

Review of R-PP Costa Rica

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General Comments

The document provides:

- A detailed account of the state of forest resources in Costa Rica and its management;
- Gives a good account of existing REDDS related projects and programmes in the country and particularly those relating to payment of environmental services;
- Information contained is supported by relevant data that has been generated within the country over the last 20 years.

Strengths of the Document:

- The RPP provides a clear grasp of state of management of forest resources in Costa Rica and the strategy options necessary to deliver REDD+ benefits.
- The Involvement of key stakeholders in REDD programme development process
- It presents a good understanding of what will be done to set up a reference scenario and a monitoring system

Areas for Improvement

- The document should have a list of acronyms and abbreviations and remove the guiding text from the main body of the RPP submission
- There is no mention of linkage of the proposed REDD strategy to the overall national climate change strategy.
- Indicate the composition of the Board of Directors of FONAFIFO and the REDD Working Group.

Component 1. Organize and Consult

Observations

The document provides an elaborate structure for managing REDD activities that is quite inclusive of stakeholders outside the forestry department. There is however no reference on how this process is related to the overall national climate change response process.

Recommendations

- *The functional relationship between these levels and their reporting lines are not clear and perhaps a graphic presentation would have assisted in showing the linkage of various management arrangements.*

Component 2b

Observations

- The initial consultations that informed the RPP were quite elaborate and covered a wide spectrum of stakeholders. *However, the consultations with private sector, indigenous peoples and institutions of the civil society seem to have been limited.*

Recommendations:

1. The Consultation/ outreach plan could be diversified, to bring in new ideas outside ongoing Payments for environmental Service Programme (PPSA), the FONAFIFO & MINAET spheres
2. Consider designing a consultation and participation plan that allow involvement of indigenous people, forest companies, electrical companies, environmentalists, NGOs and other relevant interested parties.

Component 2.

Observations

- Section 2 (a) demonstrates a good understanding of forest resource management issues and where opportunities obtain for maximizing carbon benefits. While

carbon stocks are currently increasing there are still opportunities for reducing emissions arising from conversion of forests to pastures.

- The policy section recognizes all forms of tenure / forest ownership systems, baseline measurements, verification of measurements, financial mechanisms, stakeholder engagements and governance issues.

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Recommendations

- The RPP does not indicate how revenues currently generated from the sale of environmental services are shared among various stakeholders. This might inform how carbon benefits are likely to be distributed in future.

Observations:

- It has recommended a set of quite in-depth studies .

Recommendations

- *The recommended studies should include a detailed analysis of costs and benefits of proposed REDD+ strategies.*

2c.Observations

- The section is very comprehensive and recognizes that a lot of issues that still need to be resolved prior to achieving a comprehensive REDD+ strategy.

Recommendations

Harmonize intervention by all actors including Indigenous People at a holistic national approach, this will add value to participatory methods for monitoring and reporting on socio-economic effects of REDD implementation in addition to that of MRV for carbon

Component 2.d

Recommendation

- It would be useful to show the presence or absence of capacity gaps to undertake SESA in Cost Rica More work is to elaborate on SESA under the section and add value to whatever could be annexed under 2d and its ToR

Component 3

Observations:

- It has been stated that some data on carbon stocks/MRV already exist but not clearly presented or discussed in the main text

Component 5. Schedule and Budget

The budget is well presented. However, some key activity lines have been much lumped, such as the legal and institution studies. They could provide separate budget lines for e.eg:

- Development of Carbon fund
- Legal & institutional framework etc

Component 6.

Observation: Not done at all to describe how the country will monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities, and identify any shortfalls in performance timing or quality.

Recommendation:

This section needs to be completed to enable the RPP meet the standard.