

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: MEXICO

October 2013

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

The R-PP was assessed by FCPF PC at PC5 (March 2010), and Readiness Preparation Grant funding was authorized by PC. Revisions requested by the PC were made in the R-PP. The World Bank team provided comments on the R-PP on two occasions, and conducted its due diligence mission in May 2011, with the participation of BIC as observer. Aide-memoire and field trip report are posted online. The final R-PP was issued in May 2011. First national multistakeholder SESA workshop held on May 12-13, 2011. After some delay, the World Bank and the Government of Mexico have re-engaged and are preparing a new version of the Assessment Note and grant agreement in order to move forward with the negotiation of the \$3.8 million grant agreement. As part of a technical mission held on September 2013 in Mexico, the REDD+ readiness activities to be financed with the US\$ 3.8 million grant were identified and the R-PP Assessment note is planned to be submitted for internal review during the month of October, with a signature of the grant in November.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

REDD+ Working Group (GT- REDD+) has been formed under the Inter-institutional Commission for Climate Change (CICC). A multi-stakeholder technical advisory committee (Comité Técnico Consultivo or CTC-REDD+), including civil society, has been created as an open body for consultation and feedback for citizen participation. The CTC includes representatives of governmental institutions (forestry and non-forestry), NGOs, indigenous peoples, forest community-based organizations, the academic sector, and financial institutions. The CTC-REDD+ elected a new president in the first meeting of 2011 (February 15th). The CTC-REDD meets regularly (in 2011: February, March, June, August, October, November, December) to discuss the preparation of the national REDD strategy and other related programs. In addition, an internal REDD+ working group was established within CONAFOR. Collaborations being established with related government agencies including SAGARPA (Agriculture) and CDI (Indigenous Peoples). By the end of 2011, the Government of Mexico presented the document “Elementos para el diseño de la estrategia nacional REDD+”, developed jointly with the CTC-REDD+; the document will serve as a basis for the National REDD+ Strategy. During 2012, the Mexican government worked with the CTC-REDD+ in building the National REDD+ strategy draft for consultation. Some of the highlights of the 2012 in REDD+ Management Arrangements were the creation of the CTC- REDD+ Group for Consultations Protocol and the Group for Critical Topics, which had regular meetings during 2012. The Group for Consultations Protocol provided feedback for the proposal of the protocol for the 2014 consultations (to whom, where, when) at the end of 2012. In April 2013, the working group of safeguards started its work and held their first session. Additionally in 2013, a National REDD Strategy Working Group in the *Consejo Nacional Forestal (CONAF)* was created to discuss the information contained in the third draft of the REDD Strategy.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

At the national level, a series of meetings with a wide-range of representatives from key stakeholder groups (NGOs, ejidos and communities, private sector and academia) have been organized through the CTC-REDD since 2008, which was institutionally formalized on May 13, 2010. In 2011, CONAFOR carried out a regional SESA workshop in Bacalar, Quintana Roo (April 9, 2011) and a National SESA Workshop in Mexico City (May 12-13, 2011) with the objective to further inform key stakeholders about the design of a national REDD+ strategy and carry out an initial issue scoping exercise with key stakeholder groups. These two workshops provided stakeholders with an opportunity to provide CONAFOR with an overview of the specific issues and concerns that affect them in order to be considered during the readiness phase. Additionally, six regional workshops were carried out in REDD+ Early Action areas to complement the SESA matrix - including the risks and benefits assessment- and to

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strengthen the information on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation from a regional level. Looking forward, CONAFOR intends to build upon and strengthen the national CTC-REDD, support the creation of local CTC in priority regions, develop the collaboration with CDI (*Comision Nacional de Pueblos Indigenas*), and conduct extensive dissemination and consultation activities, especially for local communities in the REDD+ priority regions to inform them on the proposal for a REDD+ strategy in Mexico and seek their meaningful participation throughout the readiness preparation phase. In 2012, the first draft of the National REDD+ Communication strategy was presented to CSOs, and a new draft incorporating this feedback is in process. Some of the highlights of the activities that the Mexican Government carried out during 2012 are: (i) in 2012 the government, through 4 workshops as part of the Foros Regionales CONAFOR, socialized concepts related to Forests and Climate Change, including REDD+ and set the basis with more than 150 participants from local communities for the 2014 consultations; (ii) one national workshop was carried out as part of the Consultations Protocol process, to socialize key concepts about Forests and Climate Change, have feedback, proposals and opinions, and to present the work program towards the National REDD+ Strategy; (iii) the government continued developing and sharing communications material related to forests, climate change, and REDD+, including booklets and flyers. During 2012 these activities had support from the World Bank Safeguards and Communications specialists. Since 2011, three subnationals CTC have been installed in REDD+ Early Action Areas (Quintana Roo, Campeche, Chiapas and one for Peninsula de Yucatán).

CONAFOR is planning to conduct consultation activities for the various local communities to inform them on the proposal for a REDD strategy in Mexico and seek their meaningful participation throughout the readiness preparation phase and towards the finalization of the national strategy on REDD+. Particular attention during this consultation process will be given to Indigenous Peoples and other forest dependent local communities.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

Vision: To promote REDD+ in the wider context of sustainable rural development, seeking to create policy synergies with non-forest policies and to strengthen governance at the sub-national and local levels. The document of Mexico's Vision for REDD+ was presented by President Calderón at COP 16 in Cancun. An important landmark of this presentation is that the Ministry of Agriculture endorsed the document, as well as it was ratified by the Inter-ministerial Commission for Sustainable Rural Development (CIDRS, in Spanish). The goal for 2011 and 2012 is to develop the draft of the National REDD+ Strategy through a participatory process, involving relevant stakeholders, including those in the CTC-REDD+. This process will be conducted along the lines set in the Vision) and the document "*Elementos para el diseño de la estrategia nacional REDD+*", which will serve as a basis for the National REDD+ Strategy. The REDD Strategy is one of several pieces of the overarching National Climate Change Strategy. In 2012, CONAFOR has been leading the National REDD+ Strategy development within the framework of the CTC-REDD+, the CICC and the CIDRS. The main focus of the 2013 will be on: (i) dissemination and capacity building on forests and climate change and REDD+; and (ii) receiving feedback from civil society (mainly with the CTC REDD+ members) design a consultation draft of the National Strategy for REDD+.

The National Climate Change Strategy was published in June, 2013. It provides a medium and long term vision for Mexico's climate policy. A third version of the National REDD+ Strategy is currently available. The National REDD+ Strategy will be aligned with the targets, objectives and strategic actions for mitigation in the forest sector included in the Climate Change Strategy.

5. Implementation Framework

The National REDD+ Strategy is established under the framework of the Sustainable Rural

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Development (SRD) that requires coordination of forest and non-forest policies, the strengthening of governance mechanisms and participative processes at the local level, institutional arrangements, and appropriate funding mechanisms. It also envisions the development of a national reference scenario and a national MRV system. Mexico has ratified ILO 169 and thus recognizes the importance of promoting and ensuring the participation of Indigenous People in the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy. This is particularly relevant in the context of Mexico where 70% of forests are in lands legally titled to indigenous communities, which is a situation unique in the world.

Furthermore, Article 134 bis from the Ley General de Desarrollo Forestal Sustentable (Sustainable Forestry Law) establishes that the legal instruments and environmental policies which regulate and promote the improvement and conservation of environmental services, must guarantee the respect to the safeguards that are recognized by international law.

One of the current challenges is how to harmonize the fast moving initiatives from the various states at the sub-national level, while the National REDD+ Strategy is still shaping, without halting local initiatives, but at the same time promoting consistency and coherence between the sub-national and the national levels. Another challenge is how to ensure consistency of the advances in the national process with the negotiations within the UNFCCC.

6. SESA

After the first SESA workshops held in Bacalar and Mexico City, the SESA process moved forward with high momentum; six regional workshops were developed to strengthen the SESA and the SESA *Grupo de Seguimiento* was created. The Grupo de Seguimiento had several meetings (ie. seven during 2011 and 2012). The CTC, its working groups, and other participative platforms have been and will continue supporting and strengthening an environmental and social strategic process through analytical and participatory activities. The communications strategy (currently CONAFOR is working on a second draft after CSOs initial feedback) will also support the SESA process in terms of information dissemination regarding the strategic options, risks and benefits, to strengthen participatory platforms and process, and also to raise awareness about the overall national REDD strategy. During the readiness phase, CONAFOR is carrying out the analytical and diagnostic studies in regards to the social, environmental, legal, and policy impacts, risks and benefits in a participatory manner. Based on the results of the SESA process, the government will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). A new version of the SESA workplan is being prepared and will be shared with the CTC-REDD for comments and inputs

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

Mexico has generated a spatially-explicit model of deforestation risk over time, and will improve this model based on analysis of drivers. The Reference levels will be determined through a combination of historical data as well as adjusting for national circumstances, for which explicit and transparent criteria will be developed. Additionally to this, Mexico and Norway have signed a MoU that will allow dedicating resources to develop the Reference Scenario for Mexico.

8. MRV

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Mexico's vision on MRV is to develop a multi-scale and multifunction forest monitoring system that takes full advantage of the existing national forest inventory along with regional or local inventories to monitor carbon stocks with low uncertainty. Five thousand plots are re-measured every year, equivalent to 20% of total permanent plots. Mexico is a demonstration country for GEO Forest Carbon Tracking. Complementary activities will include developing early detection system for land use change (using coarse and mid-resolution imagery). A multi-scale measuring scheme is in process of development, connecting information at project and sub-national and national levels for a single accountability data set, with the support of the government of Norway.

9. Other

The R-PP was finalized in May 2011 in the context of intense REDD+ activity, within the Technical Advisory Committee for REDD+ (CTC-REDD+) and in the context of REDD+ Working Group (GT-REDD+) within the CICC (Climate Change Inter-institutional Committee). These national processes, which build upon the experience gained through the development of the RPP, stress the need to ensure flexibility as more experience and analysis updates and refines Mexico's vision and priorities.

New FCPF focal points were informed by CONAFOR in January 2013: Miguel Angel Abaid Sanabria and Ana Karla Perea Blazquez