

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: MEXICO

March 2012

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

The R-PP was assessed by FCPF PC at PC5 (March 2010), and Readiness Preparation Grant funding was authorized by PC. Revisions requested by the PC were made in the R-PP. The world Bank team provided comments on the R-PP on two occasions, and conducted its due diligence mission in May 2011, with the participation of BIC as observer. Aide-memoire and field trip report are posted online. The final R-PP was issued in May. First national multistakeholder SESA workshop held on May 12-13. R-PP Assessment Note was prepared, and Preparation Grant was approved by Bank management (3.6 million). Lawyers from the World Bank and from the government of Mexico are reviewing the legal agreement in order to sign it as soon as possible.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

REDD+ Working Group (GT- REDD+) has been formed under the Inter-institutional Commission for Climate Change (CICC). A multi-stakeholder technical advisory committee (*Comite Técnico Consultivo* or CTC-REDD+), including civil society, has been created and appointed as advisory body for the GT-REDD+. The CTC includes representatives of governmental institutions (forestry and non-forestry), NGOs, indigenous peoples, forest community-based organizations, the academic sector, and financial institutions. The CTC-REDD+ elected a new president in the first meeting of 2011 (February 15th). The CTC-REDD meets regularly (in 2011: February, March, June) to discuss the preparation of the national REDD strategy and other related programs. In addition, an internal REDD+ working group was established within CONAFOR. Collaborations being established with related government agencies including SAGARPA (Agriculture) and CDI (Indigenous Peoples). During 2012, the Mexican government will keep working with the CTC-REDD+ in building the National REDD+ strategy draft for consultation.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

At national level, a series of meetings with a wide-range of representatives from key stakeholder groups (NGOs, ejidos and communities, private sector and academia) have been organized through the CTC-REDD since 2008, which was institutionally formalized on May 13, 2010. Most recently, CONAFOR carried out a regional SESA workshop in Bacalar, Quintana Roo (April 9, 2011) and a National SESA Workshop in Mexico City (May 12-13) with the objective to further inform key stakeholders about the design of a national REDD+ strategy and carry out an initial issue scoping exercise with key stakeholder groups. These two workshops provided stakeholders with an opportunity to provide CONAFOR with a overview of the specific issues and concerns that affect them in order to be considered during the readiness phase. Looking forward, CONAFOR intends to build upon and strengthen the national CTC-REDD, support the creation of local CTC in priority regions, develop the collaboration with CDI (*Comision Nacional de Pueblos Indigenas*), and conduct extensive dissemination and consultation activities, especially for local communities in the REDD priority regions to inform them on the proposal for a REDD+ strategy in Mexico and seek their meaningful participation throughout the readiness preparation phase. During 2012, the Mexican government will carry out dissemination and communication efforts in order to prepare the road for the National REDD+ Strategy consultation process, planned to take place in 2013 or as soon the draft for consultation is ready.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

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Vision: To promote REDD+ in the wider context of sustainable rural development, seeking to create policy synergies with non-forest policies and to strengthen governance at the sub-national and local levels. The document of Mexico's Vision for REDD+ was presented by President Calderón at COP 16 in Cancun. An important landmark of this presentation is that the Ministry of Agriculture endorsed the document, as well as it was ratified by the Inter-ministerial Commission for Sustainable Rural Development (CIDRS, in Spanish). The goal for 2011 and 2012 is to develop the National REDD+ Strategy through a participatory process, involving relevant stakeholders, including those in the CTC-REDD+. This process will be conducted along the lines set in the Vision. Several REDD+ priority regions are planned to design and test REDD programs and institutional arrangements at sub-national levels and to advance methods on MRV at a multi-scale level. The REDD Strategy is one of several pieces of the overarching National CC Mitigation Strategy. In 2012, Conafor will keep leading the National REDD+ Strategy development within the framework of the CTC-REDD+, the CICC and the CIDRS.

5. Implementation Framework

Mexico is undergoing a process for developing its National REDD+ Strategy, which envisions the development of a National Plan, the development of a national reference scenario, a national MRV system, national accountability and sub-national implementation framework are subject of REDD+ pilot testing.

Mexico has ratified ILO 169 and thus recognizes the importance of promoting and ensuring the participation of Indigenous People in the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy. A positive highlight that favors the National Strategy at the local level is the fact that in Mexico, land tenure issues involving local communities and Indigenous Peoples have been generally resolved (about 70% of forest land owned by communities).

One of our current challenges is how to harmonize the fast moving initiatives from the States, while the National REDD+ Strategy is still shaping, without halting local initiatives, but at the same time promoting consistency and coherence between the sub-national and the national levels. At the same time, another challenge is how to ensure consistency of the advances in the national process, with the negotiations within the UNFCCC.

6. SESA

Based on the first SESA workshops held in Bacalar and Mexico City, CONAFOR is finalizing a SESA Workplan to lay out the SESA process throughout the readiness phase. The communications strategy will also support the SESA process in terms of information dissemination on the strategic options, risks and benefits, to strengthen participatory platforms and process, and also to raise awareness about the overall national REDD strategy. During the readiness phase, CONAFOR will carry out the analytical and diagnostic studies in regards to the social, environmental, legal and policy impacts, risks and benefits in a participatory manner based on the SESA workplan agreed with the key stakeholders. Based on the SESA, the government will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that will be an element of the Readiness Package. In 2012, Conafor will move forward according to the SESA Workplan.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

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Mexico has generated a spatially-explicit model of deforestation risk over time, and will improve this model based on analysis of drivers. The Reference levels will be determined through a combination of historical data as well as adjusting for national circumstances, for which explicit and transparent criteria will be developed. Additionally to this, Mexico and Norway have signed a MoU that will allow to dedicate resources to develop the Reference Scenario for Mexico.

8. MRV

Mexico's vision on MRV is to develop a multi-scale and multifunction forest monitoring system that takes full advantage of the existing national forest inventory along with regional or local inventories to monitor carbon stocks with low uncertainty. Five thousand plots are re-measured every year, equivalent to 20% of total permanent plots. Mexico is a demonstration country for GEO Forest Carbon Tracking. Complementary activities will include developing early detection system for land use change (using coarse and mid-resolution imagery). A multi-scale measuring scheme is in process of development, connecting information at project and sub-national and national levels for a single accountability data set, with the support of the government of Norway.

9. Other

The R-PP was finalized in May 2011 in the context of intense REDD+ activity, within the Technical Advisory Committee for REDD+ (CTC-REDD+) and in the context of REDD+ Working Group (GT-REDD+) within the CICC (Climate Change Inter-institutional Committee). These two groups are developing a National Strategy for REDD+, and REDD+ Vision of that strategy was presented at COP 16 in Cancun, December 2010. These national processes, which build upon the experience gained through the development of the RPP, stress the need to ensure flexibility as more experience and analysis updates and refines Mexico's vision and priorities.