

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: COLOMBIA

PC15 June, 2013

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- After a careful preparation process including systematic outreach to important stakeholder groups, especially Indigenous Peoples, R-PP was positively assessed by FCPF PC at PC10 (October, 2011) acknowledging the high quality and the responsiveness in seeking and integrating the input from civil society and Indigenous Peoples into the document.
- Due diligence missions were carried in January, March, April and June 2012 and in February 2013 to look into early dialogue and participation activities carried out so far with key stakeholders at the national and regional levels, including Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Colombian Communities, and *Campesino* communities. Other issues were identified in regards to land tenure and land rights, institutional arrangements, consultations, benefit sharing, drivers of deforestation, MRV and SESA as well as the implications of voluntary carbon projects. Agreements of due diligence includes dissemination of R-PP, SESA roadmap and communications strategy; advisory of Ministry of Interior about role and participation of Afro-Colombian representatives; planning and development of SESA workshops in Pacific and Amazon regions; R-PP updating based on comments of WB, TAP, PC and stakeholders; create an institutional platform to maintain a systematic interministerial dialogue; and hire a communication and a social experts to enhance REDD+ preparation.
- An updated R-PP (Version 7.0) has been broadly disseminated on April 19th, 2013 incorporating latest comments received from a broad range of stakeholder groups as a result of early dialogue and information dissemination activities.
- Version 7.0 was presented and discussed at a national workshop on May 9 and 10, 2013, with broad participation from national and regional government institutions, and various organizations from civil society, indigenous peoples, peasant's communities, Afro-Colombians, private sector, and NGOs. Comments received during this workshop were addressed in version 7.1 of the R-PP, which was submitted to the Secretariat as part of the documentation to be considered by the UN-REDD Programme's Policy Board that will be on June 25 and 28. The document was available for public comments between May 14th and July 5th at the Ministry's REDD portal.
- Colombia will submit a revised R-PP to the FMT, reflecting the key issues in the summary report prepared by the FMT and included in the annex to the resolution PC/10/2011/3, in order to receive the completeness check.
- Colombia successfully hosted CF 5 and PC12 in Santa Marta, in June 2012.
- Workshop with Afro-Colombian organizations (February 20th and March 14th) to discuss adjustment to comments of the R-PP.
- Workshop with Amazonian indigenous round table hosted in Bogota, May 6 and 8 to discuss future activities related readiness process.
- Communicators for Pacific and Amazon regions and a professional for support activities related SESA have been hired via funding from GIZ.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- The Colombian government will implement four strategies in relation to Climate Change: i) mitigating future GHG ("Colombian Strategy for Low Carbon Development"), ii) as a subset of this the "National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (REDD+)", iii) implement the "National Climate Change Adaptation Plan" and iv) a Financial Protection Strategy against climate related Disasters.
- The REDD+ National Board (Mesa Nacional REDD+) will coordinate at a technical level the National REDD+ Strategy. This group will include, in addition to the environment, agriculture and planning ministries, also the

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Ministry of Interior. The REDD+ Board will be part of the National Climate Change System, whose decree is in the process of being finished.

- The REDD+ National Board will be supported by a series of advisory groups whose role is to help prepare decisions from technical, social, environmental, regional and economic perspectives. It is in these advisory groups that Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Colombian communities and campesino communities will have their seat and representation.
- 9 Regional Climate Change Nodes will work as regional platforms for REDD+ readiness at the sub-national level, in accordance with the nested and phased approach Colombia is pursuing. The interfaces between national, sub-national and local levels are currently being revised. Institutional responsibility REDD+ at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) is in head of the Directorate for Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, with support from the Directorate of Climate Change. The FCPF affairs are managed in conjunction with the Office of International Affairs. In the last months, the Office of Communications, Office of Legal Counsel and Subdirectorate of Education and Participation are involved in the process of REDD+ strategy. Colombia has advanced at formalizing the institutional arrangements by drafting a decree for the CONPES 3700. On July 26, 20th national government in head of National Planning Department decided to coordinate efforts among the four national strategies in climate change to coordinate actions with different sectors as team, avoiding individual and disarticulated proposals.
- Ruben Guerrero is the FCPF focal point and coordinator of all REDD+ National Strategy related activities on behalf of the MADS.
- Colombia submitted on May 14th to the Secretariat documentation to be considered by the UN-REDD Programme's Policy Board meeting in Lombok (Indonesia) that will be on June 25 and 28.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- Colombia as a country of very high cultural diversity has made substantial progress on early information sharing with a wide group of stakeholders.
- Information dissemination and outreach efforts have been carried out with Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon region, Afro descendant communities in the Pacific and *campesino* associations as a way to facilitate participation and prepare stakeholders for a future consultation process. Currently, more in-depth consultations are being carried out with Afro-Colombian communities, especially in the Pacific region.
- A set of Communication materials were produced and a working group was established to continue the development of a REDD+ communications strategy.
- A more systematic approach to communication about SESA is being implemented which will help to socialize the specificities of this methodology.
- Information sessions with journalists have been carried out.
- On June 22, 2012, a national dialogue between FCPF, CSO's including indigenous peoples, afrocolombian and *campesino* representatives, and the MADS was held in Bogota.
- Participants of Afro-Colombian communities attended the PC meeting held in Santa Marta, on June 2012, and reinforced their own proposal to open a chair for afrodescendant communities to participate as observers in PC, although they recognize the limitations to gain these space considering the PC charter.
- Indigenous peoples from Amazon region, OPIAC (Organization of Indigenous Peoples of Colombian Amazonia) and MADS create the Amazon Indigenous Roundtable on Environment and Climate Change (MIAACC). To date, 6 meetings had been developed to define a common work plan, and discuss SESA roadmap, communication

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strategy, R-PP and draft resolution to register early REDD initiatives.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- The R-PP presents an assessment of major land use trends, direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors, and major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues. The main drivers of deforestation and degradation (Extension of agricultural and livestock frontier, Illicit crops, Settlement / displacement of populations, Infrastructure, Mining, among others) are analyzed.
- To reduce the current deforestation rate of approx. 335,000 ha per year, the R-PP proposes a multi-sectorial, inter-institutional approach to each set of drivers, the reduction of perverse incentives, increase of overall policy coherence between sectors, and a nested approach: step by step the REDD strategy will cover an increasing number of departments and regions.
- Colombia's strategy is designed to address the specific drivers identified and then summarized to allow for effective stakeholder inputs.

5. Implementation Framework

- In light of uncontrolled activities by certain project developers, the country will generate an implementation framework suitable for REDD+ activities by establishing a clear regulatory framework in relation to the requirements that must be met by the stakeholders who wish to participate both in future mechanisms (markets or funds). At date, the MADS has a draft of guidelines to developers to ensure articulation of individual projects to national strategy, including technical and legal issues.
- The government will propose within one year a transitional legislation including minimum requirements to develop REDD+ activities in the country, the obligation to conduct a national registry including voluntary projects to avoid double counting, a regulation for prior consultation for REDD+ activities. Now, IDEAM has a platform to register projects, but is still in test.
- Colombia has drafted a proposal for resolution to create a registry of voluntary carbon projects that were submitted to a public consult from stakeholders on June 2012. The technical and legal analysis of comments received allowed to conclude that the MADS need to define the REDD cycle project and clarify institutional framework at each phase, before regulate REDD projects. Additionally, MADS decided to continue a census of early demonstrative initiatives.
- In order to prevent irregular contracts or arrangements between local communities and project developers, the MADS will produce a press release to inform some precautions and recommendations to be followed by regional environmental authorities, communities and society in general.

6. SESA

- Due Diligence Missions took place in January, March and April 2012, and in February 2013 which identified important steps towards SESA preparations and presented recommendations, inter alia on addressing outreach activities to a broad range of stakeholders, including Afro-Colombian communities, indigenous peoples, *campesino* communities as well as regional governments and NGOs. Colombian government made activities of dissemination and updating of documents (R-PP, SESA roadmap and communication strategy), received the advisory of Ministry of Interior to define representatives of afrocolombian communities to participate in national strategy, developed a journalist workshop and upload REDD strategy's information on MADS web page. Nevertheless, the MADS request to WB a renegotiation of due diligence agreements pointing the difficulty to achieve that, without enough financial resources and with a high dependence of NGO's cooperation. WB

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announced that a due diligence mission can be realized on November 2012.

- Colombia has prepared a SESA Roadmap detailing 5 regional (Pacific, Amazon, Andean, Antioquia and Caribbean) and 1 national SESA workshops, including the format and the identification of stakeholder groups. The first draft of the SESA Roadmap was disseminated on June 12th, 2012 to a broad range of stakeholder groups.
- The regions prioritized are of Pacific and Amazon, where an estimated 80% of forests are located. In both regions, there will be sub-regional workshops to inform and discuss key aspects related with safeguards and participation mechanisms, and after that it will be the regional workshop.
- Colombia is organizing a series of information dissemination workshops with Afro-Colombian communities in the Pacific Region in the departments of Chocó (June), Nariño (September), Cauca and Valle del Cauca. Additional workshop with afrocolombian women's group (August) is done and workshops with indigenous peoples, governmental, academy, research institutes, private sector and NGOs are planned until the end of , 2012.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- Climate Focus and Winrock International have begun to work on a two year project funded by the German Environmental Ministry's International Climate Initiative to pilot nested REDD+ accounting in Colombia. The project will help Colombia develop a national REDD+ register, support national and local governments to develop and test jurisdictional reference levels (RLs), and support the policy and legal framework for REDD+.
- **Responding to the nested implementation approach, R-PP proposes to develop protocols and regional reference scenarios and protocols first. As a second step, the country will develop criteria to harmonize the regional reference scenarios to enable the subsequent development of the national baseline.** Currently, the IDEAM, MADS and National Natural Parks are testing in a pilot area in the northern part of the Colombian Amazon, with support of Norway government. The next steps in the next year including advance for:
 - Develop technical protocols for building regional reference levels for Colombia.
 - Build regional reference level for the pilot area.
 - Test spatial econometric models to identify deforestation projections at sub-national level.
 - Developing project emission trend scenarios for the pilot area.

In the middle-long time the next step includes:

- Building the regional reference levels for the country, focus on the Amazon and the Pacific regions.
- Developing project emission trend scenarios for each region.
- Building a national accounting system.

8. MRV

- The strategy will implement a national monitoring system with regional and local accounting that will ensure consistency among the different levels and will ultimately lead to a national monitoring and accounting system.
- Colombia presents a technical proposal for deforestation and carbon monitoring system based on digital image processing with a multi-level hierarchical approach that combines the diverse capabilities of optical sensors, radar and laser, integrated with the forest field data available.
- Co-benefits will be monitored based on future work of the National Bureau of Statistics (DANE) for social and socio-economic indicators and of *Instituto Alexander von Humboldt* for the environmental and biodiversity related indicators.
- The monitoring system should have links to inform other socioeconomic and environmental variables but not

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to be handed out separately. This bullet should be excluded until further internal discussions are made.

- The country has benefited from the outputs including protocols and deforestation data generated by the IDEAM under the project “Scientific and Institutional capacity building to support REDD projects in *Colombia*” with the support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Currently, the IDEAM in coordination with the MADS are developing the second phase for this project, the next steps in the middle time including advance for:
 - Articulate a technical framework for the implementation of Deforestation and Carbon Monitoring System for Colombia, involving the participation of key actors and roles that support this implementation.
 - Propose a technical framework for the system operation.
 - Develop a proposal to incorporate forest degradation monitoring into the monitoring system.
 - Continue the deforestation and carbon stock monitoring at the national level (Coarse and fine resolution scales). Including the Design and test an early warning deforestation strategy at the national level (Coarse scale improved).
 - Analysis of a financial cost and institutional arrangements needed to guarantee the permanency of a system.

9. Other

- In order to identify the development of a REDD+ Early Movers –REM Program, Colombia received on May 20 to 24, a mission composed of Germany, Norway and the UK.
- Government of Colombia support implementation of Global_A_REDD+ Funds Tracking Capacity Building for REDD+ Funds Tracking “REDD+ Expenditures Tracking” Project funded by ICI.
- Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC) Program of USAID, whit WWF launched Project “Defining of a national scheme of safeguards for REDD +”, as part of the Participatory Construction of the REDD+ National Strategy.
- International Development Law Organization (IDLO) with Center for Sustainable Development Studies- CEID, are readying the beginning Legal preparation to effective REDD + National Strategy in Colombia Program.
- Colombia hosted PC 12 on June 27 - 29 June, 2012 in Santa Marta, Hotel Santamar. A pre-PC workshop on 26 and a series of back to back meetings took place at the same venue: June 24 – 25 Meeting of the Carbon Fund participants; July 1 – 2, 2012 Meeting of the REDD+ Partnership.
- Germany is carry out, as agreed earlier, to support the remaining activities of outreach, dissemination and early dialogue, and the communication strategy designed to conclude the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) leading to the formulation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). These activities are part of the agreements of due diligence.