

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) External Review Template

(interim, January 14, 2011 based on Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 5)

Guidelines for Reviewers:

1) *FCPF REDD Country Participant R-PPs will be reviewed and assessed by the FCPF Participants Committee, the FCPF's governing body, taking TAP comments into account. External (Technical Advisory Panel or other) and Bank reviewers may provide recommendations on how a draft R-PP could be enhanced, using this template on a pilot basis until a process is approved by the PC.*

2) *One set of criteria should be used for review: specific standards each of the current 6 components of an R-PP should be met.*

3) *Your comments will be merged with other reviewer comments (without individual attribution) into a synthesis document that will be made public, in general, so bear this in mind when commenting.*

4) *Please provide thoughtful, fair assessment of the draft R-PP, in the form of actionable recommendations for the potential enhancement of the R-PP by the submitting country. A REDD Country Participant would be allowed three submissions of an R-PP to the PC for consideration.*

Objectives of a Readiness Preparation Proposal (condensed directly from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 3)

The purpose of the R-PP is to build and elaborate on the previous Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) or a country's relevant comparable work, to assist a country in laying out and organizing the steps needed to achieve 'Readiness' to undertake activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), in the specific country context. The R-PP provides a framework for a country to set a clear roadmap, budget, and schedule to achieve REDD Readiness. The FCPF does not expect that the activities identified in the R-PP and its Terms of Reference (ToR) would actually occur at the R-PP stage, although countries may decide to begin pilot activities for which they have capacity and stakeholder support. Instead, the R-PP consists of a summary of the current policy and governance context, what study and other preparatory activities would occur under each major R-PP component, how they would be undertaken in the R-PP execution phase, and then a ToR or work plan for each component. The activities would generally be performed in the next, R-PP execution phase, not as part of the R-PP formulation process.

Review of R-PP of NICARAGUA

Reviewer (fill in): Spain (lead), Guatemala, Denmark

Date of review (fill in): 14-February-2011

Standards to be Met by R-PP Components

General comments:

- a list of acronyms is needed. The document includes lots of them and the list will make it easier to read.
- There is repeated information across the document; these duplications should be avoided in order to make the document shorter and more readable. Following the template, the length of the body of the R-PP should be 50-75 pages, and the total length of the document (including annexes) to a maximum of 100 pages. This document, even if it does not include components 5 and 6, has 175 pages.
- The structure in different components of the document should be improved

Component 1. Organize and Consult

Standard 1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements

The cross-cutting nature of the design and workings of the national readiness management arrangements on REDD, in terms of including relevant stakeholders and key government agencies beyond the forestry department, commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD readiness;

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

There is a lot of useful information, nevertheless, the section is too long, including repetitive information, and important information is missing. Focus should be done on the achievements made in recent years (rather than problems that remain or have occurred).

Comments:

- Other Ministries and relevant departments of the administration should be included. Emissions from the forest sector are generally linked to practices in other sectors (energy, infrastructure, finance, ...). They should be represented at least in levels 1 and 2 of ENDE development. Without the implication of other relevant ministries, the REDD+ strategy won't achieve the expected results.
- The relationship of the 3 levels with the regional groups (Asamblea Comunal, Asamblea Territorial, focal groups in RAAN and RAAS) is not clear.
- There are some institutions mentioned in the document (DIF, SPAR, SINIA, ...) that are not mentioned as actors in this section.
- The participation of non governmental organization is not clearly explained. Are they part of level 1?
- It should be better explained the role, mandate, functions, objectives and composition of every institution participating in REDD+. In addition, there is no clear organizational governance structure. It seems to be duplicity of functions and it is difficult to know the level of decision of influence of every institution. The relationship between different institutions should be clarified.
- There is some information and statistic data about the problems that should be specified (ranges, cause-effect relationships, ...)
- An analysis of the definition and ownership of carbon and the distribution of financial resources is mentioned. It would be needed to include who, how and when is going to develop this analysis.
- Mention to groups identified as agents for deforestation should be included.

Standard 1b: Stakeholder Consultation and Participation

Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders: Inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, assessed in the following ways:

- i. the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far³, the extent of ownership within government and REDD coordinating body, as well as in the broader national stakeholder community; and

³ Did the R-PP development, in particular the development of the ToR for the strategic environmental and social assessment and the Consultation and Participation Plan, include civil society, including forest dwellers

- ii. the Consultation and Participation Plan included in the R-PP (which looks forward in time); and the inclusion of elements in the R-PP that adequately document the expressed concerns and recommendations of relevant stakeholders and propose a process for their consideration, and/or expressions of their support for the R-PP.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

- As in 1.a., information should be better structured, avoiding repetitions.
- A detailed chronogram of the stakeholder consultation and participation process would be useful.
- Roles, functions and objectives of REDD working group are not well defined
- the equitable distribution of benefits should be included in the consultations.
- It seems that there were no previous consultation or preparation activities, in this section only dialogue and participation within core coordinator of REDD (technical body established as level 2) is mentioned. The level of participation within this group is not specified (the continuity of the dialogue and the dynamics or methodologies used should be explained).
- There are general levels of participation, but scales depending on the area of consultation are not clearly established.
- Mentioned actors don't include all the deforestation agents, as cotton producers or livestock farmers.
- Regarding the consultation issues, better treatment of the dialogue on international frameworks and their requirements should be established, in order to clarify the commitments to be assumed.
- There are many activities and issues that arise, therefore, it is important to define the scope of the consultation, for example, on the aspects where capacity is needed, this would require clear process and steps to be defined.
- There is a description of what is intended with the consultation and participation process, but the exact plan is not defined, a road map of the process (incorporating the work to be done) should be included.

Component 2. Prepare the REDD Strategy

Standard 2.a: Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy, and Governance:

A completed assessment is presented that identifies major land use trends, direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD, and major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues. It documents past successes and failures in implementing policies or measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD. The assessment sets the stage

and Indigenous Peoples representation? In this context the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways: (i) self-determined representative(s) meeting the following requirements: (a) selected through a participatory, consultative process; (b) having national coverage or networks; (c) previous experience working with the Government and UN system; (d) demonstrated experience serving as a representative, receiving input from, consulting with, and providing feedback to, a wide scope of civil society including Indigenous Peoples organizations; or (ii) Individual(s) recognized as legitimate representative(s) of a national network of civil society and/or Indigenous Peoples organizations (e.g., the GEF Small Grants National Steering Committee or National Forest Program Steering Committee).

for development of the country's REDD strategy to directly address key land use change drivers.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

There is a lot of information, nevertheless, the section is too long, including repetitive information, and important information is missing. The section should be better structured, focusing on relevant information, avoiding repetitions.

We recommend improving the legal analysis of legislation currently in force in Nicaragua to know which are the current process for the approval of land use changes and if this legislation is old or recent legislation.

There is the need of more information on formulae used for the calculation of hypothetical historical forests, as there is no clarity on the meaning of the variables and where they come from. It would worth explaining it and include details in an annex.

Maps should be a guide to know past, present and future forests cover in Nicaragua, therefore maps covering these three times should be included in the document, in order to better explain the deforestation process in the country. A technical explanation of the problem and the possible solution through the REDD instrument should also be incorporated.

The definition of ENDE areas and REDD+ areas look very similar. In fact, both areas are areas with big threats.

The component well shows the situation of forests in the country, this should be the basis for a REDD+ strategy covering and solving the identified problems with the support of donations.

Standard 2.b: REDD strategy Options:

Alignment of the proposed REDD strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies: the R-PP includes a summary of the emerging REDD strategy to the extent known presently, and of proposed analytic work (and, optionally, ToR) for assessment of the various REDD strategy options. This summary states:

- i. how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD strategy;
- ii. early estimates of cost and benefits of the emerging REDD strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental benefits;
- iii. socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD strategy;
- iv. major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD strategy; and
- v. risk of domestic leakage of greenhouse benefits. The assessments included in the R-PP eventually should result in an elaboration of a fuller, more complete and adequately vetted REDD strategy over time.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

The current draft of the RPP does not fulfill the purpose of this standard, there is no development of policies and programs to address drivers, it is only a small summary of some policies and measures related to the forestry sector.

The institution or department that will be the governing body of REDD+ at national level should be clearly established. A unique body to coordinate the involved institutions for the beginning of the work and its monitoring is needed, in order to ensure REDD+ projects or improve the existing ones.

With regard to progress made, there is no mention to the country position on the approaches for REDD+ at technical level. The election of national or subnational scale needs to be reflected,

taking into account that the entire document should integrate the approach and working criteria for a new topic as REDD+.

This section should be improved, to demonstrate progress and future implementation of REDD+ in Nicaragua. Without clarity on this, there is not possibility to continue with the national preparation process with the participation of all the regions mentioned in the document.

It is recommended to follow the guidance of the R-PP template, and develop this section in accordance with it.

Standard 2.c: REDD implementation framework:

Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD in the country setting that identifies key issues, explores potential arrangements to address them, and offers a work plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation into the eventual Readiness Package.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

This section only includes a list of principles to be followed when developing the REDD+ strategy. None of the relevant issues relating to an implementation framework are included. In the same line than for the previous section, we recommend following the guidance in the RPP template.

Details on institutions involved, roles, mandates, objectives and functions should be provided, and their inter-relation in the overall institutional framework.

We recommend identifying options to address the instruments required for the implementation a REDD+ strategy, or a work program/implementation framework to establish these options, and from there, start building the section following the guidance provided by the template.

PRORURAL incluyente seems to be the main tool for the implementation framework, nevertheless, the scope is not detailed. It is not clear if this program is above the REDD+ strategy, it is integrated in the strategy or they are parallel instruments. The relationship between both instruments should be clarified. The time period of implementation of these instruments should be also clarified. The relationship and/or integration of national plans with the REDD+ strategy needs to be clearly explained.

Standard 2.d: Assessment of social and environmental impacts:

The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence for strategic environmental and social impact assessment in compliance with the Bank's safeguard policies, including methods to evaluate how to address those impacts via studies, consultations, and specific mitigation measures aimed at preventing or minimizing adverse effects.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

Following the guidance in the RPP template, the RPP should include a work plan on how to cope with Wb's safeguard policies, and this is not included

Only two Bank safeguard policies included (indigenous peoples and environmental assessment), but others could be considered (forests - OP4.36, natural habitats - OP4.04, ...)

Basic elements for ToR are listed, but more detail is needed on how the SESA will be developed. The section is very superficial, does not go into details about the construction of the evaluation system, or how this is linked with other parts of the strategy. The way how impacts are going to be identified and addressed should be explained.

It is not clear how SESA will be integrated in the MRV system.

The R-PP should include the methodology on how the information required for this assessment will be compiled and analyzed. Compiling information relevant to social and environmental impacts can be one difficult aspect of undertaking a Social and Environmental Impact Assessment.

Component 3. Develop a Reference Scenario

Standard 3 Reference scenario:

Present work plan for how the reference scenario for deforestation, and for forest degradation (if desired), will be developed, including early ideas on feasibility of which methods to use (e.g., scenario of forest cover change and emissions based on historical trends in emissions and/or based on projections into the future of historical trend data), major data requirements and capacity needs, and linkages to the monitoring system design.

(The FCPF recognizes that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.)

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

This section includes a lot of information on forest related data or data sources, but this information is sometimes contradictory with other information included in other sections of the document. Sources of information and relevant data should be consistent across the document.

Some of this information is repetitive, and this difficult the readability of the document. We recommend answering clearly and directly to the component requirements. The beginning of the section should contain a revision/evaluation of historical data available and gaps identified, and this is included, but, in the rest of the text, this information is repeated with details that could be included in an annex or linked to bibliography. A table to synthesize information would be useful and would provide clarity.

Activities to achieve the results are proposed at the beginning of the section, nevertheless, the structure of the following text is not describing this activities sequentially. We recommend structuring the text consistently the proposed activities.

It is not clear the role of indigenous peoples in the analysis and consultation process during the elaboration of the reference level.

The possibility of using a base year as reference level is mentioned. This is not being considered, and is not included in the guidance of the draft RPP. The options to be assessed should be historical trends or forecast changes.

What types of forests are going to be included in REDD+ should be clarified. The information on the types of forest selected should be extracted from the data reported when possible, as it seems that most of the variations in the area of forest cover are due to the different types included depending of the source of data.

In the assessment of capabilities, more precise numerical data on what already exists would be useful, and at least, an early estimation of what is needed should be provided.

Even when the construction of subnational scenarios is mentioned as desirable, the related section is very short and unclear with regard to this subject that is crucial and has significant impacts in REDD related issues, specially, in the development of the strategy.

At the end of the section, it is not clear how RL is going to be established.

30 pages seems too much information. We recommend summarizing, focusing on the relevant issues, and following the guidance as established in the RPP template.

The component reflects the information to orient and guide the steps to build a reference scenario, but comments should be taken into account in order to meet the standard.

Component 4. Design a Monitoring System

Standard 4: Design a monitoring system:

The R-PP provides a proposal for the initial design of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation. The system design should include early ideas on including capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor other benefits and impacts, for example rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD implementation in the country, and to assess the impacts of the REDD strategy in the forest sector.

The R-PP should describe major data requirements, capacity requirements, how transparency of the monitoring system and data will be addressed, early ideas on which methods to use, and how the system would engage participatory approaches to monitoring by forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers. It should also address independent monitoring and review, involving civil society and other stakeholders, and how findings would be fed back to improve REDD implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could evolve into a mature REDD monitoring system with this full set of capabilities.

(The FCPF recognizes that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.)

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

As in previous components, the guidance of the RPP has not been followed.

The SINIA for 2007-2011 is mentioned, specifying its functions. It would be interesting to include the achievements of SINIA from 2007 to, at least, 2010.

Not mention to leakage, and these are a very important part of REDD+ strategies, especially if Nicaragua plans to focus MRV efforts on hotspots. It is recommended that the monitoring activities are planned for the whole country.

Forest fires are not considered as an element to monitor. It is recommended addressing them taking into account historic data.

The proposed approach seems to use the plots in the forest inventory as tool for monitor land use changes, but this could be done more efficiently using remote sensing analysis.

The participation of stakeholders (including communities) in MRV design is clear, but it is not mentioned if they will be involved in implementation of MRV. It is recommended defining, at least, their role in the context of planning and implementing monitoring activities.

The component doesn't describe strategies or measures related to transparency and independent audit of monitoring results, and public availability of data and information produced. It is recommended describing the approach to achieve this objective.

Link with SESA not clear.

For other benefits and impacts, a work plan and timeframe should be provided. There is no description of potential general thematic lines to be monitored.

An assessment of future capacities needed is also missing.

Component 5. Schedule and Budget

Standard 5: Completeness of information and resource requirements

The R-PP proposes a full suite of activities to achieve REDD readiness, and identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish these activities. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF, as well as from other international sources (e.g., UN-REDD or bilateral

assistance) are summarized by year and by potential donor. The information presented reflects the priorities in the R-PP, and is sufficient to meet the costs associated with REDD readiness activities identified in the R-PP, or gaps in funding are clearly noted.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

[Not included in the document.](#)

Component 6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Standard 6: Adequately describes the indicators that will be used to monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities, and to identify in a timely manner any shortfalls in performance timing or quality. The R-PP demonstrates that the framework will assist in transparent management of financial and other resources, to meet the activity schedule.

Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:

[Not included in the document.](#)