

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: Guatemala

DRAFT May, 2013

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- R-PP was positively assessed by FCPF PC at PC11 (March, 2012). The PC acknowledged that the R-PP formulation process has been a positive one, and encouraged Guatemala to continue its extensive efforts to involve stakeholders in R-PP formulation and Readiness preparation.
- Guatemala has chosen the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as a Delivery Partner. Negotiations on the Transfer Agreement to be signed between the World Bank, as the Trustee of the FCPF, and IDB have been completed and the agreement was signed in October, 2012.
- Signature of the grant agreement between Guatemala and IDB is expected by June 2013.
- The R-PP revision (version 6) was finalized in March, 2013. The FMT performed and approved the completeness check.
- The government has advanced in the administrative process with Ministry of Finance and Secretary of Planning to sign the agreement.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- The Inter-institutional Coordination Group (Grupo de Coordinación Interinstitucional, GCI) has been reactivated. The group is comprised of MARN, INAB, CONAP and MAGA, and it has a political decision making role for the strategy development. It also includes a technical group (GCI Técnico) for the operative work on the FCPF budget, implementation framework, safeguards committee, and other topics.
- The Grupo de Bosques Biodiversidad y Cambio Climático –GBBCC- has developed a workshop to review the new version of RPP with TAP observation. MARN realized recently an opening call for new member for this group.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- The GCI has formed a safeguards committee through a participative process with different stakeholders (indigenous peoples, academia, private sector, civil society and NGOs). The safeguards committee is coordinating the process of developing a national safeguard system for the REDD+ strategy. The committee is expected to have an important role in the consultation process of the FCPF. Several training workshops are being developed through the support of IDB, the REDD+ initiative, SES, among others.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- The REDD+ strategy development will start in the R-PP implementation phase. There are currently some studies and analysis on the drivers of deforestation that will provide inputs for the strategy development, but no studies that are specifically geared towards the strategy development are being carried out.

5. Implementation Framework

- The government, through actors such as INAB and CONAP, is starting the development of some activities that will

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serve as the basis for the work on the implementation framework. Recently, the government has approved a law on forest incentives for small land holders (Ley de Incentivos Forestales para Pequeños Poseedores), which establishes a contribution of USD 20 million per year for direct activities of conservation and forest management. CONAP is also progressing with the design of pilot areas for REDD+ in protected areas in the reference region of Tierras Bajas del Norte (see section 7). These preliminary activities are expected to generate experiences that can be up-scaled to national level.

6. SESA

- There are some advances in conceptual capacity building of diverse actors (indigenous peoples, private sector, government, NGOs, civil society). These actors would be participating in the development of the SESA in the framework of the national system for social and environmental safeguards for REDD+.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- The government has established a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification group (Grupo MRV), comprised of representatives of the government (CONAP, INAB, MAGA, MARN) and the academia (Universidad Rafael Landivar, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala). The group has led the proposal for the development of the reference scenarios with a subnational focus. Currently the emission baseline of the first subnational reference region (Tierras Bajas del Norte) has been finalized, and the prioritization of the next subnational regions is being discussed. The group has also advanced in the development of forest cover dynamics maps for the past 10 years, which will be used as a basis for modeling future deforestation. The MARN is promoting capacity building with VCS standards for Jurisdictional Approach, as a tool to implement nested projects in Tierras Bajas del Norte reference area.
- Two new donors will be working in new areas for reference scenarios (USAID, GEF/PNUD), they are coordinate by MRV group and GCI.

8. MRV

- The MRV group is coordinating the prioritization of activities for developing the MRV system. Currently the group is discussing the additional financing being offered by some donors, in order to ensure that it will complement the MRV activities established in the R-PP.

9. Other

- The GCI is promoting the coordination of other sources of financing that are contributing to the REDD+ readiness process. Discussions have started with USAID, GIZ and UNDP, who are implementing or designing programs with activities on REDD+. The objective is to complement the financing of the activities described in the R-PP in order to achieve a consistent and coherent national process. USAID has approved recently a program, which will be supporting several complementary activities in the RPP, they have prioritized the activities agree with GCI.

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