuing of decrees, timelines associated with legislative procedures, and dealings with various actors. In the short and medium term the skills developed to date must be maintained and a "brain drain or migration of highly qualified personnel"—a practice that is common in Mexico—avoided, while at the same time progress is being made in juridical and legal issues to ensure the institutionalization of the system.

2. Consolidate the intervention model and institutional arrangements for implementing the ENAREDD+ (US\$ 2,032,000)

Once ENAREDD+ has been published, it will be necessary to strengthen the readiness process, extending it to other states in the country and consolidating the intervention model prior to implementation nationwide.

One of the main activities identified refers to strengthening of the institutional arrangements for national readiness, especially with institutions outside the environmental sector. It should be noted that although significant progress has been made at the national level in the establishment of institutional arrangements, the next step seeks to “operationalize” the institutional arrangements, so that they are translated into concrete actions at the territorial level to deal with the causes of deforestation and degradation.

Another of the activities that have been identified as priority is consolidation of the intervention model, taking into account that REDD+ has been implemented under a process of continuous improvement and that currently lessons have been learned in ATREDD+. This will enable areas of opportunity to be identified and the necessary adjustments made to the previous model prior to implementation of ENAREDD+ in order to ensure sustainability in the long term and ensure that the model has significant impacts on reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation.

Given that the intervention model envisages its application in the states, taking into account the different contexts and conditions that exist nationwide, there is a need to identify the individual models for each state. To this end, work will continue in a number of priority states in developing their state strategies linked to the national process.

On the other hand, there are actions that have been piloted at the state level that it will be necessary to scale up for national implementation, as in the case of the grievance redress mechanism for REDD+ which is aimed at identifying the specific needs of indigenous peoples, women, and vulnerable groups.

