



# Mid Term Progress Report

## HONDURAS

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**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**

**Readiness Fund**

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**Note:** [FMT Note 2012-7 rev](#) lays out the process for REDD Country Participants to submit, and the Participants Committee (PC) to review, mid-term progress reports and requests for additional funding of up to US\$5 million.

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## Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AFH	Honduran Forestry Agenda
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
WB	World Bank
CATIE	Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CICC	Climate Change Interinstitutional Committee
CONPAH	Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras
CONASASH	National Committee for Environmental and Social Safeguards of Honduras
DNCC	National Climate Change Directorate
ENCC	National Climate Change Strategy
ESMF	Environment and Social Management Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Carbon Forest Cooperative Fund
FHONDIL	Honduran Federation of Indigenous Lencas
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FREL/FRL	Forest Reference Emissions Level/Forest Reference Level
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GNT REDD	REDD National Task Force (CTICC Subcommittee)
ICF	Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife National Institute
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JD-REDD+	REDD+ National Board of Directors
LFAPVS	Law on Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife
LULUCF	Land use Land-Use Change and forestry
MNICC	National Indigenous and Afro Honduran Platform of Climate Change
MiAmbiente	Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines Secretary
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NRS	National REDD+ Strategy
OCP	Projects Management Office
OMMs	Women's Municipal Offices
ONCC	Climate Change National Office
ONILH	National Indigenous Lenca Organization of Honduras
OSC	Civil Society Organization
PIAH	Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Groups ( <i>Pueblos</i> )
PAM	Policies and Measures
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
REDMIAH	Indigenous and Afro-Honduran women's network
SEDINAFROH	Indigenous and Afro-Honduran People of Honduras Secretary
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SDG	Sustainable Development goals
SEFIN	Ministry of Finance
UN-REDD	The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
U-ESNACIFOR	National University of Forestry Sciences
UGE FCC	Economic Management and Climate Change Finance Unit
UNFCCC	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

# 1. Introduction/Executive summary

Honduras is currently aligning its national development planning system with the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Objective No. 3 of the [National Development Plan](#) (2010-2022) refers to "Honduras as a productive country, that generates opportunities and decent employment, managing its natural resources sustainably and reducing environmental vulnerability". This objective is articulated with four SDG: 1 (End of poverty), 5 (Gender Equality) 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Terrestrial Ecosystems) and provides a high-level policy anchor for REDD+ in the country.

Since mid-2016 the Government has prioritized the development of a "Forests-Water-Soils" Master Plan that will be a national policy and will integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation programs, including the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS). The NRS will also serve as an instrument to fulfill the Honduras National Determined Contribution (NDC) under the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement. While the [Honduras NDC](#) does not include a quantitative commitment for the LULUCF sector<sup>1</sup>, it does include references to the reforestation of 1 million hectares (in relation to the Bonn Challenge) and to the reduction of fuelwood consumption by 39%.

Having multiple sources of support for REDD+ and related initiatives, the Government, through the National REDD+ Strategy process and its REDD+ focal point, is coordinating the implementation the FCPF readiness project, the UN-REDD National Programme, the Forest Investment Program (FIP) preparatory funds, and the voluntary agreement with the EU for AVA-FLEGT (under negotiation).

The abovementioned initiatives are contributing to the development of three national programs under the "Forests-Water-Soils" Master Plan: a) National Agroforestry Program with sustainable productive landscapes approach<sup>2</sup>; b) National Restoration Program<sup>3</sup>; and c) Strategy against Illegal Logging of Forest within AVA-FLEGT. These programs are policy instruments that will allow the implementation of the Honduras National REDD+ Strategy. Specifically, as well as supporting the completion of the four pillars of REDD+ readiness, the FCPF project is contributing to the design of the National Agroforestry Program and its corresponding implementation and financing plans.

Of the four pillars of REDD+ readiness, Honduras has made excellent progress with its forest reference emission level, having recently submitted a first iteration to the UNFCCC Secretariat in January 2017. Progress was made on the development of multi-temporal land-use change maps for the activity data analysis. The forest stratification was defined, and guidelines for the implementation of methodological protocols for change and cover maps, as well as for emission factors, have been produced. The draft reference level was shared with key stakeholders before submission, and throughout the process the staff involved with generating the FREL data was offered training to strengthen the technical capacity within the relevant institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of the iNDC submission Honduras had not completed its forest reference level (submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2017)

<sup>2</sup> Targeting productive landscapes around forest lands, and forest lands

<sup>3</sup> Targeting degraded lands

In the case of the National Forest Monitoring System, a forest monitoring group was activated in 2015 and this group has advanced this component through training, workshops and dialogues. A main focus has been building the technical capacity of the Forest Monitoring Unit, both in terms of knowledge and specialized equipment. Through training and workshops, a solid foundation for the development of a robust NFMS has been built, with identification of indicators and initial steps toward a roadmap for NFMS development having been taken.

Regarding the National REDD+ Strategy, the Government identified the National Agroforestry Program as the policy instrument for its implementation. Significant capacity building activities and participatory workshops were conducted including inter-sectoral consultations for the new Agroforestry Program, and considerations for addressing strategic social and environmental issues in its implementation.

Finally, on safeguards, a technical and a national committee have been established, and the legal and institutional framework analyses will be completed in February 2017. This work will be integrated with the formal SESA process starting in February 2017.

## 2. General Progress in R-PP implementation.

*The Country provides an overview of progress to date in achieving the four main components of the R-PP and their respective sub-components presented below, against the original proposal. The Country presents in each sub-component: (i) what has been achieved to date (outputs and outcomes); (ii) some analysis of these results including major constraints and gaps that need to be addressed; (iii) other significant readiness work in progress; and (iv) if applicable, a request for additional funding to the FCPF, to implement outstanding activities relevant to that sub-component. The proposed format mirrors the structure of the Readiness Package (FMT Note 2012-6).*

### 1 – Organize and Consult for REDD+ Readiness

#### 1a. National Readiness Management Arrangements for REDD+

##### *Indicator 1. Accountability and transparency*

Regarding transparency related to REDD+ readiness, every 6 months the Ministry of Environment (MiAmbiente) delivers an accountability report<sup>4</sup> that includes information on REDD+. The report includes progress updates on:

- General REDD+ updates related to legal or policy instruments
- Participation of relevant stakeholders
- GHG emissions from deforestation including information on changes in forest cover, annual deforestation rate, and information from the national forest inventory
- National Forest Monitoring System and the National Safeguards System

In addition to MiAmbiente's report, the National Transparency Institute performs an annual transparency measurement to MiAmbiente and other public institutions in the country. MiAmbiente's portal includes a section on transparency and gender, where more details can be found.

##### *Indicator 2. Operating mandate and budget*

The process to prepare the national conditions necessary to address climate change impacts, and the preparation of strategies for both mitigation and adaptation, have begun in Honduras. Current national institutional arrangements include concrete progress towards setting up participatory structures, and developing technical, administrative and budgetary capacities to enable conditions for REDD+ implementation.

As one of the pillars for readiness, the Climate Change Law was enacted in 2014<sup>5</sup>, which establishes the principles and regulations necessary to plan, prevent and respond in an adequate, coordinated and sustained manner, to the impacts of climate change in the country. The Law includes the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Committee on Climate Change (CICC in Spanish), which, in addition to agencies and offices of the National Government, includes relevant members of organized civil society, who may be convened by the Committee on demand.

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<sup>4</sup> Information may be consulted in the following site: <http://portalunico.iaip.gob.hn/portal/index.php?portal=390>

<sup>5</sup> Decree No. 297-2013. Climate Change Law. La Gaceta, Diario Oficial de la República de Honduras. November 10, 2014. Available at <http://www.tsc.gob.hn/leyes/Ley%20de%20Cambio%20Climatico.pdf>

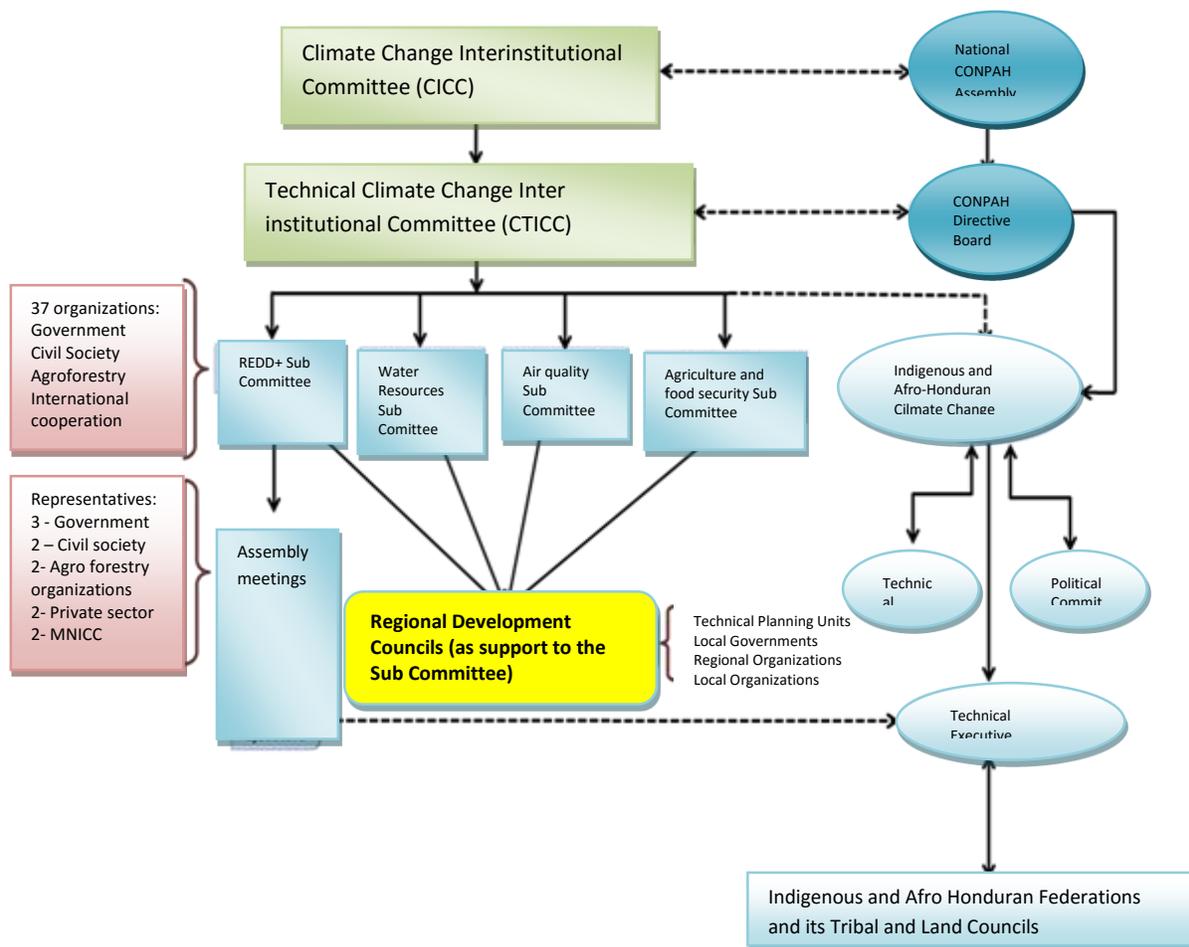
The Law also establishes the creation of the Inter-Institutional Committee on Climate Change (CTICC in Spanish), as a permanent body to support and consult the National Climate Change Directorate and the Inter-Institutional Committee on Climate Change for events that may require extensive analysis and participation, as well as regulation on the functioning of the participation platforms and governance mechanisms.

REDD+ readiness in Honduras is being supported financially by the FCPF, the UN-REDD Programme, and IUCN. In addition, complementary activities are supported by EU AVA-FLEGT. Budgets and finance are coordinated through MiAmbiente and the REDD+ focal point. MiAmbiente provides co-financing in kind (personnel, facilities and equipment), and in cash through a specific budget line assigned to developing the National REDD+ Strategy.

### *Indicator 3. Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration*

The Government of Honduras established an operational mandate to coordinate and develop REDD+ readiness through MiAmbiente, which has been in charge of convening other government sectors related to REDD+ through different institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

The following diagram shows the coordination structure for REDD+ readiness, which includes mandated platforms by the Climate Change Law, the subcommittees, platforms and spaces for indigenous participation and consultation for decision-making and inter-liaisons:



**Figure 1: Coordination structure for REDD+ readiness**

It is important to note that, in search of a more efficient and solid structure, a legal-technical review of the Climate Change Law is currently underway. It includes a review of the functioning of the established coordination structure, so changes may arise following this review in the near future. The following paragraphs explain the objectives and operation of the current structures:

Through Executive Decree PCM-022-2010<sup>6</sup>, the Inter-Institutional Committee on Climate Change (CICC) was created as a permanent technical and political support body for the then National Directorate of Climate Change (DNCC in Spanish) of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry (SERNA in Spanish), of the former administration.

<sup>6</sup><http://www.tsc.gob.hn/leyes/Elevar%20la%20Unidad%20de%20Camb%20Clim%C3%A1tico%20UCC%20adscrita%20a%20la%20Direc%20de%20Biodiversidad%20DIBIO%20de%20SERNA%20a%20la%20categ%20de%20la%20Direc%20Naci%20de%20Camb%20Clim%C3%A1tico.pdf>

A new government administration was appointed in January 2014, and launched the Decree PCM-001-2014, through which SERNA became the Ministry of State for Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines (MiAmbiente), under the Sectoral Cabinet for Economic Development. Also, the National Institute of Forest Conservation, Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife (ICF in Spanish) is assigned to MiAmbiente as a Directorate, but operates under its own legislative framework. The DNCC takes a leading role at a political level with governing functions, and serves as the National Office of Climate Change within MiAmbiente.

The CICC includes representatives from the following sectors: Central and local government, the private sector, organized civil society, academia, professional associations, cooperation agencies, indigenous and Afro-Honduran representatives (through the MIACC), and other sectors relevant to climate change. It acts as a platform for political discussion that promotes coordinated actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and thereby the fulfillment of international commitments.

The CICC serves as an advisory body on climate change to the President of the Republic, in which several Ministries participate. The CICC has established an Inter-Agency Technical Committee on Climate Change (CTICC), which acts as a permanent body implementing the guidelines and actions issued by the CICC, as well as providing technical recommendations on plans, strategies, programs and projects. The products resulting from the CTICC are subject to review and final approval by the CICC.

In addition, the CTICC is subdivided into thematic Subcommittees to address the various sectors involved in the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. Four Sub-Committees have been formed and formalized: (a) air quality, (b) agriculture and food security, (c) water resources, and (d) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

The REDD+ Subcommittee is coordinated by an Executive Board and is in charge of promoting intersectoral dialogue and integration of relevant stakeholders related to REDD+. Since its inception in 2010, it has served primarily as a platform for communication, coordination, and capacity building on REDD+ readiness. Representatives of each participating institution participate in REDD+ Subcommittee assemblies.

Pursuing effective engagement of civil society, Honduras has started developing spaces and procedures to allow the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, at the national, sub national and regional levels, considering gender mainstreaming throughout. In addition, mechanisms to coordinate REDD+ finance are under development.

Along these lines, two discussion and validation platforms to develop the National REDD+ Strategy were formalized: The Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Climate Change Platform (MIACC) and the REDD+ Subcommittee<sup>7</sup>. In addition, because the Lenca indigenous group perceived that they were not duly represented on the MIACC, a specific sectoral platform was established for them to ensure adequate

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<sup>7</sup> The Functions Manual of the REDD+ Sub Committee, may be consulted in Annex 2, available at <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2013/August2013/Completeness%20check.zip>.

representation. The platform is self-organized and includes 26 Lenca organizations and currently exercises active and structured participation through their own regulations.

Letters of agreement for sectoral participation were signed with implementing partners including the Honduran Broadleaf Forest Management Network (REMBLAH), the Honduran Forestry Agenda (AFH), and the Fundación Vida (FV). These organizations will facilitate and systematize sectoral discussions among agroforestry groups, private landowners and academia, and civil society organizations. The agreements, financed with FCPF's resources, seek to: a) ensure that relevant stakeholders have access to information regarding the REDD+ readiness process in the country; b) generate spaces for dialogue to analyze the main conflicts and possible solutions; and d) sensitize the population on the importance of forests for the well-being of the population and the climate. Fundación Vida, REMBLAH and AFH were elected through a dialogue within the framework of the REDD+ Subcommittee when formulating the R-PP.

The Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras (CONPAH) was involved from early on in the readiness process, demanding participation and consultation that resulted in specific provisions being incorporated in the FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme projects. CONPAH is expected to be able to support the State in understanding the internal governance of the country's indigenous groups in order to facilitate REDD+ and NRS dialogues. Understanding indigenous governance involves identifying structures to consult with, and the timelines to be considered.

As per coordination with NGOs, the MiAmbiente has been in charge of the coordination of the different initiatives that contribute to REDD+. In order to seek effectiveness and improvements, and as a coordination body to avoid duplication of efforts, it is expected that in 2017, a REDD+ cooperation board may be set up with representatives from: REDD+ / CCAD / GIZ, IUCN, CARE, CATIE, Global Capital, USAID, and the Rainforest Alliance.

#### *Indicator 4. Technical supervision capacity*

In order to strengthen the REDD+ coordination team, in 2014 several training sessions were held for managers of the REDD+ readiness project, on climate change mitigation, REDD+, the readiness phase and on administrative management. Also, 20 employees and technical staff from SERNA (now MiAmbiente), the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) and U-ESNACIFOR were trained in Results Based Management and gender approach, so that these concepts could be integrated into preparedness activities.

Due to changes of government and high staff turnover, among others, maintaining capacities on REDD+ at the institutional level has been a continuous challenge, and has required significant efforts to support maintaining a functioning coordinating team. In 2015, the technical team for REDD+ was assembled, consisting of a project manager, a technical manager, a liaison technician with PIAH, a MRV technician, a safeguards technician and administrative personnel.

#### *Indicator 5. Funds management capacity*

During 2016 MiAmbiente promoted coordination with the Ministry of Finance, (SEFIN in Spanish) to jointly establish a financial mechanism for REDD+. SEFIN has also started structuring a Unit for Economic and

Financial Management for Climate Change (UGEFCC), with support from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI).

The creation of a new climate change office at the presidential level (Clima+), and the presence of multiple agencies seeking to serve as GCF implementing agencies in Honduras, has halted the abovementioned coordination.

With the support of the Ministry of Coordination for the President (highest level Ministry in Honduras), and through a newly appointed head of the Clima+ Office, coordination for the financial architecture for climate change and REDD+ implementation is expected to be resolved by mid-2017.

#### *Indicator 6. Feedback and grievance redress mechanisms*

As part of the national arrangements for the REDD+, efforts have begun on establishing a grievance mechanism. In 2013 an assessment was undertaken to analyze the current sources of conflict in the forestry sector, potential new conflicts that may arise related to REDD+, and the mechanisms that exist to address conflicts. The assessment also proposed recommendations to develop a mechanism for conflict resolution, and steps to support the prevention of conflict. Of the key recommendations included in the assessment, substantial progress has been made on the following three:

- Focus and strengthen the REDD+ Subcommittee: The focus should be on building credible forums for working together among all stakeholders - indigenous peoples, government institutions, and representatives of civil society and the private sector.
- Preventive Agenda: Advancing agreements, mechanisms and/or regulation on ancestral rights and free prior and informed consent. For example, CONPAH has already developed a Draft Law on the Right of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
- Establish a Mechanism for Conflict Resolution within the REDD + Subcommittee and MIACC with functions of receiving and tracking cases. A structure (e.g. a secretariat) would be needed to have a permanent capacity for operation.

The REDD+ Subcommittee will meet in March 2017 to discuss next steps for further clarifying the roles and responsibilities within the Subcommittee with regard to the GRM, as well as a procedure for the receipt, registration, referral and response to complaints.

While the GRM is being established, the response to complaints from multiple stakeholders has taken place through training workshops with CONASAH, REDD+ activities, and planning workshops led by the REDD+ MIAmbiente project, and through letters sent to the Minister of the Environment, which have been speedily addressed.

## 1b. Stakeholder Consultation and Participation

### *Indicator 7. Participation and engagement of key stakeholders*

In order to have a broad participation process, a comprehensive stakeholder analysis (mapping and characterizing political and social stakeholders) related to the REDD+ process was concluded in 2015<sup>8</sup>. The report maps stakeholders related to REDD+ at regional and national level, analyzing their positions regarding forests and the State. It includes an analysis of the perception of drivers of deforestation and proposed solutions, as well as recommendations to implement an adequate participatory process with gender mainstreaming considerations.

In parallel, a *Plan for stakeholder engagement, strategy dissemination, safeguards evaluation and REDD+ monitoring in Honduras*<sup>9</sup> was produced. The plan aims to describe the sequential activities for the participation of the relevant stakeholders in Honduras REDD+ process, and provides recommendations for effective and consistent stakeholder engagement. Therefore, it informs stage 1 of the SESA process. The implementation of the recommendations and the work-plan have served to identify and/or strengthen key platforms of participation.

Since 2014, extensive work has been done to strengthen stakeholder capacities, training around 170 representatives from civil society and the government sector. In 2015, 65 government officials and 51 representatives of federations of forest dependent communities were trained on REDD+ safeguards. Capacity building activities on REDD+, SESA, FPIC, and safeguards targeting 262 leaders and members of CONPAH were carried out.

In 2015, a report on the participation of indigenous and Afro-Honduran people in the REDD+ process was produced and presented to CONPAH's technical and political committees. The report analyses the participatory process, and outreach of the PIAH throughout the REDD+ readiness process in Honduras.

Honduras acknowledges that the current country situation in relation to the defense of the territories and the emergence of new unmapped stakeholders implies that indigenous participation continues to be a challenge. Regarding women's participation, gender mainstreaming is still a challenge. The indigenous and Afro-Honduran Women Network (MIAH) was involved in national dialogues on REDD+ and guidelines are being discussed to carry out the REDD+ Academy with them. In order to improve participation of women from the Government sector, Municipal Offices of Women (OMM) in target municipalities are being involved in the REDD+ national process.

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<sup>8</sup> Camacho, C. 2015. *Mapeo y caracterización de los actores sociales y políticos alrededor de REDD+ en Honduras*. Proyecto de Apoyo a la Preparación para la Reducción de Emisiones debidas a la Deforestación y a la Degradación en Honduras (Proyecto REDD+). MiAmbiente. Honduras. Available at [http://www.ocphn.org/docredd\\_mapeo\\_actores\\_alrededor.html](http://www.ocphn.org/docredd_mapeo_actores_alrededor.html)

<sup>9</sup> Plan de Trabajo específico para el involucramiento de actores, divulgación de la estrategia, evaluación de salvaguardas y monitoreo REDD+ de Honduras. Annex 15 of R-PP. Available at : <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2013/August2013/Completeness%20check.zip>.

From August to October 2016<sup>10</sup>, a series of efforts have been implemented on Gender and REDD+ including: i) the implementation of workshops on gender, climate change and REDD+; and a ii) a regional REDD+ and Gender meeting held in November 2016 which resulted in a declaration stating their interest for being active participants on National REDD+ Strategy processes; recognizing that participation opportunities have been provided; and highlighting the importance of including women's voices in the National Strategy in a visible and differentiated way.

#### *Indicator 8. Consultation process*

In preparation for the implementation of a REDD+ mechanism and for broader national purposes, a draft Law of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) was formulated in a participatory manner. This milestone represents significant progress regarding the recognition of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran people's rights<sup>11</sup>. The release of the first draft of the FPIC law will be followed by i) holding a national-level validation workshop with representatives of the indigenous and Afro-Hondurans groups and government officials in early 2017 and ii) sending the draft FPIC Law to the Honduras's National Congress for its approval.

As part of the readiness process, participation and consultation mechanisms are being established for indigenous and Afro-Honduran people, in accordance with their rights. In 2014, a draft roadmap was produced in coordination with CONPAH, for the formulation of pre-consultation mechanisms with the PIAH<sup>12</sup>, which indicated the need to develop legislation concerning FPIC.

In 2015, three workshops to obtain inputs for the draft law, and a technical platform were assembled, in which government, indigenous and afro leaders participated. 21 public institutions representing the two powers of the State (Executive and Legislative), and more than 50 representatives of indigenous and Afro-Honduran organizations participated in the process. In collaboration with government entities, CONPAH and UNDP, the FPIC technical platform has held preliminary consultations with legitimate representatives of the nine ethnic groups<sup>13</sup>, involving more than 450 people, of which 44% of are women.

In early 2016, consensus was reached on the draft law with CONPAH, and has already been shared with 9 ethnic groups. In total, 18 events have been held in their territories; to collect contributions and observations for the draft that will be presented to the National Congress in early 2017. At least 1308 people have registered in the participation listings; of 319 organizations representing the nine ethnal groups.

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<sup>10</sup> The details of these events may be consulted in the latest newsletter:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3lkd68YJK4hZ3RIOENDcmo4YjQ/view>

<sup>11</sup> All the events and sessions were open to representatives of all IP and afro Honduran organizations. Invitations and information was sent in advance.

<sup>12</sup> Indigenous and afrohonduran platform

<sup>13</sup>: Lenca, English-speaking Blacks, Garifuna Maya Chorti, Tolupan, Tawahka, Pech, Miskitu, Nahua

Throughout the information dissemination and participation workshops processes, the most appropriate invitation channels and forms of communication are considered in accordance with the cultural context of the attendees, and sometimes attendance reminders are also sent. Likewise, culturally appropriate meeting materials (agendas, information material, meeting reports, etc.) forms of communication, dynamics, etc. are used and shared with the participants. Working meetings often incorporate different forms of culturally appropriate discussion techniques.

Although Honduras still lacks a National Strategy for REDD+ properly stated in a single document that may be consulted in a timely manner, there have been platforms that seek to generate discussion and involvement on strategic options, which will be included in the National REDD+ Strategy.

The various capacity building activities outlined above have strengthened the governance for the REDD+ process in the country. For example, the sectorial Lenca Platform served to define its representation mechanisms for REDD+. RedMIAH is defining a mechanism for participation and consultation for indigenous women, which is expected to be concluded in 2017.

*Indicator 9. Information sharing and accessibility of information*

*Indicator 10. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes*

Progress on disseminating REDD+ information includes: a REDD+ section in the MiAmbiente website<sup>14</sup> used to post updated information on the process at national level, which has recorded 771 visits between November 2015 and June 2016; newsletters produced and disseminated<sup>15</sup>– 5 in 2015, and 3 quarterly newsletters in 2016; a general video on REDD+<sup>16</sup> as well as 5 thematic REDD+ videos; and a REDD+ safeguards leaflet. Communication materials and information have been disseminated through social networks including Twitter (@REDDHonduras) and Facebook<sup>17</sup>.

While important communication efforts have been implemented, reaching sectors without internet access is still a challenge. Therefore, culturally appropriate and easy-dissemination radio material is under production and which will be available in 2017. Resources to deliver such materials are insufficient.

Honduras has actively participated from the UN-REDD's Programme's REDD+ Academy, and the training materials have been adapted to be used at a national level with different sectors in the country<sup>18</sup>. The REDD+ Academy in Honduras was implemented through several training events for REDD+ stakeholders. In the last quarter (August to October), two events were held, one with members of the Lenca Platform in Santa Barbara, and a second event with Women from the RedMIAH, in the city of Marcala.

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<sup>14</sup> Official REDD+ Honduras Project website: <http://ocphn.org/reddhonduras.html>

<sup>15</sup> REDD+ Newsletters: [http://ocphn.org/boletines\\_redd.html](http://ocphn.org/boletines_redd.html)

<sup>16</sup> REDD+ video in Honduras, at <http://ocphn.org/reddhonduras.html> or in Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68VngaixPNE>

<sup>17</sup> Facebook page of the REDD+ Project in Honduras: <https://www.facebook.com/REDD-Honduras-895371723835998/>

<sup>18</sup> Information on the REDD+ Academy Sessions may be found at : [http://www.ocphn.org/estrategia\\_redd.html](http://www.ocphn.org/estrategia_redd.html)

The information dissemination and capacity building process for the Lenca people has been extensive, and at present, all Lenca indigenous organizations, including the ONDILH federation, have been part of an information dissemination process on climate change and REDD+.

In 2016, on June 14 and 15, the first national dialogue was held with the participation of 125 people, which sought to share the National Agroforestry Program, and in which the causes of deforestation that Honduran forests face, were also discussed and prioritized. The academia, indigenous and Afro-Honduran people, the private sector, the agroforestry sector, cooperatives and civil society were involved.

During the dialogue, climate change initiatives, desertification and biodiversity in the national and international context, were discussed; and information on the progress of the contribution process of the international REDD+ mechanism in Honduras was also disseminated. Also, the participatory generation of inputs on the vision, agendas, interests and challenges of the stakeholders involved in this process was achieved. There was a wide participation of stakeholders from different sectors, and all the contributions, questions and approaches have been taken into account in the definition of the causes of deforestation, and as a contribution to the construction of a shared vision of the program.

## 2 – Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy

### 2a. Assessment of land use, causes of land use change, forest policy and governance

#### *Indicator 11. Assessment and analysis*

In 2011, as part of the REDD - CCAD /GIZ project, a preliminary assessment of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Honduras<sup>19</sup> was conducted. This analysis has served as a basis for discussion with different stakeholders for the national REDD+ readiness process, as well as for defining the need of a National Agroforestry Program.

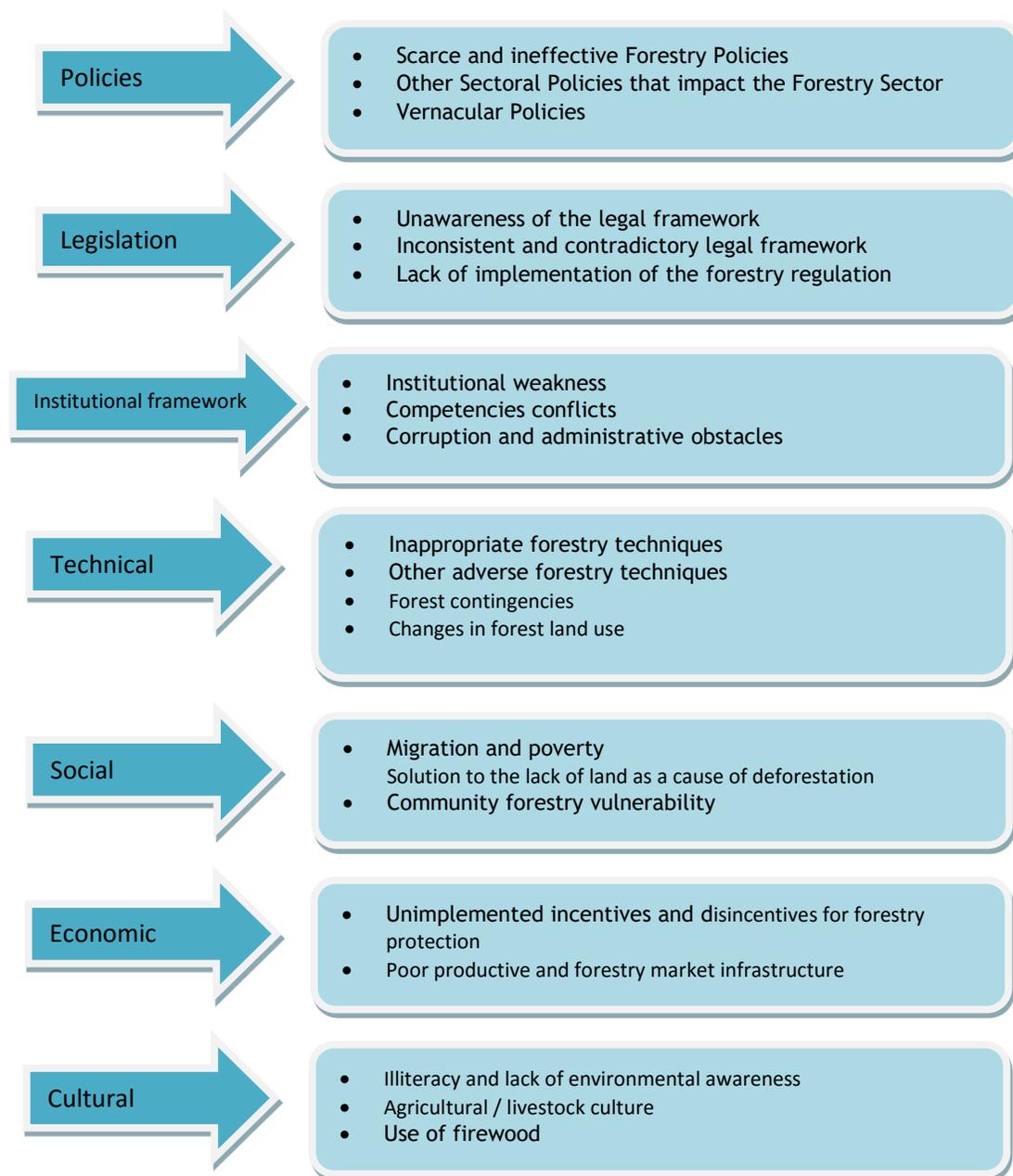
This preliminary assessment includes a quantitative and qualitative analysis of deforestation, and assesses drivers considering the institutional, legal and policy framework. It also identifies past initiatives to reforest and enhance forest management in Honduras, and concludes by outlining information gaps.

The report indicates that that for 2010, the ICF had estimated forest cover in Honduras as 6,598,289 has, with an annual average deforestation rate of 59,000 has/yr. Areas with higher deforestation due to different drivers include North of Comayagua, Olancho and La Mosquitia.

Direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation were classified around seven underlying factors: policies, legislation, institutional framework, technical aspects, economic, cultural, and social factors (see Figure 2).

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<sup>19</sup> Vallejo, M., Oqueli, O., Vallejo, N. *Evaluación Preliminar de las causas de la deforestación y degradación de bosques en Honduras*. Programa Reducción de Emisiones de la Deforestación y Degradación de Bosques en Centroamérica y República Dominicana (REDD – CCAD/GIZ). Honduras, 2011. <http://icf.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Causas-de-la-deforestacion-y-degradacion-en-Honduras.pdf>



**Figure 2: Factors and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Honduras**

In addition to the above-mentioned report, a regional study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation was developed by the same initiative (REDD - CCAD /GIZ).

In 2014, a study of property rights around Honduras's forests was developed to be presented to the PROFOR Program. This report outlines potential implications and barriers for REDD+ implementation in relation to land-titling rights in Honduras.

It is expected that during the first trimester of 2017, the consultancy company in charge of drafting the National REDD+ Strategy will analyze the sufficiency of the information on drivers of deforestation as a basis for defining the REDD+ policies and measures, and will update and complete the analyses if needed.

*Indicator 12. Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement*

*Indicator 13. Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities*

*Indicator 14. Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance*

*Indicator 15. Implications for forest law and policy*

While baseline analysis on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation/barriers for enhancement of forest carbon stocks are available, the main participatory assessment of land use, causes of land-use change, forest policy and governance is still under development, and the results for indicators 12 to 15 are still to be strengthened. Nevertheless, after a participatory process and analysis, it was agreed that since the National Agroforestry Program integrates and works in conjunction with the agricultural and forestry sectors, a positive reception of the implementation phase of REDD+ can be anticipated.

The National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) currently under development will include inputs from sectors related to drivers of deforestation, based on existing technical studies<sup>20</sup>, which will be updated through the consultancy in charge of completing the NRS. The results of the studies may not lead to a change of prioritization, but to an expansion and/or integration of the already identified policies and measures.

Within the abovementioned consultancy, existing studies on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation/barriers for forest carbon stocks will be assessed, and, if needed, will be updated until April 2017. This will provide the basis to formulate and complete the policies and measures of the NRS, considering the National Agroforestry Program as the umbrella.

As part of the participatory process, key workshops and forums have been held including the First National Dialogue on Sustainable Productive Landscapes (June 2016)<sup>21</sup>, where drivers of deforestation and forest degradation were discussed with relevant sectors involved. These inputs have been collected, are being systematized, and will be considered to define REDD+ priority areas and the strategic options/policies and measures to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and enhance forest carbon stocks.

In spite of progress registered in these discussions, some administrative issues have hindered the production of preliminary results based on the inputs collected through the participation of different relevant sectors involved (mainly the REDD+ Academy).

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<sup>20</sup> *Aspectos legales e institucionales para el establecimiento del Sistema Nacional de Monitoreo de Bosques en Honduras*, available at: <http://agendaforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/DIAGRAMACI%C3%92N-SNMB-FINAL.pdf>, o *Elementos de apoyo de las actividades de preparación jurídica de REDD+ en Honduras*, disponible en <http://agendaforestal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Obst%C3%A1culos-y-Opciones-Legales-para-la-Implementaci%C3%B3n.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> The Dialogue Report is available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3lkd68YJK4hZW5rbzZTd1E3RDQ/view>

## 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

### *Indicator 16. Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options*

In 2015, a roadmap to develop the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) was completed, including implementing the participatory process through the stakeholder engagement, updating and refining the drivers of deforestation analyses and land-tenure analysis, and developing the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) analysis.

The strategy options/policies and measures will serve for the operationalization the National Agroforestry Program, which integrates and coordinates with the agricultural and forestry sector, considering the mitigation actions focused on REDD+ as a specific issue. This instrument arises from the demand of the REDD+ process related sectors (local communities, agroforestry groups, private forest owners, forest industry, indigenous and Afro-Honduran people). In addition, the Presidential agreement in the Council of Ministers (PCM in Spanish) is already being approved, which will allow the design and formulation of the National Agroforestry Program, identified as the legal basis for policies and measures to be determined in the strategy preparation phase.

The outlining of these programs has been implemented in a collaborative manner in different forums and platforms of participation, among them the First National Congress of Climate Change, featuring more than 300 attendees representing different sectors. In the area of restoration of productive landscapes, a workshop was recently held to evaluate opportunities and options for the restoration of rural landscapes in Honduras as part of the country's efforts on this issue, involving 70 stakeholders. The First National Dialogue of the National Sustainable Productive Landscapes Program was also held, with more than 120 participants. The objective was to introduce the program's approach to various stakeholders and to collect valuable inputs to build the country's vision.

The National Agroforestry Program seeks to promote greater productivity of its territories through sustainable initiatives in the agroforestry sector. Through this policy, the Honduran government will provide a sustainability response to three key areas of natural resources management: water, forest and soil. Thus, this policy is positioned as a priority to ensure the development of the country focused on employment generation and poverty reduction in two key sectors: agriculture and forestry.

The National Agroforestry Program and two complementary programs (restoration, and illegal logging) will promote a system of sustainable forest production through five preliminary topics:

1. **Reduction of deforestation and degradation.** Activities will be implemented to encourage investment in community forestry. In addition, activities to address the vulnerability of forests in Honduras to fires and pests (such as the bark beetle plague that affected 381 thousand hectares (ICF) in 2015) as well as pest control and fire protection programs, will be implemented. Also, the creation of measures to control illegal logging under the National Strategy against Illegal Logging (ENCTI), as part of the AVA-FLEGT program will be promoted.
2. **Restoration and reforestation.** This topic aims for restoration of surrounding areas of extractive industries, and the restoration of basins and mangroves, through the implementation of the

National Forest Restoration Program. In addition, this policy will be used to fulfill the country's international commitment (NDC) to reforest 1 million hectares. So far, the Program considers the restoration of agroforestry systems, restoration in silvo-pastoral systems and ecological restoration.

3. **Incentives for the sustainability of the productive sector.** Specifically, the government will seek to strengthen agro-businesses in key economic sectors such as the coffee sector and the shrimp sector through bonds. These incentives will be subject to the creation of management plans for agroforestry systems. This is expected to produce more jobs while increasing environmental protection. Likewise, the policy will promote sustainable tourism as a source of income that respects sustainability. Finally, this topic will also focus on delivering ecosystem service benefits as an incentive to communities in rural territories, to promote the conservation of land and natural resources.
4. **Reduction of emissions in productive chains.** Through this topic, a contribution to the mitigation of climate change through the productive forestry sector will be implemented; specifically, through appropriate National Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in productive sectors such as coffee, livestock, cocoa and palm trees. The Honduran government will encourage the use of timber trees in areas of coffee and cocoa plantations to consolidate microclimates and to be able to maintain plantations for a longer period of time. It will also foster greater sustainability in the oil palm sector through agroforestry systems that will protect the outline and river banks of the plantation to prevent soil erosion. Additionally, the policy will also promote agroforestry systems that will reduce intensive livestock production.
5. **Integrated Watershed Management.** Much of this initiative will seek to improve the governance of water resources through its proper planning and management, seeking the protection of watersheds by establishing buffer zones and reforestation on riverbanks. Additionally, and to ensure coordination with other government sectors as part of the readiness process, it is important for the country to develop strategies to promote the positioning of the forestry sector at a relevant political level. For that purpose, in 2015 a draft executive decree was drawn up, seeking to encourage the agroforestry sector through the implementation of agroforestry systems as an instrument for the recovery of degraded areas.

#### *Indicator 17. Feasibility assessment*

The National Agroforestry Program represents the alternatives available to increase production in the rural sector, and to reduce deforestation and degradation. However, it does not specifically establish procedures in terms of temporality, investment of resources or location of actions, as these will be defined in later stages, one of them being the development of the National Strategy for REDD+. The feasibility assessment is part of the work to be done to develop the National REDD+ Strategy to be performed during 2017.

### *Indicator 18. Implication of strategy option on existing sectoral policies*

The NRS is aligned with the *Visión de País 2010-2038*, which includes an objective to make Honduras a productive, opportunity-generating and decent-jobs country, taking advantage of its resources in a sustainable way, with a decreasing environmental vulnerability, through the consolidation of regional development as its management model for economic and social growth, under an environmentally sustainable development process. The *Plan de Nación 2010-2022* has a specific objective to achieve sustainable development, and another to ensure adaptation and mitigation to climate change, in accordance with the UNFCCC, in which REDD+ is considered.

Within the framework of the National Climate Change Strategy of Honduras, alternatives have been developed that contribute to the sustainable use of forest resources, and in some cases, to the generation of productive alternatives in the rural sector. These alternatives have been identified as strategic options that together can achieve an effective and lasting reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the forestry sector, and are in alignment with current national and sectoral policies.

## 2c. Implementation Framework

### *Indicator 19. Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations*

### *Indicator 20. Guidelines for implementation*

### *Indicator 21. Benefit sharing mechanism*

As part of the initial work for the NRS implementation framework in 2015, a diagnostic analysis for creating a REDD+ financial mechanism was developed, and a road map was established along with the Ministry of Finance. A *Proposal to operate climate finance mechanism*<sup>22</sup> was produced, aiming to analyze the political, legal and institutional conditions that may support the proposal of an institutional structure that promotes climate financing. It also aims at promoting climate finance through the identification of sectors and areas with the greatest potential to produce and present projects based on the country socio-economic and environmental conditions. In addition, as a technical input for the design of the mechanism, an institutional analysis of the different investment trust funds related to environmental issues was implemented.

The roadmap for preparing the proposal for the FIP was defined with stakeholders participating in the REDD+ process. Funding was approved, and the operational structure was defined, kick-starting the development of the Investment Plan that contributed to the REDD+ implementation phase, through the National Agroforestry Program, and through a Portfolio of agroforestry projects. Also, a proposal from the Forest Development Fund (FFF) linked to the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), which manages funds linked to credit lines in the Agroforestry sector, has been shared, in line with progress registered during the implementation phase of REDD+. The terms of reference of the financial mechanism are in currently under review.

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<sup>22</sup> *Propuesta para hacer operativo un mecanismo de financiamiento para el Clima*. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB3lkd68YJK4hXzV4S2dTbjZ5Uk0>

The complete implementation framework and financial instruments to implement Honduras NRS will be developed in 2017 as part of the NRS consultancy that started working in January 2017 with a timeline of 11 months. Benefit-sharing arrangements will be developed as part of this process and as appropriate in relation to the nature of Honduras PAMs (incentive related policies, or command and control policies).

Since there is no regulation of the Climate Change Law, some of its relevant elements will be integrated into the REDD+ implementation phase.

#### *Indicator 22. National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities*

Regarding the National Forest Registry, an analysis of the existing systems and the information dissemination platform was implemented, so that they may be used to record the actions related to the implementation of the National Strategy. However, a specific definition of its characteristics and functioning is still to be produced.

## 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts

#### *Indicator 23 Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues*

In relation to social and environmental safeguards, Honduras has established a technical committee and a national committee for safeguards. With the support of CARE and the FCPF project, it is completing the legal and institutional framework analysis for REDD+ safeguards.

In addition, efforts have been made to link the safeguards work with the forest monitoring system, seeking the use of both human and economic resources that are allocated to the monitoring system, and that will be used on a local, regional and national scale for safeguards purposes as well.

Through the participatory process and structures outlined in sections above (MIACC, COMPAH, the Lenca Sectorial Platform, the Safeguards Committee, and the REDD+ Subcommittee), Honduras has identified social and environmental risks perceived by relevant stakeholders.

The main risks identified are related to clarifying land-tenure conflicts; ensuring the respect of rights and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, Afro-Honduran, woman and youth; developing adequate and comprehensive communication mechanisms among civil society and government; achieving inter-sectoral engagement in particular with agriculture; promoting adequate benefit distribution; and addressing complementing adaptation measures.

Once the PAMs for the National REDD+ Strategy are refined and updated, a full risk and benefit analysis will be conducted as part of completing the SESA and ESMF during the second semester of 2017.

#### *Indicator 24. REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts*

To be developed under the NRS process.

### *Indicator 25. Environmental and Social Management Framework*

The initial consultations and capacity building efforts described above represent the completion of stage 1 of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and would not have been possible without the previous work of identifying actors and developing platforms and mechanisms for participation.

While the first stage of the SESA process has been completed, subsequent steps will be integrated with the development of the National REDD+ Strategy, the National Safeguards System and the SIS.

Once the PAMs are updated and developed, a full risk and benefit analysis will be conducted as part of the consultancy in charge of completing Honduras's National REDD+ Strategy, and the corresponding ESMF will be developed.

For more information, see Section 3, related to the Common Approach.

## 3 – Forest Reference Emissions Level/Forest Reference Level

### *Indicator 26. Demonstration of methodology*

The Reference Level has been developed with the technical support of the UN-REDD Programme through the FAO in Honduras; including carrying out capacity-building activities for technical personnel to address the level of technical complexity of these issues; hiring required technical teams for these tasks, as well as providing coordination and administration capacities of the governmental sector for decision making related to the construction of Reference Level in the country. Developing the Reference Level requires a process of continuous improvement, with permanent involvement of the relevant actors and strengthening of technical capacities. Throughout the process, national data was used and compliance with IPCC methodologies was ensured.

In 2015, a critical roadmap to develop the Reference Level was agreed with ICF, defining specific roles and functions. Technical inputs were produced, and a process of capacity building was initiated for relevant institutional stakeholders.

The Reference Level was socialized with representatives of the Interinstitutional Technical Committee on Climate Change and the CONPAH board of directors, as part of the participatory processes with the country's stakeholders. The document was submitted to the UNFCCC on 20 January 2017<sup>23</sup>. This Reference Level covers deforestation. It does not include forest degradation, however adding this REDD+ activity will be considered for subsequent reference level submissions.

### *Indicator 27. Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances*

A draft document on the definition of forest for the Reference Level is available, and in compliance with UNFCCC requirements and country documents referring to the term Forest were reviewed. Three of these definitions have been the most used for different mechanisms and conventions (CDM, FAO and Forest

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<sup>23</sup> Available at: <http://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=hnd>

Law) in order to unify criteria and promote its use in different sectors (forest, dendro-energetic, REDD+). This definition includes variables such as height, area and coverage that must contain or characterize a forest.

Even though there are elements related to the forest definition of Forest that are still being completed in a document on this subject (in particular the definition according indigenous peoples and Afro-Honduran cosmovision), progress has been made in developing multi-temporal land-use change maps based on previous technical analysis made by the ICF that enabled the definition of the value-thresholds for forest canopy minimum area coverage, which is possible to detect with the remote sensors images selected by the NFMS. The LANDSAT remote sensing data permits producing measurable and transparent reports with a cost, efficiency and sustainability criteria.

The process has resulted in great learning and progress for the country in the construction of the Reference Level; however, it has been difficult to agree with representatives of different sectors on a definition of Forest that complies with requests by each sector, and with the requirements of the UNFCCC. The Honduran government, through its coordinators and technical supervision of the process, considers that the position taken by representatives in each sector to propose a definition of forest adapted to the country has been enriching.

To continue the implementation of activities regarding the inputs, the products of historical coverage used for the Reference Level by type of forest were adjusted and re-classified. The strata by forest type was defined from the first RapidEye map of the country, and the following categories were defined with the national forest inventory: coniferous forest, broadleaf forest, dry forest and mangroves.

Pilot tests were implemented using the cartographic inputs available in the country to structure the reference level, readjusting the 2000 and 2010 maps, and discarding the 2005 map due to the low reliability in its accuracy. Likewise, the categories for the change analysis were defined: Stable forest, Non stable forest, Forest loss and Forest gain.

#### *Indicator 28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with the UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines*

With the technical support of FAO and through the UN-REDD Programme, guidelines for the implementation of methodological protocols for change and coverage maps, and for emission factors have been produced. Currently, there are seven methodological protocols available that will be formalized and published for the generation of cartographic products that the country will produce in the future. Additionally, a baseline has been constructed, based on the following categories of change analysis: Stable forest, Non stable forest and Forest loss. The baseline analyses of different temporalities (2000, 2006, 2012, 2016), in line with the national inventory and under methodological frameworks standardized by the IPCC, aiming to more precise, comparable, concise, transparent, complete and replicable processes. In addition, a script has been generated on the Google Earth Engine platform based on specialized algorithms for detecting forest cover changes (deforestation), based on statistical decision trees.

The categories of forest cover (broadleaf, coniferous (dense and thinned), Mangle (high and low), dry broadleaf forest, mixed forest and flooded wet broadleaf forest) were unified for historical maps

generated with the Landsat high resolution sensor and the National Forestry Inventory, which was shared with all the technical monitoring team and the ICF department heads. Based on this, the Honduras Forest typology map was produced for the classification of forest types (broadleaved forest, deciduous broadleaf forest, mangrove forest and conifer forest). The 2012 forest cover map with Landsat images (from the conversion of the official RapidEye map of the country) was generated with the objective of establishing a base and reference map.

Capacity building for staff involved in data generation to develop the FREL/FRL for submission has continued. Recently, a group of technicians was trained, involving nine men and three women. Although great efforts have been made to integrate women into the technicians' teams, there is no availability of women within the existing group of GIS specialists in the country.

Clear objectives and targets are set for continuing these activities in 2017 and beyond, including generating information activity data and emission factors to report the results to be included in the BUR technical annex to be submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019. In addition, a methodology for monitoring and reporting forest degradation in Honduras will be developed between 2017-2018, and to be considered for its inclusion in a new submission of Honduras FREL.

## 4 – National Forest Monitoring System and Safeguards

### 4a. National Forest Monitoring System

#### *Indicator 29. Documentation of monitoring approach*

Developing the National Forest Monitoring System involved significant organization efforts, coordination, training and capacity building, and investment of economic and material resources. During the design process, capacity and technical gaps to generate a comprehensive monitoring system that not only reports activities related to climate change, but also includes activities developed by the forest sector for the conservation of biodiversity and community development, have been identified. To address these gaps, it is necessary to strengthen the ICF, Local Offices, UMAS and MiAmbiente, both in terms of staff capacity and equipment. Therefore, a process of capacity building targeting 142 individuals (48 women), in geographic information systems to monitor the structure of the forest, was implemented<sup>24</sup>.

During 2015, a process was initiated to activate an advisory forest monitoring group (including ICF, ESNACIFOR, Miambiente, and others) through meetings and training workshops. In order to strengthen work with indigenous peoples, a liaison technician was hired to link the PIAH and the Forest Monitoring Unit, to feed PIAH with the Reference Levels and SNMF construction processes, which is essential for building progress with support from the STAKEHOLDERS.

One of the main challenges has been the creation of a solid technical team, so time and resources have been invested for capacity building for the Forest Monitoring Unit. The purchase of specialized technical equipment (computers and servers) and the hiring of five technicians for activities focused on the establishment of a SNMF and the construction of NREF that may generate periodic information for the

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<sup>24</sup> The reports of these training workshops are available at: [http://www.ocphn.org/nivelesreferencia\\_redd.html](http://www.ocphn.org/nivelesreferencia_redd.html)

NFMS through the analysis of the activity data, have been implemented. Training workshops on GIS, allometric equations and data cleaning of the national forest assessment have also been implemented.

Nine local and two regional ICF offices were trained in the use of ArcGis 10.1 software for spatial data analysis. This training aimed to improve data collection for community monitoring that reinforces national monitoring actions.

With the support of the UN-REDD Programme, a workplan was prepared at the regional level (Mesoamerica) through the Mesoamerica Environmental Sustainability Strategy (EMSA) where diagnostics for capacity building on forest-monitoring needs took place, and through which Honduras will participate on technical exchanges and receive support through South-South cooperation.

Since 2015 until now, technical capacities of different stakeholders (regional ICF offices, local communities) have been strengthened, where tools for Forest Monitoring and the application of a spatial data analysis program have been shared and showcased. This will allow technical staff in different institutions to report changes in the country's forest cover.

#### *Indicator 30. Demonstration of early system implementation*

Regarding the National Forest Assessment, quality control was performed to ensure the reliability of the data collected in the second cycle, and to verify in the field the conformity of the methodology used with that stipulated in the Field Manual of the Inventory. With the support of the national UN-REDD program, an analysis of the National Forest Inventory data was implemented for the first and second cycle, with which a net deforestation rate based on the country's reality may be determined. Likewise, a program was designed for the analysis of data from the National Forest Inventory, which integrates criteria, indicators and variables for all the cycles of the inventory, and thus, helps to create a database for the generation of periodic reports.

In order to strengthen the capacities of the staff in charge of the National Forest Monitoring Systems, a workshop on forest degradation was carried out, delivering tools and methods for defining and estimating forest degradation in the context of REDD+<sup>25</sup>. In addition, information on fire and pest control is being generated through the use of drones and satellite images with different sensors, in order to detect changes in the country's forest cover.

In addition, forest monitoring needs at the institutional level were identified in 2015, with technicians from different departments of the Forest Conservation Institute, in order to define the roadmap for establishing a Forest Monitoring System that can generate robust information on a regular basis for decision making. This represents an important step towards the construction of the Forest Monitoring System for the REDD+ mechanism. The information obtained will be disseminated through different platforms and databases available at ICF in 2017.

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<sup>25</sup> The workshop results are available at: [http://www.ocphn.org/snmb\\_redd.html](http://www.ocphn.org/snmb_redd.html)

### *Indicator 31. Institutional arrangements and capacities*

The preparation of the National Forest Monitoring System has been led by the ICF with support from the REDD project, and has had close work with other areas, such as the team that produces the national report on greenhouse gases, in order to unify IPCC recommendations for the LULUCF sector.

The government of Honduras, through the National Institute of Conservation and Forestry Development of Protected Areas and Wildlife (ICF), maintains as online public information, a geo-information system called *Geoportal*<sup>26</sup>, containing information on protected natural areas, existing forest management plans, micro-basins, infrastructure and cartography, among others. This system uses information from the National Territorial Information System (SINIT, in its acronym in Spanish), which will have to be coordinated with the National Forest Monitoring System.

### **4b. Information System for multi-benefits, other impacts, management and safeguards**

#### *Indicator 32. Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues*

The construction of the National Safeguards Approach in Honduras is being developed with the full and effective participation of CONASASH. A critical roadmap has been developed to give coherence to the generic steps that must be followed to have a National Safeguards Approach and its SIS.

As part of this process, a preliminary analysis of the legal and institutional framework for forest governance in Honduras has been developed. This study will be available in January 2017. The compliance framework will allow the development of the complaint mechanism related to aspects of compliance or non-compliance, and will be ready in June 2017. During the process of interpretation of the safeguards to be developed in February 2017, elements of this mechanism will be addressed jointly with CONASASH.

#### *Indicator 33. Monitoring, reporting and information sharing*

Honduras has high social and cultural diversity that will be considered within the strategic options for REDD+ as part of the national strategy and as part of the efforts made in the country to face the challenges of climate change. The way in which REDD+ safeguards in Honduras will be addressed, respected and reflected in the Safeguards Information System is considered of vital importance for the design of the National Safeguards System. Information is being compiled to provide a national map of titles granted to indigenous peoples (ICF, INA, IP, MiAmbiente, COMPAH), which will be an essential input for the consideration of all elements for the SIS.

The SIS, in addition to a requirement of the UNFCCC, is an important tool for the Honduran people, as it is a system that will provide information on the respect for and approach to the rights of indigenous and Afro-Honduran people, and also on environmental and social considerations required in the implementation of a REDD+ mechanism. Thus, activities are being implemented for the stakeholder early

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<sup>26</sup> <http://geoportal.icf.gob.hn/geoportal/main>

involvement and capacities strengthening, so that they may accompany the process, supporting participation and transparency.

A stakeholder mapping and analysis was completed in 2015 (referred to in component 1b), and is crucial for identification and inclusion of stakeholders in the Safeguards process, which also provides key elements for appropriate engagement from the convening stage, for effective communication, capacity building, etc.

As mentioned in component 2d, efforts for a closer linkage of Safeguards with the Forest Monitoring System are being pursued, seeking to harness the human and economic resources that are allocated to the Monitoring System, and that will be used on a local, regional and national scale. From the current SIS stage of initial considerations and design, it has been defined that it is essential that it becomes a functional system to be integrated into the existing institutional systems in Honduras. Thus, other systems will be coordinated with, to achieve this goal.

Another important element currently being addressed, is the updating of the analysis of the relevant legal and compliance framework regarding Safeguards, which should provide a clear picture of compliance with Safeguards established under Honduran law, as well as the identification of the gaps to be addressed for full compliance with the seven UNFCCC Safeguards that will be applied to the policies and measures of the Honduras REDD+ Strategy. In Honduras, as in other countries of the region, the safeguards, the SESA and the ESMF will be addressed and approved under a single process.

#### *Indicator 34. Institutional arrangements and capacities*

Progress in the development of the National System of Safeguards REDD+ was achieved through the conformation of the National Committee for Environmental and Social Safeguards of Honduras (CONASASH), integrated by two representatives from the following sectors: civil society, private owners, government, Agroforestry communities, Academia, professional associations, Indigenous and Afro-Honduran people. The Committee will be the participation body that will accompany the process of construction of the National Safeguards Approach (NSA) and design of the SIS. This committee already has a Manual of Operation of the National Committee of Environmental and Social Safeguards REDD+ of Honduras, and its internal regulations. A follow-up workshop was recently held with the National Committee on Environmental and Social Safeguards<sup>27</sup>, to follow up on the road map, and progress was achieved in the reviewing of the regulation.

In addition, the CONASASH Capacity Plan for Committee members and other relevant stakeholders in the process is available. Also, the technical and financial proposal presented by CARE Honduras / Guatemala is available for methodological support in the development of the National Safeguards Approach, the design of the Safeguards Information System and the complaints mechanism. This proposal was submitted and approved by the Project Boards, and started its implementation as of August 2016. In addition, information sessions on REDD+ safeguards have been implemented within the framework of the National

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<sup>27</sup> The workshop report and other information materials on safeguards may be found at: [http://ocphn.org/salvavidas\\_redd.html](http://ocphn.org/salvavidas_redd.html)

Convention on Climate Change, with government stakeholders in different regions of the country, and the indigenous Lenca people in the western part of the country.

As mentioned, there are major efforts to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders directly related to the Safeguards, which will also follow up on the necessary arrangements in the preparation of the National System of Safeguards and the Information System of REDD+ Safeguards. All these efforts have been documented to support the process, and are available as public information on the REDD+ page of Honduras in the section on Safeguards<sup>28</sup>. Although there is not a single complaints mechanism, there is a remarkable will for dialogue and openness from the Government of Honduras to integrate recommendations and suggestions from the stakeholders through the platforms that have been used, which has resulted in at least two remarkable actions, which are the conformation of the Lenca Sectorial Platform and the formulation of the Law of free and informed prior consultation, as described in the description of subcomponent 1a.

For more information, see Section 3, related to the Common Approach.

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<sup>28</sup> Honduras REDD+ website with relevant information on the progress per component [http://ocphn.org/productos\\_redd.html](http://ocphn.org/productos_redd.html)

**Table 1. Self-assessment summary table**

No.	Components, Sub components and Progress Indicators	Progress level
<b>1</b>	<b>Organization and Consultations for preparation</b>	
<b>1a</b>	<b>National REDD+ Management Arrangements</b>	
1	Transparency and accountability	Yellow
2	Operative mandate and budget	Green
3	Multisectoral coordination mechanisms and intersectoral collaboration	Yellow
4	Technical supervision capacity	Green
5	Fundraising capacity	Green
6	Mechanism for information exchange and grievance	Orange
<b>1b</b>	<b>Consultation, Participation, and Outreach</b>	
7	Participation and involvement of key stakeholders	Yellow
8	Consultation processes	Yellow
9	Information Exchange and Access to information	Yellow
10	Implementation public disclosure of the results of the consultation	Yellow
<b>2</b>	<b>Preparation of the REDD+ strategy</b>	
<b>2a</b>	<b>Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance</b>	
11	Assessment and analysis	Yellow
12	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers / barriers to increasing forest carbon stocks	Orange
13	Relations among causal factors / barriers and REDD+ activities	Orange
14	Action Plans to address rights to natural resources, land tenure and management	Orange
15	Implications for forest laws and policies	Yellow
<b>2b</b>	<b>REDD+ Strategy options</b>	
16	Presentation and prioritization of REDD+ Strategy options	Orange
17	Feasibility assessment	Orange
18	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	Orange
<b>2c</b>	<b>Implementation Framework</b>	
19	Adoption and implementation of legislation / regulations	Yellow
20	Guidelines for implementation	Orange
21	Mechanism of benefit sharing	Red
22	National REDD+ registry and activities of the REDD+ Monitoring System	Orange
<b>2d</b>	<b>Social and environmental impacts</b>	
23	Analysis of issues related to social and environmental Safeguards	Yellow
24	Design of the REDD+ strategy considering impacts	Yellow
25	Environmental and social management framework	Orange
<b>3</b>	<b>Forest Reference Level</b>	
26	Demonstration of methodology	Yellow
27	Use of historical data and adjustment to national circumstances	Yellow

No.	Components, Sub components and Progress Indicators	Progress level
28	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with the guidance and guidelines of the UNFCCC / IPCC	
<b>4</b>	<b>Forest monitoring and information systems on safeguards</b>	
<b>4a</b>	<b>National Forest Monitoring System</b>	
29	Documentation of the follow-up approach	
30	Demonstration of the early execution of the System	
31	Institutional mechanisms and capacities	
<b>4b</b>	<b>Information System for multi-benefits, other impacts, management and safeguards</b>	
32	Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues	
33	Monitoring, reporting and information exchange	
34	Mechanism and institutional capacities	

Assesement	Meaning
	Considerable progress
	Good progress, in need of further development
	In need of further development
	No progress

### 3. Analysis of progress made in the activities financed by the FCPF's Preparation Grant

*The Country outlines progress made and identifies any delays in the implementation of the activities financed by the Grant and proposed actions to address the causes of the delays.*

The FCPF's Project for Support to REDD+ Readiness, supports, in conjunction with the UN-REDD National Program, the development of all subcomponents, as well as each of the effects and results proposed by the government in an integrated results framework, through which it is currently reporting.

The process of preparation for REDD+ in Honduras started in mid-2010, when the Government began the design of a proposal in the context of the R-PP document for the FCPF, which had a first draft in December 2011, and was approved at the fourteenth meeting of the Participants Committee in March 2013. The grant agreement with a budget of US \$ 3,800,000, was signed in May 2014, with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as implementing partner. The UN-REDD Programme (UN-REDD) approved a National Programme (NP) for Honduras in November 2014, with an allocation of US \$ 3,609,645; the grant agreement was signed in August 2015.

From the design and formulation of the R-PP, until the signing of the grant agreements and the beginning of activities with both FCPF and UN-REDD, there were significant changes in the country context, noteworthy a change in government; significant progress in national awareness and knowledge of REDD+; the identification of new stakeholders relevant to the process; and progress in the definition of the basis for the NRS.

The disbursement of FCPF resources has been difficult because of the country's political changes, delays in administrative procedures, as well as the challenges of establishing agreements with different stakeholders. Also, it has been necessary to work on sustainability of capacities in the REDD+ issue at an institutional level, due to changes in government and staff turnover. Greater efforts have been required to strengthen capacities of the coordinating team, as well as for the creation of a solid technical team.

The detail of the activities funded through the FCPF was recorded in the project document<sup>29</sup>, and is reported to the REDD+ project board based on the results framework established to meet the REDD+ readiness objectives. A summary of status of specific FCPF supported activities is included in table 2 at the end of this section.

Under Output 1, FCPF funding has supported the creation the following participation platforms for REDD+: i) the MIACC, , iii) Lenca sectoral platform iv) the REDD+ Subcommittee/CTICC and, v) the National Safeguarding Platform. In these platforms, the need to promote greater participation of women has been identified and will be prioritized in 2017.

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<sup>29</sup> The Project document is available at the 'Generales' section at [http://www.ocphn.org/documentos\\_redd.html](http://www.ocphn.org/documentos_redd.html)

Collaborative work with CONPAH and UNDP at the CPLI Technical Committee, to implement prior consultations with legitimate representatives of the nine villages has also been supported.

MiAmbiente conveyed coordination activities with different relevant stakeholders, and IUCN support is available for systematizing the REDD+ Academy process, through which capacity building for the abovementioned stakeholders was provided.

The strategy to position the forestry sector at a relevant political level has been promoted, supporting the adoption of the Climate Change Law, regulation of the REDD+ Subcommittee and regulation of the Climate Change Indigenous Platform. Follow-up on the implementation of instruments mainly under the REDD+ subcommittee and MIACC is planned for 2017.

Dissemination efforts have been implemented through the information platform on the national REDD+ process, which contains documents available to the public such as progress reports, reports on training workshops and information in the preparation of each of the requirements<sup>30</sup>.

Regarding FPIC, consultations on the draft FPIC Law Project were supported, including 18 events with nine indigenous peoples and the participation of 1,308 people (44% were women). The need to improve the organization and logistics, as well as a strong investment of time and economic and personnel resources, has been identified. In 2017, strengthening activities will continue, to ensure participation and consultation in the development of the NRS.

Under Output 2, FCPF has supported initial discussions on the policy instrument (Agroforestry Program) and policies and measures to implement REDD+ in Honduras. This initial work will be continued through one of the main activities financed by the FCPF grant: a consultancy to complete Honduras NRS. While this contract was delayed due to administrative constraints, it is starting in January 2017.

The main objective of the consultancy is to complete the National REDD+ Strategy of Honduras, ensuring the generation of quality technical inputs that will be presented, discussed and validated by relevant stakeholders through a participatory process.

Specific objectives are shown below:

Specific objective 1: Provide an analysis on drivers of deforestation (taking in account gender)

Specific objective 2: Analyze the regulatory framework on land-tenure and its relation with implementation of policies and measures to reduce deforestation in Honduras.

Specific objective 3: Define policies and measures to reduce deforestation in Honduras that do not increase gender and economic gaps among the population, and detail their contribution to development objectives and priorities.

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<sup>30</sup> <http://ocphn.org/reddhonduras.html>

Specific objective 4: Identify priority geographic areas for the implementation of policies and measures to reduce deforestation in Honduras.

Specific objective 5: Develop a group of policies and measures to reduce deforestation in Honduras, prioritized and evaluated from their political, economic, social and environmental feasibility.

Specific objective 6: Design the Environmental and Social Management Framework resulting from the SESA process consistent with crosscutting issues and with SDGs.

Specific objective 7: Develop an implementation plan for prioritized REDD+ policies and measures consistent with national development policies.

Specific objective 8: Complete the National REDD+ Strategy document

Specific objective 9: Develop a financial plan for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy of Honduras.

Specific objective 10: Ensure the strengthening of national capacities in the process of elaboration of the National REDD+ Strategy, including crosscutting issues such as gender or indigenous populations.

With the support from the grant, the creation of at least one proposal of a financial mechanism that enables the possibility of using economic resources related to the reduction of emissions, in the context of REDD+, is sought. At present, the proposal of the Financial Mechanism (coordinated with a broader National Fund for Climate Change) is under review, with a diagnosis for the creation of REDD+ financial mechanisms; and with support from the Ministry of Finance as a strategic partner for implementation. In 2017, the socialization and approval of this proposal will be sought within the framework of the NRS.

Ouput2, also includes developing Honduras's FREL and NFMS. The FCPF provided support for the development of the reference level of GHG emissions from deforestation in Honduras which was submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2017. The forests definition was been shared and approved with representatives of the Inter-Institutional Technical Committee on Climate Change and CONPAH's board of directors. Also, forest maps and a Reference Level report on Emissions from deforestation were validated.

In addition, there has been significant progress in strengthening of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). At least one forest monitoring report will be generated and is in the final process of elaboration. The methodological protocols for the measurement of emissions have been prepared, and working meetings have been held with the team of the GHG national report, to unify recommendations of the IPCC for the LULUCF sector. This progress was shared with the Inter-Agency Technical Committee on Climate Change.

There have been some difficulties with the approval of categories for FREL/FRL GHG estimations with the GHF's LULUCF sector, because currently it only focuses on forest and non-Forest, while the GHG is more specific. In addition, the concept of NFMS was based solely on REDD+, but in view of the data generated by the forest sector, and in coordination with the ICF, a broader, integrated System of the Forest Sector is currently being discussed.

In addition, the technical capacities of the National Forest Monitoring Group and the MIACC have been strengthened, and capacity building has been implemented in four regional ICF offices and nine local offices. In order to know the situation in these offices, a national workshop was held, identifying, among

other subjects, the need to acquire logistics equipment for the ICF regional offices, MiAmbiente and UMAS. In addition, a comprehensive process of strengthening geographic information systems has been implemented, to monitor the structure of the forest.

Finally, with financial support from the FCPF and through an agreement with CARE, a National Safeguards Information System is under designed. A Technical and a National Committee for Safeguards have been established, the SIS is undergoing preparation, and capacity building activities for the Committees were implemented.

The design of a robust mechanism for addressing grievances and complaints, linked to an electronic system that processes and guides such complaints in the REDD+ portal, and with a protocol to deal with complaints about REDD+ at the community level, are to be produced. This will be developed within the framework of the Safeguards Information System, intended to incorporate the mechanism on addressing complaints. This is currently undergoing preparation and is expected to be available in 2017.

**Table 2. Summary of progress in FCPF funded activities**

<b>Output 1: Honduras has a National REDD+ Strategy agreed upon with relevant stakeholders</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible institution (Main/involved)</b>
1.1 Establish an effective coordination and participation structure	Completed		Miambiente/ CONPAH, MIACC, UNDP
1.2 Create a mechanism to coordinate the different stakeholders involved in financing REDD+ readiness in Honduras	Completed		Miambiente/Interinstitutional Committee for Climate Change
1.3 Implement a strategy to position the forestry sector at a high-political level	Ongoing	12-2017	Miambiente/Clima+ office, Government Coordination Secretariat
1.4 Establish a dissemination platform regarding the national REDD+ process	Ongoing	12-2017	Miambiente/ CONPAH, MIACC, UNDP
1.5 Establish a robust grievance and redress mechanism	Ongoing	10-2017	Miambiente/ CONPAH, MIACC, UNDP
1.6 Develop participation and consultation mechanism with indigenous peoples and afro Hondurans considering their rights	Ongoing	06-2017	Miambiente/ CONPAH, MIACC, UNDP
1.7 Carry out a drivers of deforestation analysis	Ongoing	03-2017	Miambiente/UNDP
1.8 Develop inputs to identify REDD+ strategy options (policies and measures)	Ongoing	06-2017	Miambiente/UNDP
1.9 Develop the National REDD+ Strategy	Ongoing	12-2017	Miambiente/UNDP
<b>Output 2: Enabling framework following international standards to implement the National REDD+ Strategy developed</b>			
2.1 Identifying and establishing a financial mechanism for REDD+	Yet to be undertaken	12-2017	Miambiente/UNDP
2.2 Implementing a National Forestry Registry	Yet to be undertaken	12-2017	Miambiente/ICF
2.3 Support the development of the forest reference level for deforestation and forest degradation	Completed for deforestation, ongoing for enhancement	11-2017	Miambiente/ICF, FAO
2.4 Establish the National Forest Monitoring System	Ongoing	12-2017	Miambiente/ICF, FAO
2.5 Strengthen capacities of the forest monitoring group and CONPAH/MIAC	Ongoing	12-2017	Miambiente/ICF, CONPAH, MIAC, ESNACIFOR
2.6 Support the development of the National Safeguards System	Ongoing	08-2017	Miambiente/UNDP
2.7 Develop the SESA	Yet to be undertaken	08-2017	Miambiente/UNDP

## 4. Assessment of the country's compliance with the common approach

*The Country reports on actions taken to comply with the various aspects of the Common Approach:*

- *the Delivery Partner's environmental and social safeguards, including the SESA/ESMF*
- *stakeholder engagement*
- *disclosure of information, and*
- *grievance and accountability.*

In line with the Common Approach, UNDP, as an implementing partner, complies with its Social and Environmental Standards in project implementation. These standards provide detailed guidance on social and environmental assessment and project management, as well as the evaluation of project-specific types and impacts. In addition, UNDP guides the actions of REDD+ readiness in Honduras, so they may comply with UNDP's institutional implementation standards through specific review meetings and joint work.

Progress related to compliance with stakeholder engagement and grievance requirements have been provided in the sections above.

Progress on the SESA has included the following steps, as described in various sections above:

- Analysis of relevant social / environmental circumstances in Honduras in the context of REDD+
- Comprehensive stakeholder analysis and mapping of key sectors and stakeholders to be engaged in REDD+, including a review of their interests and perspectives with regard to REDD+ (completed in July 2015)
- Identification of focal points for each stakeholder category to lead in the facilitation of dialogue with their respective constituencies
- Coordination of numerous national, regional and sector workshops, focusing on consultation, training and capacity building on the following topics:
  - What REDD+ is, incl. requirements and vision
  - The status of REDD+ in Honduras
  - Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Honduras, potential PAMs and broad scale risks and challenges
- Two analyses have been undertaken to identify the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Two safeguards committees have been established: one at the national level and a technical committee focusing more deeply on substance. Both have been jointly supported by UNDP and FLEGT.

- CARE is in the process of finalizing a legal and institutional analysis of safeguards for REDD+ in Honduras
- A consultancy firm has been hired to support the clarification of scope for REDD+ in Honduras, and elaborate the PAMs. Following this critical work, efforts will be made to develop an implementation and finance framework, while also undertaking efforts to complete the benefits/risk analysis component of the SESA work, which will feed into the development of an ESMF. Work on the benefits/risks and ESMF have been put on hold until there is greater clarity on the PAMs.

A detailed analysis of the environmental and social impacts arising from the future implementation of the strategic options for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation has been produced and has been considered and described above. This process featured the participation and broad involvement of the relevant stakeholders for REDD+.

The need to continue strengthening the capacities of the stakeholders has been identified, which has included an exhaustive mapping of stakeholders as well as strategies for involvement, participation and culturally appropriate communication. Also, various forums and platforms for participation and interaction with different groups and sectors were constructed. These include MIACC, COMPAH, the Lenca Sectorial Platform, the Safeguards Committee and the REDD+ Subcommittee, and roadmaps and different strategies to continue to ensure and enhance full and effective participation have been generated.

Capacity building of the stakeholders and participation platforms contribute to the realization of a SESA process with the analysis of the possible environmental and social impacts foreseen by civil society, which also contributes to the process of validation and accompaniment of the readiness process. This will be complemented with the integration of a part of the consultancy for the development of the NRS that will deepen these analyses.

The main objective of the consultancy is to support the process of production the Honduran National REDD+ Strategy, ensuring the generation of quality technical inputs that will be presented, discussed and validated by relevant stakeholders through a participatory process, to be then consolidated. Within this, specific objective No.6 seeks to have the Environmental and Social Management Framework resulting from the SESA<sup>31</sup> process in consistency with crosscutting issues.

Regarding Safeguards, it is of great importance for the SESA process to analyze legal gaps in terms of compliance with the safeguards of the Convention and the Common Approach, to help ensure the identification of the environmental and social risks that may arise, as well as obstacles for compliance; information that may contribute for the production of an Environmental and Social Management Framework that will guide the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism.

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<sup>31</sup> The parameters and the Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (SESA) process of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) should be followed, and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) should be developed.

Forums and procedures that allow for the effective participation of relevant stakeholders at the national, sub-national and regional levels have been created by the state, seeking to include and strengthen measures to achieve the equitable participation of women during the readiness process. In addition, mechanisms for the coordination of the different stakeholders related to the financing for REDD+ readiness have been created, allowing their alignment to the Results Based Management Framework.

The government of Honduras is aware of the need for information related to REDD+ to be publicly available, easily accessible and understandable for the general population. Thus, communication channels have been established for the dissemination of materials and products that have been developed during the readiness process. Part of this information is available on the Honduran REDD+ page, and progress in the four basic components of the readiness phase may be consulted<sup>32</sup>. In addition, more direct forms of communication for stakeholders who do not have access to the internet and to already existing information, are currently being developed, as well as the translation of the different materials into indigenous and culturally appropriate languages. Some of the information and current activities are not currently public, but it is expected that by their completion, the needed mechanisms to make them publicly available will be ready.

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<sup>32</sup>: Honduras REDD+ website with relevant information on the progress per component [http://ocphn.org/productos\\_redd.html](http://ocphn.org/productos_redd.html)

## 5. Updated Funding Plan for REDD+ readiness activities, included dedicated funds and a brief description of activities supported by other implementation partners.

*The Country provides an updated financial plan for the overall Readiness preparation activities, including reporting on the uses and sources of funds allocated for the R-PP implementation (both by the FCPF and other development partners), by R-PP component, using the table below (the model contains a hypothetical numeric example). This table could also be used if the country is requesting additional funding from the FCPF (see right-most column).*

Uses of Funds (in US\$ thousands)							
R-PP Component	Total needed	Funds pledged	Funds used [3]		Funds available	Financing gap	Request to FCPF[6]
	(A)[1]	(B)[2]	Funds Committed (C)	Funds Disbursed	(= B – C)[4]	(= A – B)[5]	(if any)
<b>Initiation Plan</b>	0	183,350	0	162,509	20,841	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>1A</b>	1,818,500	1,618,500	361,544	859,067	397,889	200,000	200,000
<b>1B</b>	836,750	818,500	55,133	428,380	334,987	18,250	18,250
<b>1C</b>	1,455,650	1,105,650	143,067	567,568	395,015	350,000	350,000
<b>2A</b>	360,000	310,000	139,458	21,067	149,475	50,000	50,000
<b>2B</b>	356,000	351,500	124,673	54,672	172,155	4,500	4,500
<b>2C</b>	617,000	462,500	44,387	99,236	318,877	154,500	154,500
<b>2D</b>	466,500	366,500	251,634	18,829	96,037	100,000	100,000
<b>3</b>	840,000	690,000	194,648	141,378	353,974	150,000	150,000
<b>4A</b>	2,090,000	940,000	134,660	147,777	657,563	1,150,000	1,150,000
<b>4B</b>	415,000	327,000	0	277,820	49,180	88,000	88,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,255,400</b>	<b>7,173,500</b>	<b>1,449,204</b>	<b>2,778,305</b>	<b>2,945,991</b>	<b>2,265,250</b>	<b>2,265,250</b>

<b>Sources of Funds (in US\$ thousands)</b>			
	<b>Funds pledged</b>	<b>Funds used [3]</b>	
	<b>(B)[2]</b>	<b>Funds Committed (C)</b>	<b>(B)[2]</b>
<b>FCPF Component</b>	<b>3,800,000</b>	<b>831,831</b>	<b>2,183,649</b>
<b>Initiation Plan</b>	183,350	0	162,509
<b>1A</b>	788,750	153,204	690,634
<b>1B</b>	288,750	55,133	299,260
<b>1C</b>	743,650	131,916	567,568
<b>2A</b>	0	0	0
<b>2B</b>	301,500	124,673	54,672
<b>2C</b>	212,500	44,387	76,550
<b>2D</b>	331,500	251,634	18,829
<b>3</b>	315,000	4,224	71,378
<b>4A</b>	455,000	66,660	147,777
<b>4B</b>	180,000	0	94,470
<b>UN-REDD</b>	<b>3,373,500</b>	<b>617,373</b>	<b>594,656</b>
<b>1A</b>	829,750	208,340	168,433
<b>1B</b>	529,750		129,120
<b>1C</b>	362,000	11,151	0
<b>2A</b>	310,000	139,458	21,067
<b>2B</b>	50,000		0
<b>2C</b>	250,000		22,686
<b>2D</b>	35,000		0
<b>3</b>	375,000	190,424	70,000
<b>4A</b>	485,000	68,000	0
<b>4B</b>	147,000		183,350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,173,500</b>	<b>1,449,204</b>	<b>2,778,305</b>

## 6. Grant Monitoring Report (GRM)

*The Delivery Partner prepares a mid-term GRM or equivalent grant monitoring report, which provides a qualitative report on the progress and results of FCPF-financed activities from the Delivery Partner's perspective, and the Delivery Partner's assessment of overall Readiness progress, and should be annexed to the mid-term progress report.*

## 7. Summary statement of the FCPF additional funds request

*If the Country is requesting additional funding, it presents a summary statement of total additional funding requested from the FCPF to justify the numbers presented in the table on uses and sources of funds, including an explanation of the proposed activities to be financed by the additional funding.*

As part of the Honduras REDD+ readiness process, considerable progress was achieved in developing the four elements established by the UNFCCC: National Strategy for REDD+, Forest Reference Level/Forest Reference Emissions Level, National Forest Monitoring System, as well as the system to report how social and environmental safeguards are addressed and respected.

Once the activities financed by the FCPF and UN-REDD funding are completed, the elements described below will require additional support for completion and consolidation, so that Honduras can present a proposal to the Green Climate Fund and other potential sources of financing for implementing the NRS and receiving result-based payments.

### **Component 1. Organization and consultation.**

So far, the initial discussion about the form of the REDD+ mechanism in Honduras has progressed, as well as the form and mechanisms through which the full and effective participation of the stakeholders may be ensured. In the next few years, the capacity of the different stakeholders for dialogue and the improvement of their understanding and implications of the necessary coordination among the different stakeholders will have to be strengthened, as well as technical capacities for the implementation of the strategic options for REDD+, including government officials (national and sub national), producers, and agroforestry groups.

For the correct implementation of the strategic options, it will be of paramount importance to ensure that the necessary technical capacities are in place in the Municipal Environmental Management Units, for follow up activities with a vision of sustainable productive landscape management. This includes the consolidation and strengthening of the Municipal Environmental Management System.

In addition, considering that in 2017 the elections for the national and municipal governments will be held, it is essential to have a strategy to ensure that the achievements in preparing for REDD+ remain after the change of government. This strategy should include, among other things, the training of new officials who are responsible for any of the processes, whether specific or crosscutting, of the implementation of REDD+.

The REDD+ Academy has so far been successful, and will be a key element for capacity building. Thus, its sustainability becomes necessary. It is also necessary to ensure capacity building through exchanges among people who already have a certain level of information on REDD+. Therefore, knowledge exchange among Afro-Honduran, indigenous and peasant women will be promoted, as well as among producers with experience on sustainable production, at national and international levels (South-South cooperation).

Because individual capacity is not sufficient to ensure stakeholder involvement in REDD+, it is also necessary to strengthen existing communication and agreement platforms, through the institutionalization of the MIACC and the Lenca Sectorial Platform, so that they main remain operational after the change of government, and the agreements reached so far may continue to be respected.

It is also necessary to systematize experiences and lessons learned from the process with the Lenca people, so that they can be replicated with other specific sectors or groups.

Given that the platforms for discussion and work created specifically for REDD+ are not the only ones in which there is a dialogue among the government and society, there is a need for coordination and strengthening of the discussion and work platforms that already exist on issues such as those established in the National Agroforestry Program, mechanisms for collaboration and participation with municipalities, and the Agricultural and Food Security Subcommittee of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock.

Until now, although there has been a very good relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the National Agrarian Institute, it is necessary to ensure the institutionalization of a coordination mechanism that allows the design and strengthening of incentives for forest conservation and production, the use of public resources in the rural sector, and how they may be used for REDD+, while ensuring agricultural production. This relationship would have to become evident also with the consolidation of the financial mechanism that allows the implementation of the National Strategy, through the strategic options.

The issue of gender inequality continues to be a focus of attention in Honduras. Therefore, in addition to maintaining the inclusion of the gender perspective in the actions implemented by MiAmbiente, it is necessary to systematize the social and productive dynamics of women (exclusion, access to land ownership, machismo), that allow establishing conditions to be included in REDD+ activities, in order to have evidence in support of the development of inclusive policies.

### **Component 2. Preparation of the REDD+ National Strategy**

Great steps will be taken in 2017 regarding the preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy, through specific analysis and discussions to define how to integrate the strategic options in the NRS. Afterwards, adequate planning and execution capacities at the local level will have to be ensured, through a safeguards approach, to allow the development of strategic options according to the characteristics of each territory; which will in turn require the development of an Action Plan or Plans for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy.

As part of the mechanism to ensure the implementation of the NRS, and its required fundraising, it is necessary to develop studies or strategies that allow the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the NRS. This is also important because it will be necessary to ensure the enforcement of human rights and environmental quality in private sector processes, which could be achieved through certifications, value chains, and zero deforestation *commodities*.

Also, to ensure that there are no barriers to the implementation of the NRS, it will be necessary to develop a legal analysis of existing public policy instruments that establish perverse or contradictory incentives to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, which should also be translated into an action plan to eliminate them, as well as to promote favorable instruments.

### **Component 3. Development of Reference Levels and Component 4. National Forest Monitoring System and Safeguards Information System.**

In regard to Component 3, a transparent, complete, consistent FREL that is in line with UNFCCC guidance is essential to being able to measure emission reductions and access RBPs for those results. Honduras has

already made substantial progress by constructing a forest reference emission level and making this submission to the UNFCCC on 20 January 2017. This coming year, Honduras will need to engage on a technical level with the UNFCCC Secretariat and LULUCF experts on the technical assessment team throughout the technical assessment process. The country's technical team will need to be prepared to potentially make modifications to its reference level if the TA team finds that there are calculation errors or other areas for improvement to ensure full consistency with the UNFCCC guidance on FREL submissions.

Alongside the technical efforts to fully engage in the UNFCCC technical assessment process, Honduras will also be initiating planned improvements for future FREL submissions, including potentially expanding the scope to include degradation by developing a degradation methodology in 2017 and elaborating a high resolution map product.

The result of the activities of the Project have laid the foundation for a National Forest Monitoring System that will be fully operational and capable of fully measuring, reporting and verifying results that may be reported in the context of seeking REDD+ results-based payments. However, important challenges will remain to ensure its operation and sustainability, which will require the strengthening of the Forest Monitoring System. It is necessary to strengthen the capacities of the ICF regional offices, as well as the Municipal Environmental Units, given that they are responsible for generating information that will feed the NFMS. Through the capacity building activities already conducted, indicators and a roadmap for a robust, operational NFMS will be developed.

To ensure the permanence of the NFMS, it will also be necessary to design and implement a Cartographic Quality Management mechanism, as well as the development of methodologies and protocols to incorporate forest degradation in the Reference Level, the development of allometric equations to improve the estimation of emissions associated with forest cover, and the development of a mechanism for the socialization of methodologies and protocols related to the NFMS.

Strengthening the linkage of the Safeguards Information System with the National Forest Monitoring System, which allows access to information related to REDD+ from a single site, and ensures active transparency and accountability; constitutes a task that will be pending. This will facilitate the collection and submission of information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected in Honduras, a prerequisite to accessing REDD+ results-based payments.

Regarding safeguards, capacity building will be needed for the National Safeguards System to become operational, both at the local and national levels. Therefore, it will be necessary to design and implement specific mechanisms for implementation of Safeguards at the local level, as well as to design and implement the Complaints Addressing Mechanism, based on existing mechanisms.

Additional funds will strengthen the efforts of the Government of Honduras for the transition between phases 1 and 2 of REDD+, which will ensure, for example, the sustainability of the Forest Monitoring System, for the report results of the technical annex to be presented to the UNFCCC in 2019.

More importantly, additional funds will permit Honduras to complete its readiness process with enough technical quality that Honduras could prepare a proposal for REDD+ implementation and results based-payments to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund.

## Annex 1. Results Framework for REDD+ Readiness in Honduras

Result	Performance Indicator	Baseline	Goal
<b>Effect 1. National Strategy to Reduce Deforestation, in the REDD+ context, validated by key stakeholders</b>			
1	<b>The country has strengthened and / or created spaces and procedures to facilitate the effective participation of relevant stakeholders at national and subnational levels, including measures for the effective participation of women, in the preparation of the NRS.</b>		
1.1	Level of consensus of PIAHs and other NRS relevant stakeholders.	Medium level of consensus of PIAHs and low level of consensus of other NRS relevant stakeholders.	High level of consensus of PIAHs and other NRS relevant stakeholders.
1.2	Level of representativeness of relevant stakeholders who have agreed on the content of REDD+ NRS, with special emphasis on stakeholders at the sub national level and representativeness of women.	At present, the content of NRS has not been agreed with relevant stakeholders. There are no data disaggregated by sex or by level of the organization to which the stakeholders belong.	High representativeness of the relevant stakeholders in agreement with the content of NRS, including the sub national level, and ensuring gender equity.
2	<b>The country has the necessary technical inputs to identify feasible and gender-sensitive strategic options for REDD+ NRS, generated within the FCPF Project framework, including those provided by NFMS, FREL/FRL and SIS.</b>		
2.1	Number of feasible and gender-sensitive strategic options that have been identified based on the technical inputs generated under the Project "Support for Preparedness for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) in Honduras".	There are no feasible and gender-sensitive strategic options identified for REDD+ NRS, based on the technical inputs generated under the Project "Support for Preparedness for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) in Honduras".	At least three feasible and gender-sensitive strategic options identified for REDD+ NRS, based on the technical inputs generated under the Project "Support for Preparedness for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) in Honduras".

Result	Performance Indicator	Baseline	Goal
<b>Effect 2</b>	<b>An enabling framework to implement the National Strategy to Reduce Deforestation in the context of REDD+, under relevant international benchmarks</b>		
3	<b>The country has a proposal (design and enabling instruments such as institutional arrangements and legal instruments) for the REDD+ financial mechanism.</b>		
3.1	Proposal for a financial mechanism that enables the possibility of using economic resources related to the reduction of emissions in the context of REDD+.	The country does not have a Proposal for a financial mechanism that enables the possibility of using economic resources related to the reduction of emissions in the context of REDD+.	Honduras has a Proposal for a financial mechanism that enables the possibility of using economic resources related to the reduction of emissions in the context of REDD+.
4	<b>Technical capacities (reports and human resources) strengthened to have a Forest Reference Emissions Level/Forest Reference level (FREL/FRL) for deforestation on a specific reference period.</b>		
4.1	Number of staff participating in the generation of data to prepare the FREL/FRL proposal.	Honduras has a trained technical team for the analysis of information from remote sensors and field data.	To strengthen capacities to support the FREL/FRL proposal's technical evaluation process, with at least 12 trained technicians (at least 25% women) who have accessed feedback from UNFCCC experts.
5	<b>National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS, in its acronym in Spanish) strengthened</b>		
5.1	Reports on forest monitoring emission reports and/or GHG anthropogenic absorptions related to forests and changes in estimated forest areas	There are no periodic forest monitoring reports	At least one forest monitoring report has been generated
6	<b>The National Information System on Social and Environmental Safeguards is operational and supported</b>		
6.1	SIS Report presented to the CMNUCC	There is no SIS	One report presented to the CMNUCC

## Annex 2. EMT Self-assessment and socialization process

The preparation of the Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Project *Support for REDD+ readiness in Honduras*, was a collective preparation process that included two fundamental elements: a) Self-assessment by MiAmbiente on the project implementation process; and b) socialization of the assessment with the main stakeholders involved in the REDD+ preparation process of the country.

### **Self assesment by MiAmbiente on project progress.**

The self-assessment workshop was implemented with staff from the Project Coordinating Office, within MiAmbiente, as well as the ICF, in charge of the implementation of the Project *Support for REDD+ Readiness in Honduras*. During the workshop, a self-assessment of the progress of the project implementation was performed, reviewing the activities implemented by then and determining the actions needed to ensure that Honduras is prepared for the implementation of REDD+. The evaluation of the 34 criteria of the FCPF assessment framework was also implemented, as an integral part of the Midterm Report.

### **Socialization and feedback of the MiAmbiente self-assessment, with the main stakeholders involved in the REDD+ process.**

This meeting aimed to inform the relevant stakeholders on the Mid-Term Evaluation Report of the Project *Support for readiness for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) in Honduras*, which included the assessment of the criteria established in the FCPF Methodology Framework, as well as the activities to be financed with the possible extension of the preparation grant.

The Workshop was attended by representatives from:

Fundación del Valle, Asociación de Propietarios de Bosques Privados de Honduras (APROBOH), Agenda Forestal Hondureña (AFH), Red de Manejo de Bosque Latifoliado de Honduras (REMBLAH), Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH), Cooperativa Regional Agroforestal de Madera Equitativas de Honduras Limitada (CORAMEHL), Asociación de Desarrollo Pespirense (ADEPES), CARE Honduras, Universidad Nacional de Ciencias Forestales (UNACIFOR), Lenca Platform, Mesa de ONGs Comanejadoras de Áreas Naturales Protegidas de Honduras (MOCAPH), Red de Mujeres Indígenas y Afrohondureñas (Red MIAH), Red Hondureña de Reservas Naturales Privadas (REHNAP), Confederación de Pueblos Autóctonos de Honduras (CONPAH)

The meeting was implemented through the following methodology:

1. Participants were divided into three groups, so each group could discuss the results of the self-assessment exercise, as well as the proposed activities to be implemented with the possible additional grant. Each of the groups focused in one of the four components.

The following materials were delivered for each group: Project Results Framework (including goals), summary of implemented activities by component, assessment criteria and progress signals, summary of proposed activities to be implemented trough the possible extension of the readiness grant.

2. In each group, support was provided from at least one person from MiAmbiente to address any doubts. The discussion was encouraged to address the following subjects:

- Based on the results framework, discuss the progress of the implemented activities.
- Discuss the results of the assessment for each of the evaluation criteria.
- Discuss whether the proposed activities for a possible extension of the grant are sufficient to complete the country's REDD+ readiness process (in the component under discussion).

3. The results of group were presented to all participants.

As a general remark, it is possible to emphasize that the participants generally agreed with the information presented, since most of them had been involved in the project's implemented activities. Despite the active involvement they have had in the readiness process, they requested more information, especially on technical aspects. They also requested to ensure the integration of their opinions and their worldview into the readiness process. Out of the 34 criteria, only one reached disagreement regarding the results of the assessment by MiAmbiente.