

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: COLOMBIA

June, 2012

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.
- The PC 10 decided to allocate funding to Colombia to enable it to move ahead with the preparation for readiness.
- Due diligence missions were carried in January, March and April 2012 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, among others. 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.
- An updated R-PP (Version 6) has been broadly disseminated on June 10th, 2012 incorporating latest comments received from a broad range of stakeholder groups as a result of early dialogue and information dissemination activities.
- 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.

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+ Interdisciplinary Working Group (IGW) will coordinate at a technical level the National Strategy for Reducing Emissions caused by Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and the Increase in Forest Carbon Stocks. This group will include, in addition to the environment, agriculture and planning ministries, also the Ministry of Interior.
- The REDD+ IWG 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.
- 5 regional advisory groups will work as regional platforms for REDD+ readiness at the sub-national level, in accordance with the nested approach Colombia is pursuing. The interfaces between national, sub-national and local levels are currently being revised.
- Institutional responsibility for FCPF and REDD+ coordination in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) has moved to the Department for forests, biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Colombia has advanced at formalizing the institutional arrangements by drafting a decree for the CONPES 3700.
- Elizabeth Valenzuela coordinator of the REDD+ National Strategy is the new focal point for the MADS.

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.

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- 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.
- 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 currently under way 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 will be held in Bogota.

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 the 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).
- 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, and even a possible moratorium to develop REDD+ activities in collective territory in order to prevent violations of the rights of communities living in these areas.
- Colombia has drafted a proposal for resolution to create a registry of voluntary carbon projects that will be published to receive comments from stakeholders before it will be adopted.

6. SESA

- Due Diligence Missions took place in January, March and April 2012, 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.
- 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

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of the SESA Roadmap was disseminated on June 12th, 2012 to a broad range of stakeholder groups.

- The First regional workshops will commence in the region of Pacific and Amazon in August and September where an estimated 80% of forests are located.
- Colombia is organizing a series of information dissemination workshops with Afro-Colombian communities in the Pacific Region in the departments of Chocó, Cauca, Valle del Cauca and Nariño. Additional workshops with women's group and indigenous peoples are planned between July and August, 2012.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- Responding to the nested implementation approach, R-PP proposes to develop regional reference scenarios and protocols first. As a second step, the country will harmonize the criteria for calculating the regional reference scenarios as to enable the subsequent development of the national baseline.

Next steps include:

- Refine quantification of deforestation (incorporating radar data) and the estimates of forest degradation
- Apply econometric models to the deforestation projections at national and sub-national levels
- Project emission trend scenarios for each region and nationally
- Digital processing of remote sensing data for estimating and monitoring biomass and carbon
- Move from IPCC Tier 2 to Tier 3 over time

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 a monitoring system for deforestation based on digital image processing with a multi-level hierarchical approach that combines the diverse capabilities of optical sensors, radar and laser.
- 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 country has benefited from the outputs including protocols and deforestation data generated by the IDEAM under the project "*Capacidad Institucional Técnica Científica para apoyar Proyectos REDD: Reducción de Emisiones por Deforestación en Colombia*" with the support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

9. Other

- Colombia will host 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 will be held at the same venue: June 24 – 25 Meeting of the Carbon Fund participants; July 1 – 2, 2012 Meeting of the REDD+ Partnership.