

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: Honduras

April 2014

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- Honduras' work with the FCPF started in 2009. The R-PIN was approved in February 2009. A mission from the FMT then took place to discuss about the FCPF support and provide advice on the process of preparation of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP).
- Honduras has decided to work on the preparation of a document that includes the most important elements for the future implementation of REDD+ at the national level. This preparation process began with the identification of stakeholders for the REDD+ readiness process and included the definition of a roadmap.
- In October 2011, during PC10, Honduras invited UNDP to act as Delivery Partner of the FCPF.
- In August 2012, after the signature of the Transfer Agreement between FCPF and UNDP, UNDP confirmed its willingness to act as Delivery Partner in Honduras.
- In February 2013, a R-PP validation meeting took place, as a pre-requisite of the delivery Partner, before the formal submission of the R-PP to the FCPF.
- In March 2013 the R-PP document has been formally presented during PC14, and endorsed by the Participant Committees with a couple of requirements.
- In August 2013, the FMT finishes its completeness check.
- In September 2013, UNDP started its due diligence process and a project document began to be elaborated. Preparatory funds have been mobilized for that purpose.
- A technical group with representatives from government is supporting this elaboration and a support committee with different stakeholders is in charge of reviewing the progress and give guidance to the technical group.
- As part of the development of the project document, UNDP missions took place in March, September, December 2013, and March 2014. The draft set of activities to be included in the project were revised, together with delegates from the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA), National Forestry Institute (ICF) as well as from the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras (CONPAH), in representation of the National Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Committee on Climate Change (MIACC in Spanish).
- A roadmap to complete the documentation and sign the grant agreement before the end of May has been defined. The roadmap includes revising the project document within the spaces created for coordination among government agencies and with civil society (see below).

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- In June 2010, the Inter-institutional Committee on Climate Change (CICC in Spanish) has been established. This committee is led by the Secretariat of Natural Resources, Environment, and Mining (SERNAM, see at the end of this section for more details regarding this structure) and composed by a diversity of actors: private sector, civil society, public sector, and academy. It includes a dedicated sub-committee to work on REDD+, created in June 2010. This REDD+ sub-committee is led by the same Secretariat and by the Forestry Conservation Institute. The REDD+ Sub-committee is composed by a diversity of sectors and its role is to facilitate the dialogue between all stakeholders and structure the preparation of the readiness phase and related consultations, in order to capture all the needs and concerns in a future REDD + National Strategy.
- From 2010 to May 2013, the REDD+ sub-committee already met in several occasions to discuss all updates that occur at the international level and to follow the development process of the R-PP document and activities related to REDD+ readiness in Honduras.
- In September 2013, UNDP implemented a comprehensive Institutional Context Analysis of the forestry sector, as part of its due diligence process and to complement the capacity assessment conducted previously in February of the same year by GIZ.
- Presidential elections took place in November 2013 and the new Government of Honduras started its mandate in late 2013. A set of institutional reforms has been part of the new Government recent activities. SERNAM is the

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new name of the agency resulting from the fusion of former Secretary of Environment, Natural Resources, and Mining with the National Institute of Forestry Conservation and Development, Protected Areas, and Wildlife (ICF). The official presentation of SERNAM's new functions and structure to the President Office is scheduled for April 2014. After approval, the process will continue with organizational arrangements and legal reforms over the course of 2014. It is anticipated that in 2015 the new agency will be ready to execute their new mandate, while continuing to execute its current mandate until then.

- According to the new SERNAM's proposed institutional structure, the current Climate Change Directorate will become the National Climate Change Office, under the Minister's supervision. The previous ICF will continue its mandate as part of SERNAM. The climate change office will lead the REDD+ readiness process in Honduras.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- The early dialogue process with stakeholders in the country, including indigenous peoples and other sectors (agroforestry groups) and government institutions has started in 2012. It has provided inputs which have guided the elaboration of the R-PP. From 2011 to May 2013, more than 30 national and local meetings and workshops have been organized, to discuss about REDD+ as well as the preparation of the R-PP. Several other meetings took place in the country, after the RPP endorsement by the FCPF in March 2013.
- In March 2013, during PC14, the FCPF invited Honduras to reach out to the indigenous people organizations that are not yet part of the dialogue on REDD+ readiness. A mission took place in May 2013 to meet with others indigenous peoples organizations that are not yet part of the process led by the REDD+ Sub-committee and CONPAH.
- In 2012, SERNA and ICF prepared a communication plan on REDD+, in order to generate and disseminate official information on the readiness process developed so far.
- It is worth noting that thanks to the discussions on the R-PP and on the readiness phase between SERNA and representatives of indigenous groups, a national platform has been created in January 2013 to discuss a series of requests from indigenous groups and issues outside REDD+, with the highest political authorities, such as those related to land tenure and land rights.
- The participation of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran representatives is taking place through MIACC. CONPAH continues to lead the work of MIACC, through its political and technical committees. The MIACC is governed by the principles of inclusion and participation of all indigenous and afro-descendant organizations in the country.
- In September 2013, the MIACC, through the CONPAH, has drafted a pre-proposal of law on FPIC and with UNDP's support an analysis of the elements to consider for the definition of a conflict resolution mechanism for REDD+ has been developed. Further steps to take in regards to that mechanism have been proposed as part of the FCPF project document.
- In late March and early April 2014 the REDD+ Sub-committee and MIACC have met to revise and provide feedback to the proposed set of REDD+ readiness activities to be supported by the FCPF.
- It is anticipated to undertake a final round of revisions and collect feedback on the project document in late April, before its signature in May.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- The foundations of the future REDD+ strategy are described in the R-PP formally submitted to the FCPF in March 2013. They include a description of the drivers of deforestation, assessment of land use changes, primary and secondary political options for the REDD+ strategy, among others.
- The active participation of relevant actors in the subcommittee REDD + reflects the concentration of stakeholders

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and institutions at the level of Tegucigalpa, but there are many actors at the sub-national level which directly and indirectly contribute, positively or negatively, to REDD efforts. They will have to be taken into account during the development of the national REDD strategy.

- It has been proposed by the Honduran stakeholders leading the definition of the project document that the development of the REDD+ National Strategy constitutes the core of the project. Thus, it has been proposed to include two components into the project document: (1) the development of the REDD+ National Strategy and (2) creating enabling conditions for the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy. The consultation process, as well as gathering and creating technical inputs for the development of the REDD+ National Strategy, the SESA and the ESMF are part of component one. Whereas, defining the emissions reference level, the forest monitoring system, organizing institutional arrangements and developing the safeguards information system are elements of component two.

5. Implementation Framework

- The process followed in order to have an implementation framework has begun with the development of the "Analysis of the Legal and Institutional current Carbon Property and Land Tenure for the implementation of REDD + and other compensation mechanisms in Honduras". This analysis was realized in March 2013 under the leadership of Natural Resources and Environment Secretary and Forestry Conservation Institute and with the support of GIZ. This input resulted in the identification of gaps and needs for possible reforms of the national legislation for the benefit of all, and likewise the proposals for legal and institutional reforms necessary to make possible the implementation of REDD+ projects.
- More details on the implementation framework are provided in the R-PP submitted to the FCPF.
- It has been defined that the scale of REDD+ implementation in Honduras will be national. As part of component two of the project document, key elements that will be developed includes: identifying and implementing a financial mechanism for the forestry sector; and developing and implementing a National Forestry Registry.

6. SESA

- As described in the R-PP, the implementation of the SESA is under the responsibility of the national REDD+ sub-committee and the MIACC. A special commission for SESA will be created prior to the SESA's activities implementation.
- After the endorsement of the R-PP in March 2013, a national workshop was organized in June 2013 to discuss and generate consensus on the next steps regarding the SESA. The participants included government agencies: SERNA, ICF, Indigenous Peoples Secretary and civil society, including indigenous and peasant organizations like CONPAH.
- Developing SESA has been already included as a key element of component one, in the FCPF project document.
- After the implementation of a thematic informative workshop on safeguards in the month of June 2013, a general roadmap to start working on discussions in the conformation of a safeguards system has been defined. In this process, the Government of Honduras has received the commitment from GiZ to significantly co-finance the development of the safeguards information system, as well as the technical support of the REDD+ SES initiative to lead such process.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- In March 2013, an analysis to understand the dynamics of changes in forest cover called "Quantitative analysis of the dynamics of deforestation for the 16 regions of the Republic of Honduras by applying a predictive model of

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regional deforestation using GIS" was realized. Official historic information related to national forest coverage begins in 1965, continuing in 1985, 1995, 2001, 2003 and 2009. However, technical processes, methodological protocols, and levels of reliability of the construction of these forest cover and land use maps have different validation methodologies and standards, meaning that a comparison is not always possible.

- In May 2013, and based on the above context, ICF started a process for building national forest cover maps, for 2000 to 2005 and 2010, with standardized methodologies and classification systems. This effort will enable the country to quantify historical deforestation rates, with a clear level of certainties. FCPF's project document has included activities intended to ensure that such information is compliant with the relevant international standards as well as defining protocols to estimate forest degradation.
- In April 2014 ICF presented to national authorities a sub-national "deforestation emissions baseline" (estimated for 55% of the country). This baseline allowed stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the historic deforestation dynamics, the forest carbon contents, and the results of projections estimated until year 2040. These projections used geo-spatial land-use change simulations. This work was financed by Rainforest Alliance and executed by MGM Innova. The results of these efforts will be considered by the FCPF project, as an input in the development of a national Forest Emissions Reference Level.

8. MRV

- SERNAM, including former ICF, is working on generating a national forest map, which will be a timely and reliable tool for management, decision making and monitoring the achievement of objectives and national and international goals.
- Another significant progress under MRV is the establishment of a platform for the dissemination of data and information through a geo-portal in May 2013, which is being made available to users in the forestry sector.
- In May 2011, and with the support of the Republic of Taiwan, the implementation of the project "Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for Resource and Natural Disasters Management" started. Implementation of this project was planned to go from June 2011 to June 2013. Currently this project is in a final stage. The project used satellite imagery FORMOSAT2 sensor, and implemented a platform that allows monitoring of the dynamics of forest cover change. Starting in March 2014, Honduras started the 4th year of activities, as part of a cooperation agreement with the Republic of Taiwan. As part of the new activities the same analysis will be undertaken in other Geographic areas of the country.
- Another ongoing related effort is the monitoring, control, evaluation, and classification of RapidEye images for the generation of the National Forest Cover and Land Use Map in Honduras. Currently activities related to this map include QA and ground true-thing. It is expected that for August 2014 the map will be published. The financial and technical support for this effort is being delivered by the REDD/CCAD-GiZ Regional Program.
- A protocol for validation and quality control of the National Forest Cover Map and Land Use of in Honduras in 2013 was defined. The validation of the map will correspond to the ESNACIFOR, that is an external entity, decentralized government of the Republic.
- Training workshop were developed for technicians of ESNACIFOR under the validation process and quality control of the National Forest Cover Map and Land Use of Honduras in 2013.
- Agreement was signed between the ICF Technical Cooperation, the Regional Programme ESNACIFOR and EKF / CCAD-GiZ under construction National Forest Cover Map and Land Use of Honduras in 2013 and the establishment of National Forest Monitoring Systems in Honduras.

9. Other

- Honduras participated to several regional workshops, namely: Social inclusion, organized by FCPF in January 2014;

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consultation and CPLI organized by UN-REDD in October 2013 and January 2013;

- Honduras is one of the two Central American countries working with the FLEGT initiative. Starting in January 2014 the two initiatives (REDD+ and FLEGT) have joined efforts of common interest on work related to participatory processes.

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