



FCPF Facility Management Team

**Colombia Revised R-PP version September 30, 2013**

## Completeness Check by FMT

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Colombia submitted a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the Facility Management Team (FMT) on September 30, 2011, which was reviewed by a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), a working group consisting of Participants Committee (PC) members established for this purpose, and the World Bank;

The PC reviewed the R-PP in accordance with Section 11.1 (b) of the Charter Establishing the FCPF (Charter) at its tenth meeting held on October 17-19, 2011 in Berlin, Germany; and delivered Resolution PC/10/2011/3 acknowledging the extensive efforts made by Colombia throughout the participatory formulation process, and the high quality of the R-PP.

The PC noted that the R-PP formulation process to date has been a positive one, and that the R-PP offers good opportunities for other REDD countries to learn from Colombia's experience. The PC therefore decided to allocate funding to Colombia to enable it to move ahead with the preparation for readiness.

For this purpose, the PC requested:

- i. Colombia to submit a revised R-PP (Revised R-PP) to the FMT, reflecting the key issues in the summary report included in the annex of Resolution PC/10/2011/3;
- ii. The FMT to check on the Revised R-PP for completeness, make it available on the FCPF website and notify the PC of its availability;

### **Key Issues**

The following are the key issues that Colombia addressed to entering into a Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement with the Trustee of the Readiness Fund.

- 1. The revised R-PP will include a reference to the need for a monitoring approach that ensures the participation of relevant local stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Colombian Communities, and Campesino communities, among other stakeholders;**

The revised R-PP now includes a detailed section on the monitoring and evaluation framework: "Design of national forest monitoring and safeguard information system" (component 4 of R-PP, p. 147 following).

In this section, on p. 164, the R-PP clarifies that communication tools and information dissemination strategies will be developed to facilitate access to information on deforestation (quantitative

information and early alerts), degradation and carbon content. Improved access to information on forest related matters provides a basis for meaningful and informed community participation in monitoring the implementation of the REDD+ strategy.

Section 4.a.6 (pp. 164/165) on community participation in the Monitoring, Reporting and Carbon Verification System (SMBYC, in Spanish acronyms) emphasizes that participating in monitoring of REDD+ activities also motivates local communities to support sustainable forest practices in their communities. The R-PP puts an emphasis on the importance of community participation in the monitoring process, the need for strong accountability mechanisms and the contribution of participatory monitoring and accountability to better forest governance. The R-PP also points out that verification of the maps on historic deforestation, as well as of early diagnoses on deforestation drivers will be carried out in close collaboration with environmental authorities, academia, and local communities. Finally, it mentions that project monitoring will be led by the respective project developers and by local communities.

In Section 4.a.6.3 (p. 165) the revised R-PP explains that a strategy for capacity building for effective participation of a broad range of stakeholders in the design of the MRV system will be developed. These capacity building efforts will be linked to the SESA monitoring process. Furthermore, the capacity building strategy will be aligned with and build on existing climate change adaptation and mitigation programs supported by ONF Andina and IDB-COICA-OPIAC and their respective capacity building components.

**Completeness is confirmed for issue number 1 in Resolution PC/10/2011/3.**

## **2. The revised R-PP will include a strengthened analysis of the current land tenure situation in forest areas;**

The revised R-PP now includes a detailed analysis of land tenure (section 2.a.3. Analysis of the Land Tenure Problematic, p. 81-84). This section describes land distribution in Colombia as highly unequal with concentration of land ownership among the highest in the world. The R-PP explains that this inequality can be traced back to land distribution in colonial times and has worsened as a consequence of the internal armed conflict. This problem is also accompanied by a discrepancy between current land use and potential land use, given that according to analyses cited in the R-PP, 37.4 Million ha are being used inappropriately and do not correspond to their agro-ecological conditions, 17.8 Million ha are underused, and 19.6 Million ha are overused. This creates pressure to expand the agricultural frontier to currently forested lands. Furthermore, many Colombians became victims of land grabbing and internal displacement. Approximately 1.2 Million to 10 Million ha of agricultural land have been affected by land grabbing and are currently undergoing restitution. The revised R-PP emphasizes that given these complexities, land tenure is a priority area for the SESA process in order to avoid the REDD+ programs contributing to further increase in land inequality, and rather contribute to a more equal access to this resource.

The R-PP discusses the phenomena of land informality (section 2.a.3.2), which is of significant magnitude and adds further complexity to the land tenure situation in the country. Lacking title or outdated title information is oftentimes the source of problems regarding access to credit.

The revised R-PP also includes a section on land tenure in forest areas (section 2.a.3.3). It clarifies that Colombia's forest areas are divided into Forest Reserves (34.8 Mio ha in total, with 18 Mio being Indigenous *resguardos*), National Parks (9.3 Mio ha in total with 3.4 Mio ha being Indigenous *resguardos*), Peasant Farmer Reserves (500,999 ha in) and undefined used forest area (16 Mio ha with 4.8 Mio ha being Indigenous *resguardos*). The indigenous *resguardo* system is based on collective property title of the land that recognizes the role of the traditional indigenous management system for the conservation of their territory and people specific legislation for the management of their internal matters.

The R-PP discusses land tenure in National Parks (section 2.a.3.3), in Forest Reserves (2.a.3.4), and in Peasant Farmer Reserves (section 2.a.3.5).

With respect to National Parks, the R-PP discusses in detail the phenomena of overlaps between Indigenous *resguardos* and National Parks that create some ambiguities with regards to access, rights to use and control of natural resources. These overlaps require a specific management regime and special attention when designing REDD+ benefit sharing mechanisms.

The R-PP mentions that the Law 70 on National Parks recognizes the presence of Afro-Colombian communities and other poor communities in the National Parks. However, Afro-Colombian communities also face limitations regarding the use of and control over natural resources within the boundaries of National Parks. The R-PP mentions that the REDD mechanism will contribute to clarifying communal land use rights.

With regards to Forest Reserves, there is no overlap in land ownership between the State and the communities, as the Law on Forest Reserves establishes a management regime (protected area). All forms of tenure (*resguardos*, collective territories, communities, private ownership, National Parks) are compatible with this regime. In case the land owner wishes to develop the forest area differently as defined under the Law, the area has to be removed from the status as protected area.

With regards to Peasant Farmer Reserves, these are lands distributed to small farmers by the State in the course of the Agrarian reform for agro-forestry or forestry use. These are private lands, and registered as such, but embedded in a collective sustainable land use effort.

Finally, the R-PP explains that the Agrarian Reform Law of 1994 establishes that forest cover (outside of National Parks and Forest Reserves) qualifies as a land category based on which land tenure can be established. Yet, in many communities the understanding prevails that the State grants title only to lands converted to arable lands. The R-PP recognizes the need for awareness building in this regard.

It can be concluded that the revised R-PP includes a detailed analysis of different land tenure regimes in forested areas and their inherent complexities and challenges in the context of the REDD process.

**Completeness is confirmed for issue number 2 in Resolution PC/10/2011/3.**

**3. The revised R-PP will explore measures to protect the integrity of collective and ancestral territories from possible negative impacts associated with early REDD+ initiatives; and**

The revised R-PP (section 1.b.4.2) includes inputs and proposals made during the workshops with representatives of Indigenous communities, Afro-Colombian communities, and peasant farmer associations held as part of the SESA process. The R-PP lists the concerns that these different stakeholders voiced during these meetings, many of them related to the importance of protecting the integrity of their territories from possible negative impacts (p.50-54). The proposals made by consultation participants include ensuring the coherence between the REDD+ strategy/ REDD initiatives and projects to promote the establishment of indigenous territories, respecting collective land titles and degrees of autonomy granted to indigenous and local communities over their territories, recognition of ancestral rights, promotion of initiatives that strengthen capacity and REDD+ related knowledge and information of the communities and their organizations, promotion of technical and political capacity and access to information in order for representatives of IP, Afro-Colombian communities and peasant farmer associations to participate in decision making processes regarding the REDD+ Strategy, recognition of property rights over natural resources and benefits derived from services provided by Indigenous and autochthonous communities on their lands, proper safeguard instruments, among others.

Indigenous communities, Afro-Colombian communities and peasant farmer associations are also represented in the REDD+ Roundtable (Mesa REDD+) to ensure that their interests can be voiced and measures to protect the integrity of their territories can be explored and proposed during the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.

In section 1.a.3 (p.22), the R-PP describes the establishment of the Grievance Redress Mechanism, which will be funded with US\$ 200,000. This mechanism will handle any request, feedback, or complaint during the Readiness and implementation phases. It will help identify any problems or concerns, which can include concerns over protection of and integrity of collective territories. The mechanism will also facilitate resolution of queries and grievances from affected communities or stakeholders related to REDD+ activities, policies or programs at the level of the community or country. In coordination between the MADS, the Ministry of the Interior and the Office of the Peoples' Advocate, follow up will be given to the specific cases that represent a grievance or complaint. Finally, the data generated through the feedback mechanism will help to continuously improve and/ or adjust the program to communities' needs.

Furthermore, the strategy for early communication about REDD+ (subcomponent 1c) includeNov's attention to opportunities and risks that can arise in the voluntary carbon market, the National Government's progress around implementation of the REDD+ strategy and early implementation activities. The strategy includes information process and capacity building programs for a number of groups (including representative of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Colombian Communities, governmental and non-governmental institutions, and media) and through different media outlets such as radio, television, internet, and print media.

In section 2.c.1 (p. 104) the R-PP outlines the priority measures for implementation of the National REDD+ strategy. These include above mentioned communication strategy, development of a GRM and capacity building initiatives, as well as the establishment of an inventory of early REDD+ activities that are being developed and implemented in the country. This inventory will also generate important information on the potential impact of REDD+ activities on collective territories, and ways to address them.

Finally, it is important to mention that the social and environmental safeguards framework is central for the National REDD+ Strategy. The system to monitor that social issues are managed is based, inter alia, on the country's compliance with international obligations such as the ILO Convention 169, which includes the protection of collective property rights.

In summary, the revised R-PP version sufficiently explores measures to detect and address possible negative impacts associated with early REDD+ initiatives on collective and ancestral territories.

**Completeness is confirmed for issue number 3 in Resolution PC/10/2011/3.**

**4. The revised R-PP will include a revised budget, taking into account the adjustments made to the R-PP pursuant to paragraph 2 d of this resolution above.**

The R-PP includes a detailed budget (section 5.b, p. 177 following). Table 5b-2 on page 178 includes a line item of the adjustments to the R-PP taking into account contributions by national and international institutions and processes with a total budget of US\$ 75,000 (US\$ 35,000 for 2012 and US\$ 40,000 for 2013).

**Completeness is confirmed for issue 4 in Resolution PC/10/2011/3.**

Washington; November 7, 2013