



Technical Assessment of the Final ER-PD of Costa Rica

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Date of Final version ER-PD, Costa Rica: 24th of May 2016.

TAP:

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themes

- General Approach of the Review
- Summary comments
 - Level of Ambition
 - Carbon Accounting
 - Safeguards
 - Sustainable Program Design and Implementation
 - ER-PD Transactions
- Final comments

General approach

- First revision of 1st draft of version 1
- Country visit
- Revision of 2nd draft of version 1
- Country visit to review proposal of reference scenario
- Revision of version 2, few adjustments to safeguards
- Final review

Summary Comments

- Costa Rica has prepared a solid ER-PD document that can lead to a very interesting REDD+ program. Costa Rica has done a very good job of putting together an impressive amount of information, both in the ER-PD and in the various annexes provided to the TAP.
- The ER-PD is envisioned as part of an ongoing process to improve the control of emissions and removals through novel programs that are implemented gradually and to improve the information required to monitor the impact of the programs.
- Costa Rica intends to continue its national Forest Development Plan 2011-2020, as a follow-up of the very successful national forest development program 2001-2010. This early success puts a high constraint on Costa Rica in terms of establishing a Forest Reference Level against which the outcome of the program will be measured.

Level of Ambition

- Costa Rica intends to continue its national Forest Development Plan 2011-2020, as a follow-up of the very successful national forest development program 2001-2010. With this program, Costa Rica managed to convert part of the forestry sector from a very important source of GHG emissions during the 1980s and 1990s due to high deforestation rates, to an essentially CO₂-neutral sector from 2001 onward, thanks to a decrease in deforestation rates and an increase in the category “new forests”.
- Applying the criteria and indicators of the methodological framework, Costa Rica shows tangible emission reductions through further decreasing deforestation and increasing reforestation. As a whole, the program can be considered very ambitious, as it is designed on a national scale.

Ambition	No Ind
Yes	3

Carbon Accounting

- The ER-Program accounts for emission reductions from deforestation and stock enhancement in “**New Forests**”. It does not include a reference scenario and potential reductions from **forest degradation**, nor **stock changes from sustainable forest management**.

Carbon Accounting	No Ind
Yes	30
No	3
N.A.	9

Safeguards

- The safeguards triggered in the ER-PD respond to the needs identified for the program. There is also alignment with the categorization of the environmental impact assessment.
- At this moment a national carbon registry and/or **Data Management System** doesn't exist that include a harmonized methodological procedure to distinguish between the different Data Management Systems (CERs, PES, others; indicator 23), however this indicator may be part of Data Management.

Safeguards	No Ind
Yes	6
No	1
NA	1

Sustainable Program Design and Implementation

- There is a relationship between drivers and proposed measures, although the format is complicated due to a very extensive action plan without references to the drivers.
- It is suggested to clarify **when and how stakeholders will be informed of non-carbon benefits.**

Sustainable Program Design	No Ind
Yes	9
No	1
N.A.	4

ER-PD Transactions

- Costa Rica has an excellent track record of experience with Data Management Platforms of its national programs
- However, none of the data management platforms fulfills the requirements of a **carbon credit registry**, as referred to in the methodological framework, as they do not contemplate a harmonized management and registry of all the national Programs (REDD+ Programs)

ER-PD Transactions	No Ind
Yes	4
No	4
N.A.	3

SUMMARY SCORE and overall comment

- The general idea of the ER-PD is interesting and proposes novel ideas of how to develop a national REDD+ program. The ER-PD is envisioned to be part of an overall REDD+ program, and it builds on already existing very successful programs and strategies.

Total	No Ind.
Yes	52
No	9
NA	17



Thanks