

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: COLOMBIA

March, 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 has decided to allocate funding to Colombia to enable it to move ahead with the preparation for readiness.
- 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.
- The revised R-PP will include a reference to the need for a monitoring approach that ensures the participation of relevant local stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Colombian Communities, and *Campesino* communities, among other stakeholders; it will include a strengthened analysis of the current land tenure situation in forest areas; and it will explore measures to protect the integrity of collective and ancestral territories from possible negative impacts associated with early REDD+ initiatives.

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 Interdisciplinary REDD+ Working Group 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 peasants will have their seat and representation.
- 5 regional advisory groups will work as the 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.
- Selection process and participation of especially Afro-Colombian representatives are in the process of being refined.

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.
- During a systematic outreach to Indigenous Peoples for information sharing and early dialogue in priority regions

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and departments, a ground work was laid for future consultations. There is need and acknowledgement on all sides that this process needs to go on to reach more stakeholders in the early phase of REDD+ preparation. This is especially true for *campesino* communities.

- Communication materials were produced in both Spanish and local languages, a REDD+ policy paper produced early in the process has helped to clarify the strategic approaches the government is taking on REDD+.
- A more systematic approach to communication about SESA is currently under way which will help to socialize the specificities of this methodology.

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.

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.

6. SESA

- A Due Diligence Mission took place in January, 2012 which identified important steps towards SESA preparations and presented recommendations, inter alia on addressing outreach activities to Afro-Colombian populations.
- Due to the great cultural diversity of Colombia, preparations will require more time and effort than originally expected to lead to agreements at the national level. A stepwise approach is under way.
- A series of regional and national workshops preparing for SESA will be organized by the Ministry of Environment, and by Civil Society organizations.

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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.

9. Other

- Colombia will host PC 12 at the end of June, 2012. Venue will be announced in March, 2012.