

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) External Review Template
(interim, December 13, 2012, from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6)**

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: Belize

TAP Team: Gisela Ulloa and Ben de Jong

Summary of findings and recommendations

The TAP finalized the review of the first version (September 13th 2013) of the Belize R-PP on October, 2013. A review was delivered with comments and recommendations to the Belize R-PP team, November 8th an amended version was received. This actual version reflects major improvement in most of the components and includes new information for component 1 which improves significantly the component standard showing the hard work of the Belize R-PP team.

This version of the R-PP evidently reflects the great deal of effort, invested by the Belize team in the

development of the document.

Strengths:

The Belize RPP can provide a good case for forest governance, conservation and local and IPs involvement to maintain their forest cover.

Challenges:

How the REDD+ process can incorporate innovative ways to resolve IPs land tenure for the Maya people in south of Belize. Also this can be seen as an opportunity for Belize REDD+ process to contribute to resolve a main issue in the country.

The Belize TAP review process applies a classification scheme as follows:

- Standard Met (no further work needed to describe the actions proposed under this standard)
- Standard Largely Met (proposed work is acceptable, but can be enhanced with additional information)
- Standard Partially Met (some additional information is required before the proposed strategy fulfills the terms of the standard)
- Standard Not Met (information is incomplete and does not fulfill the terms of the standard)

The findings for the initial Belize TAP review are summarized in the table below:

Standard	TAP Review, October 2013	TAP Review, November 2013
1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements	Partially Met	Largely Met
1b: Information Sharing and Stakeholder Dialogue	Not Met	Largely Met
1c: Consultation and Participation Process	Partially Met	Largely Met
2a: Land Use, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Partially Met	Met
2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	Partially Met	Met
2c: Implementation Framework	Not Met	Largely Met
2d: Social & Environmental Impacts during Preparation and Implementation	Not Met	Met
3: Reference Level	Partially Met	Largely Met
4a: Monitoring – Emissions and Removals	Largely Met	Largely Met
4b: Other Multiple Benefits, Impacts and Governance	Partially Met	Met
5: Budget	Largely Met	Met
6: Program Monitoring & Evaluation Framework	Partially Met	Met

Standards to be Met by R-PP Components

(From Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6:)

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. Capacity building activities are included in the work plan for each component where significant external technical expertise has been used in the R-PP development process, and mechanisms for addressing grievances regarding consultation and participation in the REDD-plus process, and for conflict resolution and redress of grievances.

Following the March 2012 General Elections, changes to Ministerial portfolios created a realigned Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture (MNRA) and a new Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development (MFFSD). With these changes, the departments of Agriculture and Lands and Surveys were placed under the MNRA; and the Forest Department, the Environment Department, and the National Climate Change Office (NCCO) were placed under the MFFSD. Previously, with the exception of Agriculture, all these departments and the NCCO had been under one Ministry.

A National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), chaired by the MFFSD, is now established with a cross-section of members from all related Government Ministries and Agencies, private sector, civil society and academia. The NCCC also has the direct participation of the Office of the Prime Minister and is able to advise the government through the Cabinet

A REDD+ Coordination Unit (R+CU) has been created within the Forest Department.

A Readiness Activities Steering Committee is proposed in order to provide direct oversight and support to the R+CU and engage a cross-section of stakeholders in the project. The RASC will include senior personnel from the relevant ministries, private sector, civil society, local communities and indigenous peoples. There will also be representation of women's organization on the RASC.

The seat in the RASC has been made available to the **Toledo Alcaldes Association**, representing IPs given their current **land rights claim**, until a functioning representative body can be established. **Support will be provided to the indigenous organizations as part of the readiness activities for them to re-establish a collective entity to represent them.**

A Technical Expert Group (TEG) will also be created under the Mitigation Sub-committee of the NCCC with official membership appointments formalized by the MFSSD. The TEG will provide technical advice to the Forest Department.

The proposed structure includes the Office of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and all relevant Ministries and includes links to the National development strategy discussion and a proposed way to integrate REDD+ to this discussion

A description of a feedback and grievance mechanism is presented where the specificities are set to be discussed and agreed in the process, following principles outline and proposed elements from its structure.

Capacity building workshops are budgeted for the NCC structure.

Recommendations:

Include the Feedback and Grievance Mechanism operation and discussion in the Budget of the component.

Conclusion: Largely Met

Standard 1b: Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups:

The R-PP presents evidence of the government having undertaken an exercise to identify key stakeholders for REDD-plus, and commenced a credible national-scale information sharing and awareness raising campaign for key relevant stakeholders. The campaign's major objective is to establish an early dialogue on the REDD-plus concept and R-PP development process that sets the stage for the later consultation process during the implementation of the R-PP work plan. This effort needs to reach out, to the extent feasible at this stage, to networks and representatives of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers and forest dependent communities, both at national and local level. The R-PP contains evidence that a reasonably broad range of key stakeholders has been identified, voices of vulnerable groups are beginning to be heard, and that a reasonable amount of time and effort has been invested to raise general awareness of the basic concepts and process of REDD-plus including the SESA.

The R-PP indicates that the design and implementation of REDD+ will take advantage of the experiences of Belize in terms of community involvement in relation to protected areas management and forest management.

An initial actors map is developed considering the socio-economic functionality of forests, the key stakeholders for the REDD+ are identified according to 6 categories a brief description on each is presented.

The initial consultation led by TNC occurred from August – September 2013 and as result there were a total of 239 individuals invited representative of 71 organizations/GOB departments, and 91 villages that were involved in consultation activities. A total of 6 workshops were held to socialize the RPP and to allow stakeholders to provide input.

It includes one set of workshops for indigenous community leaders (Toledo Alcaldes Association) in the Toledo District and one focus group session with indigenous women and youth mainly from the Toledo Maya Women's Council and the Maya Youth Coalition. At the first Technical Consultation held a total of 31 organizations were represented with a total of 44 participants including Governmental agencies, protected areas co-managers and NGO's, and various representatives from the private sector. Key issues and concerns have arisen from the consultation and additional elements to strengthen future consultations are presented.

The initial consultation presented fulfilled the requirements at this stage, among the elements that require more discussion are the land tenure and land rights for IPs this represent the main concern of IPs in Belice, this issue will require to be fully addressed in order to allow a REDD+ process to be implemented in Belice with the participation of Maya Communities in the southern part of Belice.

-Recommendations:

1. Include the element of land tenure and land rights for IPs in the REDD+ future consultation process as a subject that requires study and/or a process where means of addressing this issue in the context of REDD+ implementation are discussed and proposals are developed and agreed jointly, Include specific budget for this purpose.
2. Include the results/minutes of the meetings/workshops held to discuss the RPP with key sectors Review

Conclusion: Standard Largely Met

Standard 1c: Consultation and Participation Process

Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders, and inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, will be assessed by whether proposals and/ or documentation on the following are included in the R-PP (i) the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far (ii) the extent of ownership within government and national stakeholder community; (iii) the Consultation and Participation Plan for the R-PP implementation phase (iv) and concerns expressed and recommendations of relevant stakeholders, and a process for their consideration, and/or expressions of their support for the R-PP.³

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

The RPP presents the objectives design, and main elements of a consultation plan and process, also include the consultation for Feedback and Grievance Redressal Mechanism (FGRM) which is key to the process. Among the consultation elements is key to include the IPs land rights discussion for a REDD+ mechanism in Belize.

Recommendations:

Include among the element to be discussed, IPs land tenure for a REDD+ process, IPs REDD+ key elements and include the budget for this process.

Conclusion: Standard Largely Met

Component 2. Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy

Standard 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy, and Governance:

A completed assessment is presented that: identifies major land use trends; assesses direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD-plus; recognizes major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues; documents past successes and failures in implementing policies or measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD; and sets the stage for development of the country’s REDD strategy to directly address key land use change drivers.

The RPP assesses clearly the major land use trends and the source of information and presents an interesting overview of the country situation in relation to the forest sector. It also identifies the main drivers of deforestation of the most relevant sectors, including some government policies as drivers.

It recognizes the major land tenure and natural resources rights and mentions the governance issues from past precedents such as the Finance and Audit Act 4, (Petroleum Act 3 and The PACT), This component provides very useful and detailed information on trends in forest cover and land use

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 and Indigenous Peoples representation? In this context the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways: (i) self-determined representative) 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).

change, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and laws and policies and provide measures for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. At present there is no legislation that recognizes communal forms of land ownership such as indigenous owned lands. While a recent Belize Court of Appeals ruling has reaffirmed a previous Supreme Court ruling that grants the Mayan communities of Southern Belize collective rights to land and resources in Southern Belize based on use and occupancy. However the Appeal Court did not uphold the previous Supreme Court ruling that imposed a positive obligation on the Government to adopt affirmative measures to protect the rights of the Mayan communities in Southern Belize. This judgment which is being appealed by both parties obviously has an impact on the successful implantation of REDD in Southern Belize. Nevertheless there continues to be some degree of dialogue with representatives of the Mayan collective to keep channels of communication open within the context of the national REDD strategy

Conclusion: Standard Met

Standard 2.b: REDD-plus strategy Options:

The R-PP should include: an alignment of the proposed REDD-plus strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies, and a summary of the emerging REDD-plus strategy to the extent known presently, and of proposed analytic work (and, optionally, ToR) for assessment of the various REDD-plus strategy options. This summary should state: how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD-plus strategy; a plan of how to estimate cost and benefits of the emerging REDD-plus strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental aspects; socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD-plus strategy; consideration of environmental and social issues; major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD-plus strategy; and a plan of how to assess the 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-plus strategy over time.

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

The component describes the background policies that influence land use and resource management in the country and its influence in a future REDD+ context.

Policy interventions and incentives are presented for the 5 established deforestation and forest degradation drivers which are; Agriculture, Infrastructure Expansion, Unsustainable and Illegal Logging, Hurricanes, Pests and Wildfires. Also Strategic Intervention, Intervention Costs, Intervention Benefits and Level of Implementation are discussed by driver. A brief description on a plan for assessing domestic leakage of greenhouse gas benefits/risks is presented.

Conclusion: Standard Met

Standard 2.c: REDD-plus implementation framework:

Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) and a work plan to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD-plus in the country setting. Identifies key issues involved in REDD-plus implementation, and explores potential arrangements to address them; offers a work plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation

into the eventual Readiness Package. Key issues are likely to include: assessing land ownership and carbon rights for potential REDD-plus strategy activities and lands; addressing key governance concerns related to REDD-plus; and institutional arrangements needed to engage in and track REDD-plus activities and transactions.

The component describes the key institution and their role in the Implementation framework, also identify and discuss the main issues among the elements presented for discussion is the land tenure and carbon rights, in this context the Carbon rights undoubtedly tie in closely with current land tenure systems and will inevitably need to take customary and traditional land use and rights issues into consideration. Both the Government of Belize and the Toledo Alcaldes Association have appealed the decision of the Appeals Court to the Caribbean Court of Justice, the last available option. No matter the outcome of this final appeal process, strengthening land and resource management, which also involves improving governance systems, must integrate attempts at resolving the customary land rights issue in Toledo. Failure to do so will restrict the level of success in achieving sustainable forest management, REDD+ objectives and true sustainable development.

Recommendations:

1. Reorganize the information presented in a work plan, incorporating key issues and institutions that will participate or lead the discussion of each key issue, include a timetable.

Conclusion: Standard Largely Met

Standard 2.d: Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation:

The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence in the form of an assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts as part of the SESA process. It also provides a description of safeguard issues that are relevant to the country's readiness preparation efforts.

For FCPF countries, a simple work plan is presented for conducting the SESA process, cross referencing other components of the R-PP as appropriate, and for preparing the ESMF.

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

Conclusion: Standard Met

Component 3. Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

Standard 3: a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

Present a work plan for how the reference level for deforestation, forest degradation (if desired), conservation, sustainable management of forest, and enhancement of carbon stocks will be developed. Include early ideas on a process for determining which approach and methods to use (e.g., forest cover change and GHG emissions based on historical trends, and/or projections into the future of historical trend data; combination of inventory and/or remote sensing, and/or GIS or modeling), major data requirements, and current capacity and capacity requirements. Assess linkages to components 2a (assessment of deforestation drivers), 2b (REDD-plus strategy activities), and 4 (monitoring system design).

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a stepwise approach may be useful. This component states what early activities are proposed.)

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

A section on available historical land-use change studies has been added to the document, which indicates that the country has a vast amount of information on land-use change. The proposed methodology for a national reference level will use the projection of the historical trend. The reference period is discussed, but seems too long as no trend has been observed in the period. Furthermore, a chart on steps required to develop a reference level is provided, but the steps are not elaborated in the document.

Overall, it is not entirely clear how the reference level will be calculated-

Recommendations:

1. Provide a work plan for how the reference level for deforestation and forest degradation that include the elements incorporated in the components 2a concerning the main drivers s.
2. Most of the recommendations have been attended adequately in the document. It is suggested to elaborate a section that describes how the drivers will be dealt with in the reference level, particularly in relation to how to treat natural (e.g. hurricane) and anthropogenic drivers.

Standard Largely Met

Component 4. Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

Standard 4a: National Forest Monitoring System:

The R-PP should provide a proposal and workplan for the initial design, on a stepwise basis, of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation, and forest enhancement activities. The system design should include early ideas on enhancing country capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor emissions reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and to assess the impacts of the REDD-plus 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-plus implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could evolve into a mature REDD-plus monitoring system with the full set of capabilities.

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize 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 component recommends a three-tiered monitoring program as follows: 1) quantifying forest cover and changes in forest cover, 2) quantifying carbon stocks and emission, and 3) drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. A work plan for this program, which was developed at a National Validation Workshop for an MRV System in Belize, is outlined in Annex 4 of the R-PP. This is a well-written and well-reasoned analysis.

Most of the recommendations have been adequately addressed. It is suggested to include a section that describes how the impact of the different REDD+ activities will be monitored and how this will be used to give feedback to the other components of the REDD+ strategy, as pointed out in recommendation 1 and 2.

Recommendations:

1. Clarify how the impacts of the REDD-plus strategy will be monitored.
2. Give an outline of how the MRV system will feedback to other components during the implementation of the REDD+ strategy

Conclusion: Standard Largely Met

Standard 4b: Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards :

The R-PP provides a proposal for the initial design and a workplan, including early ideas on capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities), for an integrated monitoring system that includes addressing other multiple benefits, impacts, and governance. Such benefits may include, e.g., rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD-plus implementation in the country.

(The FCPF and UN-REDD recognize 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.)

This section has been substantially improved, attending all recommendations made on the previous version.

Conclusions: Met

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 and/or UN-REDD, as well as from other international sources (e.g., 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-plus readiness activities identified in the R-PP. Any gaps in funding, or sources of funding, are clearly noted.

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

Recommendations:

1. Please include the Government and other sources of funding in the final summary as it is in the budget for each component-.

Conclusions: Standard Met

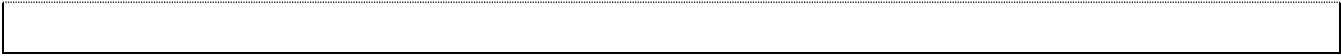
Component 6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Standard 6: The R-PP 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:

The component has incorporated the recommendations provided and now is Met.

Conclusion: Standard Met



DRAFT