



# Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Participants Progress Report Template

v. 2022



## FCPF Readiness Fund: REDD+ Country Participant Annual Progress Report

### About this document

This template is for use by Readiness Fund (RF) REDD+ Country Participants to report their annual progress on REDD+ readiness activities in general, and on FCPF-supported activities in particular. The data provided through these reports represents a central information source for measuring progress against the FCPF's expected results and performance indicators, as articulated within the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

### Report preparation

Reports cover progress through 30<sup>th</sup> June of each year.

When preparing the report, RF REDD+ Country Participants should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD+ (component 6 of the R-PP) and should consult members of the national REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated, with any divergent views recorded as appropriate. Detailed, indicator-by-indicator definitions and reporting guidance are provided within the FCPF M&E Framework (<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-0>).

### Reporting schedule

Completed reports should be submitted to the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) by **15<sup>th</sup> July** every year.

## SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

1. In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related activities and achievements delivered within your country during the last year?
  - Activities - For example, strategy / policy drafting, stakeholder consultation events, capacity building / training, awareness raising initiatives
  - Achievements - For example, x number of individuals attended REDD+ consultations (sex disaggregated, if available), national REDD+ strategy was finalised, government formally adopted national REDD+ related policy/s, NFMS was established, partnership agreement with private sector association signed
  - Please be as specific as possible, e.g. name, date and number of participants in consultation events (sex disaggregated, if available), name of policy being drafted, institutions involved in policy drafting

The implementation of the REDD+ Grant continued to demonstrate significant progress in the last year of implementation which includes the reporting period from July 1, 2021 until March 31, 2022, when the Grant was formally closed. This progress was due, among others, to acceleration of the activities' implementation pace, satisfactory performance of the REDD+ Coordination Unit (REDD+CU), as well as extension of the Grant closing date until March 31, 2022.

In addition to the establishment of robust and accurate data that underpin readiness process that Belize is undertaking and that was achieved to a large extent in the previous years, several tangible outcomes have been achieved too. In particular, the Grant has made progress toward achieving its objective at an advanced level under Component 1 (REDD+ Organization Framework, Consultation and Grievance Redress), Component 2 (Preparation of REDD+ Strategy), Component 3 (Development and final submission of a National Forest Reference Emission Level and a Forest Reference Level to the UNFCCC), Component 4 (Design of National Forest Monitoring and Safeguards Systems) and Component 5 (Design of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework).

In particular, the following outputs and related outcomes were achieved during the reporting period:

- Drafting of REDD+ Strategy
- Undertaking of SESA studies and development of SESA report
- Completion of the Land Tenure Study and Ethno-mapping activity as part of the SESA, with a focus on the Toledo District, which was undertaken through community consultations with IP stakeholders
- Development and launching of the Safeguards Information System (SIS) and Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) website.
- Advanced design (draft) of the Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM) and beginning of consultations with IP and other stakeholder groups
- Development of an ESMF (including Process Framework and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework)
- Continuation of work on the already operational National Forest Monitoring System for Belize
- Continuation of work and reliance on important coordination mechanisms, including the IP desk and Technical Expert Group (TEG)

All of the above listed activities have been undertaken through solid the combination of solid technical work and extensive stakeholder consultations, including with representatives of all IP groups in Belize for the development of the SESA, REDD+ strategy, and ESMF. As such, not only are they considered important for the successful completion of the REDD+ Readiness Grant, but they are critical in making significant advancements in the overall country's readiness capacity, including going beyond REDD+ and related to overall sustainable forest management practices and an effective collaboration with national stakeholders in this regard.

In addition to the extensive consultations that were carried out, an example of the far reaching and lasting impact of the REDD+ progress in Belize is also a number of technical trainings that are considered critical for improving the country's overall capacity on the subject matter. The list of trainings that were delivered during the reporting period is presented below.

Year	Specifications	Institution	Date	Location	Total Participants (Belize)		Males	Females	
<b>2021</b>									
	Mapathon	REDD+ Belize/Forest Department	August 2021 to February 2022	Belmopan City, Belize	7	5	71.4%	2	28.6%
	REDD+ Awareness Sessions with Indigenous People organization leaders	REDD+ Belize	2021	Belize	317	200	63.1%	117	36.9%
	Consultative Group of Experts Regional Virtual Training Workshop		2021	Virtual	1		0.0%	1	100.0%
	Certificate in Greenhouse gas Inventory: Industrial Processes and Other Product Use (521 IPCC).	UNFCCC	2020	Virtual	4	2	50.0%	2	50.0%
	Hatarilabs - Water Resources Modeling		2021	Virtual	10	7	70.0%	3	30.0%
<b>2022</b>									
	Greenhouse Gas Accounting and Carbon Management	UNFCCC	2021-2022	Virtual	2	1	50.0%	1	50.0%

Consultative Group of Experts Regional Virtual Training Workshop		2021-2022	Virtual	1	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Greenhouse gas Inventory: Industrial Processes and Other Product Use (521 IPCC).		2021-2022	Virtual	4	2	50.0%	2	50.0%
Greenhouse gas Inventory: Agriculture (531 IPCC)		2021-2022	Virtual	2	1	50.0%	1	50.0%

2. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related challenges and/or problems during the last year?

- For example, lack of engagement from key stakeholders, political barriers, limited funding

The Project faced a number of challenges at the beginning of its implementation, including generally low levels of understanding of REDD+ among the stakeholders, delayed project approval and initiation of activities, gaps in project management and oversight, and initially insufficient stakeholder engagement and participation. These were overcome by the last year of implementation due to increased focus on capacity development, as well as improved Project management.

In addition, additional restrictions and challenges posted by COVID-19 (in particular as they relate to an inability to conduct in-person stakeholder consultations and award new contracts under the Project) were still present at during the reporting period. Due to such restrictions, the ability of the REDD+CU’s ability to finalize stakeholder consultations for the completion of a draft BSM were affected. Awareness raising activities on REDD+ and the FGRM were also affected by COVID19 restrictions between 2020-2022.

Lastly, consultations with IP stakeholders included more involvement of males than females. Lastly, due to limited time and availability of the REDD+CU, the readiness package finalization was also slightly delayed though successfully completed with its submission in July 2022.

3. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related activities that you hope to deliver, and achievements anticipated during the next year?

- For example, hold x consultation events, submission of R-Package to the PC, finalisation of SIS, commission research into REDD+ strategy options

The REDD+ Readiness Grant in Belize closed on March 31, 2022. As a result, no new activities supported by the Grant directly are envisioned. Noting the challenges stated below and the status of the BSM, including a need for further consultations, in next phases of Belize’s readiness process, additional stakeholder consultations to advance the draft of the BSM will be needed. The same is true for additional consultations with key REDD+ stakeholder groups on the FGRM, additional consultations on REDD+ with representatives of Indigenous women, and additional awareness raising and outreach activities with the general public in Belize on REDD+.

## SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS

4. Please provide your own assessment of national progress against all REDD+ readiness sub-components:  
 (Indicator OV.1.B: Number of FCPF supported countries that have in place a National REDD+ Strategy, FREL/FRL, NFMS and SIS; Output 1.3 indicators)

## Progress rating key:

5	Completed	The sub-component has been completed
4	Significant progress	Significant progress
3	Progressing well, further development required	Progressing well, further development required
2	Further development required	Further development required
1	Not yet demonstrating progress	Not yet demonstrating progress
0	N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
<b>R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation</b>		
<b>Sub-component 1a:</b> National REDD+ Management Arrangements	5 Completed	Under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (MSDCCDRM), the REDD+ Coordination Unit along with an Indigenous Peoples (IP) Desk was established. REDD+ CU is a unit coordinated all REDD+ related activities, promoted collaboration between government agencies and facilitated multi-sectoral discussions leading to the development and implementation of REDD+ plans and strategies in Belize.
	4 Significant progress	
	3 Progressing well, further development required	
	2 Further development required	
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0 N/A	
<b>Sub-component 1b:</b> Consultation, Participation and Outreach	5 Completed	Extensive stakeholder consultations applying FPIC principles were undertaken to develop the REDD+ Strategy, SESA, and ESMF. Specific deep dive assessment undertaken on the importance of forests to Indigenous Mayan stakeholders in Southern Belize. Consultation protocols for IP stakeholders developed in close collaboration with representatives of each IP group, and consultations with IP stakeholders coordinated through the IP Desk and Indigenous Technical Team.  Further development is required in terms of: education and outreach to the general public on REDD+; awareness raising with REDD+ stakeholders on the FGRM; targeted consultations with representatives of Indigenous women; consultations to further develop a BSM for Belize.
	4 Significant progress	
	3 Progressing well, further development required	
	2 Further development required	
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0 N/A	
<b>R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation</b>		
<b>Sub-component 2:</b> REDD+ Strategy	5 Completed	REDD+ Strategy was developed through a participatory approach with the involvement of national and local level stakeholders and uses the country's national context, policies, plans and sustainable development as the basis for the strategy. The Strategy consists of four pillars, each of which has several strategic lines. It is a general strategy, which does not yet provide specific activities under each strategic line.
	4 Significant progress	
	3 Progressing well, further development required	
	2 Further development required	
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0 N/A	
<b>Sub-component 2a:</b> Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	5 Completed	An analysis of the drivers of deforestation and degradation has been completed according to drivers using Collect Earth activity data for every District, every Protected Area as well as to understand drivers of forest degradation from natural disturbances (Hurricane and Fires) as well as from anthropogenic activities. The information garnered from this exercise has been utilized to guide and be integrated into the options to structure the REDD+ Strategy in conjunction with the Information to prepare the Forest Reference Level
	4 Significant progress	
	3 Progressing well, further development required	
	2 Further development required	
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0 N/A	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
			for Belize including the five REDD+ activities, currently under UNFCCC revision.
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	5	Completed	x
	4	Significant progress	
	3	Progressing well, further development required	
	2	Further development required	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0	N/A	
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	5	Completed	x
	4	Significant progress	
	3	Progressing well, further development required	
	2	Further development required	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0	N/A	
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	5	Completed	x
	4	Significant progress	
	3	Progressing well, further development required	
	2	Further development required	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0	N/A	
<b>R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels</b>			
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	5	Completed	x
	4	Significant progress	
	3	Progressing well, further development required	
	2	Further development required	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0	N/A	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
<b>R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards</b>				
<b>Sub-component 4a:</b> National Forest Monitoring System	5	Completed	The NFMS of Belize is based on two components, a National Forest Inventory based on a series of plots, the first of which were established in the 1990s; a Collection of Activity Data and Quality Assurance using high resolution imagery for visual interpretation classification in Collect Earth. In addition, the Generation of wall-to-wall land cover/land use maps using open source satellite imagery, as a Quality Assurance Activity for Activity Data is being developed.	
	4	Significant progress		x
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
<b>Sub-component 4b:</b> Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	5	Completed	During preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy, the following other environmental benefits were identified: water quality, air quality and biodiversity conservation. Stakeholder participation in the exploration of co-benefits and non-carbon schemes has been encouraged through training sessions and workshops. The development of information sharing processes on the impact of REDD+ on rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, provision of non-carbon ecosystem services, and key governance factors is recommended.	
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		x
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		

## SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

5. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at livelihoods; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates livelihoods)?

(Indicator 3.2.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods)

Yes	
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

During preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy, the following other environmental benefits were identified: water quality, air quality and biodiversity conservation. Stakeholder participation in the exploration of co-benefits and non-carbon schemes has been encouraged through training sessions and workshops. The development of information sharing processes on the impact of REDD+ on rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, provision of non-carbon ecosystem services, and key governance factors is recommended. Further work is required to further refine REDD+ National Strategy in the future (prior to the implementation) and to finalize the Benefit Sharing Mechanism that provides an integrated framework for the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services provision, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD+ preparations, and the implementation of safeguards, paying attention to the specific provisions included in the ESMF. Pillar 2 of the Strategy in particular (Increased and meaningful community engagement and empowerment) aims to foster meaningful, inclusive, and culturally appropriate community engagement in discussions and activities related to REDD+ implementation.

6. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at biodiversity conservation; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates biodiversity conservation)?

(Indicator 3.3.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity)

Yes	
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach

One of the key aspects covered by the SESA is the Protection/Conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. REDD+ has a direct positive impact on forests and its resources. More than half of Belize's territory corresponds to forest cover and multiple stakeholders depend on them. The implementation of actions for the conservation, maintenance and improvement of forests would not only contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in general but would also help ensure the provision of forest products to local communities and Indigenous Peoples. The Pillars and strategic Lines in the REDD+ Strategy particularly Pillar 3 Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation expressly address this.

The Pillar aims to promote the sustainable management and conservation of forests to increase their environmental, economic and sociocultural benefits through enhancing ecosystems resiliency and functions, ensuring their sustainable utilization by forest users and stakeholders, increasing the supply of forest products, planning and implementing strategies and actions with realistic, positive impacts and measurable results, and maintaining or increasing forest cover in conservation and priority areas.

Pillar 4 Forest Information, Monitoring further contributes to this. This Pillar includes the provisions to generate updated, timely and reliable information related to forest conditions and trends, as well as on social and environmental benefits generated by forests. Data will be acquired, processed and made available for decision making by several stakeholders.

As the details about where REDD+ will be implemented in Belize and how exactly this is going to happen are still unknown, a procedure for screening for and addressing risks and impacts (including for biodiversity) once such detail is available, i.e. at the level of "REDD+ subprojects" is detailed in the ESMF. The ESMF also includes detailed mitigation and monitoring measures for biodiversity conservation to ensure activities when implemented avoid, or where this is impossible, minimize and manage adverse impacts on forests and biodiversity.

## SECTION D: FINANCE

(Please complete in US\$ ONLY)

7. Please detail the amount of all finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process since the date that your R-PP was signed. Figures should only include secured finance (i.e. fully committed) – ex ante, (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions should not be included:

(Indicator 1.B: Amount of finance received to support the REDD+ Readiness process (disaggregated by public, private, grants, loans))

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
\$3,800,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	03/2017	Public	Grant



8. Please detail any ex ante (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions that you hope to secure in support of your national REDD+ readiness process:

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other

## SECTION E: FCPF PERFORMANCE

9. To help build an understanding of the FCPF strengths, weaknesses and contributions to REDD+, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.B: Participant Countries' assessment of FCPF's role within and contribution to national REDD+ processes)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
The FCPF's support has had a <b>central influence</b> on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes				X	
The FCPF's support has <b>improved the quality</b> of our national REDD+ systems and processes			X		
The FCPF's support has <b>improved national capacities</b> to develop and deliver REDD+ projects				X	
The FCPF's support has <b>helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders</b> (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

10. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (publications, seminars, learning events, web resources), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.3.a: Extent to which FCPF learning, evidence and knowledge products are used by Participant countries)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
We <b>regularly access</b> FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information			X		

FCPF knowledge products are <b>relevant</b> to our REDD+ related information requirements				X	
FCPF knowledge products are <b>sufficient</b> to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements			X		
The FCPF <b>website</b> is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information				X	

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

## SECTION F: FINAL COMMENTS

11. If appropriate, please provide any further comments or clarifications relating to your work on REDD+ Readiness during the last year: