

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: PANAMA

October 2011

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- R-Plan assessed by FCPF PC at PC3 (June 2009), and Readiness Preparation Grant funding authorized by PC requesting Panama to address the key issues identified in the TAP assessment, the preliminary findings from the World Bank's due diligence, and the Summary Report, before signing Grant Agreement.
- Current government took office in July 2009. New Ministry of Finance formally endorsed continuing Readiness Preparation process.
- UN-REDD National Joint Program (NJP) document was assessed and approved at October 2009 UN-REDD Policy Board meeting.
- Bank teams traveled to Panama in May and July 2009, and February 2010 to review progress and provide technical assistance on the R-PP, and social and environmental risk management.
- Following FCPF PA 4, Panama requested to act as a pilot country for the upcoming Common Approach. As soon as this Common Approach is formally approved, UNDP undertakes its due diligence and a Transfer Agreement is signed, FCPF funds would be managed by UNDP as the Delivery Partner.
- Government of Panama, World Bank, and UN agencies have agreed, in 2010, that it is important to operate the different multilateral initiatives from a single, unified Logical Framework document.
- In the future, assuming that UNDP is FCPF's delivery partner, close coordination between World Bank and UN agencies will ensure: (i) the integration of a single technical coordination unit in ANAM; (ii) the establishment of a single National REDD Working group; (iii) the conduction of a single consultation process; and (iv) integration and administration of a budget and POA that identifies funding sources from both initiatives.
- WB due diligence started in 2010. Should UNDP become the Delivery Partner, it will undertake its due diligence process in line with its policies and procedures and the Common Approach.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- National REDD Group has been established within the National Environmental Authority of Panama (ANAM) and an invitation was presented to the National Coordinating Body of the Indigenous Peoples of Panama (COONAPIP) to select a representative as a member of this group.
- Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), has formally endorsed the Readiness Preparation process.
- Panama has requested UNDP as one implementing partner of UN-REDD Programme, to be the delivery partner in charge of implementation of the FCPF Readiness Preparation grant.
- UNDP and ANAM are in the process of identifying and contracting a UN-REDD project manager.
- ANAM is currently preparing operational plan defining REDD readiness activities in the near and mid term future.
- ANAM has established a working group of 8 professionals. In addition, specialists for forest inventory, for MRV and for Reference Level will be contracted in the near future.

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3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- With support from FCPF, several regional meetings with indigenous peoples were organized in 2009 and early 2010. ANAM plans to resume the consultative process in mid 2011.
- Technical advisers from COONAPIP reviewed and provided input to the UN-REDD NJP.
- The National REDD Group has held several meetings with COONAPIP to coordinate a full involvement of Indigenous Peoples strategic interests in the REDD readiness phase.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- REDD+ Strategy preparation has been taken up again by ANAM; with the start of the UN-REDD Program a review of the elements of the REDD strategy is under way.
- Panama considers the preparation of sub national pilots for the future REDD strategy.

5. Implementation Framework

- A preliminary study done on the Causes of Deforestation in Panama was completed for Panamá with funds from the regional German REDD+ support program carried out by GIZ.
- A study to explore ways of how to strengthen the National Coordinating Body of the Indigenous Peoples of Panama (COONAPIP) was carried out for Panama with German funds.

6. SESA

- ToR's for SESA have been drafted by the National REDD Group
Panama participated on May 23-26, 2011, Washington DC in Task Force Meeting on the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- Compilation of technical information in preparation for forest inventory. A coordinator for the forest inventory is being hired by UN-REDD.

8. MRV

The initial stages of MRV design are being developed by UN-REDD.

9. Other