

Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: PANAMA

August 2015

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- The updated version of the R-PP was sent by ANAM (now Ministry of Environment) to the FCPF on September 2014 for its final informal completeness check, a necessary requirement for grant agreement signature, which is planned for September 2015.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- The analysis and dissemination of the information generated from the “Active Listening” process has been in progress since April 2014. This included in-depth interviews with key representatives from the Panamanian society as well as workshops with afro-descendants communities, private sector, farmers and other forest-dependent communities.
- Since April 2014 some actions included in the Memorandum of Understanding between ANAM (today Ministry of Environment) and COONAPIP were initiated. This agreement was signed on 28 March 2014 and its objective is the establishment of collaborative actions oriented towards the construction of a national agenda that goes beyond REDD+ as well the coordination mechanisms and necessary cooperation to facilitate the processes that lead to an integral attention of the necessities and related issues between the interested parts.
- The Active Listening process began in June 2014 with three “listening channels” (farmers, afro-descendants and public and private organizations) and the methodological elements and financial instruments were agreed with COONAPIP for the consultation process with indigenous peoples, which is self-managed, and based on the respect towards their traditional authorities and ancestral ways of participation.
- During July 2014, support was given to the management of resources and report of COONAPIP through the Organization of Young Embera Wounaan Persons from Panama (OJEMP in Spanish) through an induction process. The subsidy agreement was prepared and allows that the organization designated by the board of directors from COONAPIP is the one that gives support to the self-management of the consultation process in indigenous areas.
- In July 2014, the participation capacity of COONAPIP was strengthened through the hiring of an indigenous technical team to support the execution of activities indicated in the result framework of the Programme.
- A workshop with the Madugandi Shire was performed as part of the consultation process for the REDD+ national strategy.
- An official Meeting between the Vice minister of Environment, Climate Change Unit members and the 12 Panamanian indigenous structures was performed as part of the consultation process for the REDD+ national strategy and was established a follow up mechanism in order to attend the requests and doubts of its population.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- During June 2014, the REDD+ national working group was reactivated in which 134 key actors that include indigenous people, afro-descendants, farmers, governmental organizations, forest companies, communicators and civil society were all informed on the REDD+ progress in Panama and reformulation of the UN-REDD National Programme
- In July 2014, in a joint effort with the National Department for the Administration of Environment Information Systems (DASIAM in Spanish) from MIAMBIENTE and the Office of Public relations, a space within the website of MIAMBIENTE was prepared and its contents

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designed so key actors can inform themselves and continue the process of the elaboration of the REDD+ National Strategy in Panama.

- The information in the graphic package for REDD+ was updated and distributed to the active listening workshops; validations of the coverage map and land use from 2012, capacity building and several events related to the REDD+ process.
- The workshop of Forest experts is expected to take place from 16 to 17 October 2014 with the objective of seeking consensus on the issues related to the forest problems in Panama and identification of possible strategic options for REDD+
- During August 2014, several coordination meetings took place for the consultation process with COONAPIP and the shires that do not participate in COONAPIP (Guna Yala y Madugandi) including the Vice Minister of Indigenous Affairs.
- In October 15, 2014, His Excellency Mr. President, Juan Carlos Varela, together with organized civil society and private sector, launched the national initiative "Alliance for the million hectares," transversal initiative to address climate change, and ensure that Panama is moving towards equitable development in harmony with nature to raise the target to reforest a million hectares over the next 20 years. The goal of this public-private alliance is to recover forests by reducing deforestation, degradation thereof and increase carbon storage nationwide, while being promoted to rural economic recovery as part of National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENREDD +) component of the National Strategy on Climate Change. The alliance brings together so far 38 strategic partners to ensure a scheme of collaboration between users of the national forest resources.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- On 11 June 2014 a meeting took place between MIAMBIENTE and UN-REDD to discuss the work-plan to approach the design of a Safeguards Information System for REDD+ based on the guidelines of the UNFCCC and on 23 July 2014 the first workshop on the CAST methodology (UN-REDD programme Tool for the approach to safeguards at the national level) took place where 19 key actors participated including representatives from indigenous groups.
- Bearing in mind the discussions on experiences and lessons learned from other countries on Legal and operational frameworks for the implementation of REDD+, an informative event took place with CONAFOR from Mexico on 24 June 2014 in which 16 persons participated (technical and members of civil society), including the president of COONAPIP. The Exchange of experiences between technical staff members from Mexico and Panama contributed to focusing the efforts from the country and improve the technical knowledge that this process involves. Currently there are on-going efforts to structure the technical-legal team to generate a proposal that will provide legal/regulatory support for the implementation of REDD+ in the country.
- On August 2014 the advanced draft of the technical document Opportunity Costs of the REDD+ programme in Panama was presented. During this process several interactive activities took place to empower the national technical staff and key actors based on the results. This will facilitate having a technical platform for the negotiations on the prices, carbon markets and economic benefits that the country could receive and incorporating these inputs in the definition of the strategic options for REDD+
- On August 2014, the Analysis on Multiple Benefits from the Forests was presented (non-monetary benefits) as inputs for the discussion on the strategic options for REDD+ in Panama.

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- On September 2014, methodological arrangements were initiated with CATIE and COONAPIP for the adaptation of a spatial tool generated within the framework of the National Programme for the analysis on the deforestation of indigenous territories.
- On September 2014, a workshop on the opportunity costs for REDD+ in Panama took place based on the request from indigenous technical staff members from COONAPIP.
- To this date MIAMBIENTE website is currently being updated with information on Climate change including progress on REDD+.
- In October 2015, the Ministry of Environment defined the Technical Framework ENREDD +, where average integrated landscape management with an integrated watershed management to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation and increased carbon storage through a system addressed to recognizes carbon ownership in Protected Areas, Land State, Regions and Indigenous Territories and Private Reserves. In addition, the framework identifies a distribution of resources that come from future payment by results respecting the right to carbon ownership, and aims to ensure the sustainability of forest monitoring system.

5. Implementation Framework

- On July 2014, several approaches to the private sector were made to explore joint work opportunities in REDD+ pilot projects in the areas with deforestation risks near protected areas.
- Progress has been made with the joint pilot Project between the Panama Canal Authority, GIZ and MIAMBIENTE (ACP/GIZ/MIAMBIENTE) titled "GREEN ROUTE". This Project aims at compensating emission from the maritime transport services with Emission Reduction Certificates for REDD+ generated by the communities located in the Panama Canal Basin.
- Since June 2014, there have been progress on the CBR+ and GEF/PD Initiative titled "Life Forests" for the implementation of small community projects for REDD+
- On September 2014, a request was received from the National Association to Conserve Nature (ANCON in Spanish) with the objective of considering the private protected area of Punta Patiño in Darien as a REDD+ pilot Project. This was accepted by MIAMBIENTE.
- MIAMBIENTE decided in march 2015 after consultation with stakeholders that the National REDD Strategy will focus in the following activities:
 - o Reducing emissions from deforestation.
 - o Reducing emissions from forest degradation.
 - o Conservation of forest carbon stocks.
 - o Sustainable management of forests.
 - o Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

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6. SESA Social Environmental Strategic Assessment

- During June 2014, key actors related to the REDD+ process in Panama have been identified and consulted in a first phase with the support from “Active Listening” by different channels (afro descendants, farmers, public and private organizations). While the indigenous communities are moving forward with their self-managed consultation based on the respect of their traditional authorities and ancestral ways of participation (for example the Balu Wala methodology)
- As reference, on September 2014, an annex was added to the updated R-PP for Panama titled “Plan for the Public Participation and Social and Environmental Strategic Evaluation (PPP+EESA in Spanish)”, that shows how Panama plans the elaboration and validation of the REDD+ National Strategy with key actors facilitating the establishment of continuity and consistency between UN-REDD and FCPF. The methodology used since 2014 will continue for the period 2015-16 is a result from a review and adaptation to the Panamanian reality of the recommendations and steps pointed out in the following documents:
 - Joint Document between the FCPF and UN-REDD “Guidelines on the Participation of stakeholders on the preparation towards REDD+ with emphasis on the participation of indigenous people and other communities whose livelihood depend on the forests, 20 April 2012” and
 - Documents and presentations from the FCPF on the Social and Environmental Strategic Evaluation
- During 2014, Panama had available a great quantity of necessary studies that constitute the technical inputs to design the National REDD+ strategy and at the same time a consultation process is being made with key actors of the Panamanian society (institutions, civil society, indigenous people, farmers and afro descendants) that will complement the information already available related to the perceived diagnostic, necessities and demands on the forest and deforestation. In July 2015 the draft of the National REDD+ Strategy was finalized.
- On September 2014, the Climate Change National Committee which includes representatives from the private sector, public institutions and NGOs organized a workshop on the conceptualization of the negotiations on Climate Change and REDD+ based on the COP 20 in Lima, Peru and COP 21 in Paris, France.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- On June 2014, methodological options were analyzed to elaborate a map for the historical changes made to the forest coverage and generate transitional matrixes for the national level; all methods considered are based on the simultaneous comparison of satellite images from different periods. Satellite images were acquired to carry out the multi-temporal analysis of the changes.
- On June 2014, inertial scenarios were presented and others that include the impact of the infrastructure projects on the forest coverage as an input for the discussion on national circumstances that can justify the adjustments to the historical averages of deforestation to be used for RL/REL.
- The analysis of the historical deforestation is on-going and we expect to have results by January

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2015.

8. MRV

- On June 2014, the interactive visualizer of the interactive map for coverage and land use 2012 is presented as first product of the institutional Geoportal through the MIAMBIENTE website. The visualizer includes navigational controls and tools that facilitate going over the country, drawing on the map and measuring distances and surfaces and produce printed maps.
- Since April 2014, spatial data from MIAMBIENTEANAM related to the REDD+ issue are organized and support has been provided for the design and implantation of the institutional geospatial database including installation guidelines and configuration of the geo-server for the geographical data bases.
- Since May 2014, activities were initiated to prepare a community protocol proposal on intellectual property on the traditional knowledge of flora species and collection of reference vegetal material in shires and indigenous territories; activity led by COONAPIP.
- On May 2014, 50% of the pilot phase of the forest inventory was completed and the content of carbon on land and fallen leaves was analyzed. One of the units of survey was done in indigenous territory with participation of two technical staff members that were trained by a "learning by doing" process.
- On August 2014, a private Company was hired to survey 10 units of survey in non-indigenous areas and two NGOs/Indigenous enterprises were hired to survey 16 units of survey in indigenous areas including quality control.
- Currently MIAMBIENTE is evaluating a proposal on Forest Law that aim at strengthening the forest sector institutions through an efficient management and command and control oriented to improve the sustainable management of forest, the recovery of degraded land and conservation of hydrographical basis. The inclusion of a Forest Regency is contemplated in this law and will significantly contribute to the implementation of MRV.

9. Other

- By mid-2014, the Forestry Engineering class was approved with the support of MIAMBIENTE, The National Association of Reforestation and Related in Panama (ANARAP in Spanish) and the School for Forest Engineers in Panama (CIFP in Spanish). This class, which is not offered in the national territory, will start on March 2015 and it will be taught at the Technological University of Panama.
- Since April 2014 to this date MIAMBIENTE is pushing for the signature on the technical and scientific cooperation agreement with international and national universities with the objective of creating national capacity to carry forward the REDD+ Programme.
- Since July 2014, a legislative initiative in being promoted to raise the level of ANAM to a full Ministry of Environment. It was achieved on March 2015 by Law 8 of March 25 of 2015. This allowed the strengthening of sustainable management of forest resources.
- MIAMBIENTE also created a Climate Change Direction and a Forest Direction that gives National REDD+ Strategy a strengthened framework.
- Currently MIAMBIENTE is creating capacity building to REDD+ stakeholders to attend and be part of the formal Panamanian Delegation in COP21 in Paris in order to involve current forest users in the negotiation process.