Self-Assessment Report of Colombia's REDD+ Readiness Package for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

V4

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ACRONYMS

ADR	Rural Development Agency
OGP	Open Government Partnership
AMEM	Macarena Special Management Area
ANH	National Hydrocarbon Agency
ANT	National Land Agency
APC	Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CICOD	Intersectoral Commission for Deforestation Control and the Comprehensive Management of Protected Natural Forests
CICC	Intersectoral Committee on Climate Change
COCOMASUR	Community Council of Black Communities of the Tolo River Basin and the South Coastal Zone
CONALDEF	National Council for the National Fight against Deforestation and other Associated Environmental Crimes
CONPES	National Council for Economic and Social Policy
FPIC	Free, Prior, Informed Consent
NDC	National Determined Contribution
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CAR	Regional Autonomous Corporation
CDS	Sustainable Development Corporations
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
DANE	National Administrative Department of Statistics
DNP	National Planning Department
EICDGB	Comprehensive Strategy to Control Deforestation and Forest Management
EIS	Environmental Impact Studies
FEDEGAN	Colombian Federation of Cattle Breeders
FEDECAFE	National Federation of Coffee Growers
FEDEPALMA	National Federation of Oil Palm Growers
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FONDO ACCIÓN	Fund for Environmental Action and Children
GCF	Green Climate Fund
FISCH	Solidaridad Chocó Interethnic Forum
UN-PFII	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
FEDESARROLLO	Foundation for Higher Education and Development
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
ICR	Rural Capitalization Incentive
ICA	Colombian Agricultural Institute
INCODER	Colombian Institute of Rural Development
INGEOMINAS	Colombian Institute of Geology and Mining
IDEAM	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies of Colombia
IIAP	Pacific Environmental Research Institute

IAVH	Alexander von Humboldt Biological Research Institute
INVEMAR	José Benito Vives de Andreis Marine and Coastal Research Institute
IGAC	Agustín Codazzi Geographical Institute
LULUCF	Land and Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
MAC	Citizen Service Mechanism
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MRA	Amazon Regional Board
MinMinas	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MinAgricultura	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MinAmbiente	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
MAVDT	Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development (now MinAmbiente)
MinInterior	Homeland Ministry
MCP	Participatory Community Monitoring
NRCC	Regional Climate Change Hubs
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Levels
NAD	High Deforestation Spots
NDF	Forest Development Hubs
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ONF	French National Forest Office (Office national des forêts, for its French acronym)
UN	United Nations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
OPIAC	Organization of the Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon
ILO	International Labor Organization
ONIC	National Indigenous Organization of Colombia
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
PNN	National Natural Parks of Colombia
PDET	Development Programs with a Territorial Approach
PNDF	National Forest Development Plan
PIGCCT	Comprehensive Climate Change Management Plans at the Territorial Level
PIGCCS	Comprehensive Climate Change Management Plans at the Sectoral Level
PPPS	Policies, Plans and Programs
PAM	Policies, Actions and Measurements
REM	REDD+ Early Movers Program
R-PP	REDD+ Readiness Proposal
GIT	REDD+ Interdisciplinary Working Group
REDD+:	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RENARE	National Registry of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction

BUR	Colombia's Biennial Update Report before the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
SSI	Safeguards of Safeguards Information
SENA	National Learning Service
SMByC	Forest and Carbon Monitoring System
SIMCI	UN Integrated Illicit Crop Monitoring System
SINA	National Environmental System
SINAP	National System of Protected Areas
SINCHI	Amazon Institute for Scientific Research
SISCLIMA	National Climate Change Plan
NSS	National Safeguards System
SAC	Colombian Farmers Society
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the Comprehensive Strategy to Control Deforestation and Forest Management
TFA	Tropical Forest Alliance
TOR	Terms of Reference
UAESPNN	Administrative Unit of National Natural Parks
UPME	Energy Mining Planning Unit
UN-REDD	United Nations Program for REDD+
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund Colombia
FRZ	Forest Reserve Zone

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Colombia, as managers of the country's natural resources, recognized the importance of developing REDD+ activities as a key instrument to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while achieving a positive impact on the livelihoods and well-being of forest-dependent and forest-related human communities. It has also recognized Indigenous peoples, African-Colombian and Black communities, and peasants as strategic agents in the management of forests, their conservation and enhancement as carbon sinks, within the framework of international cooperation and national capacity building in line with the UNFCCC provisions.

The national REDD+ strategy – the Comprehensive Strategy for Control of Deforestation and Forest Management (EICDGB), *Bosques Territorios de Vida* – was consolidated as a result of several years of work, institutional efforts, broad participation of strategic actors and strengthening of technical and management capacities under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MinAmbiente) and with the technical support of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM).

Within the framework established by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), a Readiness Package (R-Package) was elaborated by Colombia providing a set of documents that show the development stage of the REDD+ initiatives. The R-Package provides a common framework to measure the country's progress in the basic preparation activities, based on a participatory self-assessment that takes stock of the actions carried out during the readiness stage of REDD+ and evaluates the completion status of each phase.

Consolidated results of the participatory self-assessment

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
Component 1. Readiness organization and consultation
Subcomponent 1a. National REDD+ management arrangements
1 Accountability and transparency
2 Operating mandate and budget
3 Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration
4 Technical supervision capacity
5 Funds management capacity
6 Feedback and grievance redress mechanism
Subcomponent 1b. Consultation, participation and outreach
7 Participation and engagement of key stakeholders
8 Consultation processes
9 Information sharing and accessibility of information
10 Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes
Component 2. REDD+ strategy preparation
Subcomponent 2a. Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance
11 Assessment and analysis
12 Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement
13 Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+
14 Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance
15 Implications for forest law and policy
Subcomponent 2b. REDD+ strategy options
16 Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options
17 Feasibility assessment

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent	
18	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies
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20	Guidelines for implementation
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22	National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities
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	Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels
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28	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines
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30	Demonstration of early system implementation
31	Institutional arrangements and capacities
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33	Monitoring, reporting and information sharing
34	Institutional arrangements and capacities

Color conventions

■ Significant progress

■ Progressing well, further development required

■ Further development required

REDD+ vision, strategy and perspectives in Colombia: forests, climate change and development

Colombia's EICDGB sets as a vision to zero deforestation by 2030, a goal that has been reaffirmed more recently in CONPES's Document 4021 (National Policy for the Control of Deforestation and Sustainable Management of Forests)[1], whose main objective is reducing deforestation by 30% in 2022 and bring the annual deforestation rate to less than 100,000 hectares by 2025, leading the country to a national zero net deforestation figure in 2030 (DNP, 2020). The policy also seeks to comply with rulings by Colombian high courts that urge the State to immediately protect the Colombian Amazon, reduce the rate of deforestation to zero in the Colombian Amazon by 2020, and deepen the recognition of nature as an authentic subject of rights. The policy is also aimed at complying with international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the New York Declaration on Forests, the Leticia Pact, the Joint Declaration of Intent (DCI) between the Governments of Colombia, Germany,

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[1] CONPES is the National Council for Economic and Social Policy created by Law 19 of 1958. It is the highest national planning authority and acts as an advisory body to the Government in all aspects related to the country's economic and social development. It coordinates and guides the Government's agencies in charge of economic and social affairs through the study and approval of submitted documentation on the development of general policies.

the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Norway for the control of deforestation, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Compliance with the proposed goals requires following the international strategies that most contribute to the slowdown of the so-called drivers of deforestation and making use of instruments such as the REDD+ mechanism and others derived from forest-related declarations and decisions made in the UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties in Glasgow in 2021 (COP26).

The EICDGB is part of the recognition of the diverse and complex conflicts in the Colombian territory regarding land use and tenure. To address this complexity, the strategy seeks to provide different perspectives as to how to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while promoting forest management with a comprehensive sustainable rural development approach. The EIDCGB's 2030 goals are consistent with the commitments signed by the country in terms of emission reduction, within the framework of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) (Government of Colombia, 2020). The strategy addresses cross-sector issues in the country with a comprehensive approach on topics related to forest management in its role as an essential provider of natural resources for human development and economic growth, recognizing the wide diversity of actors and views regarding its use, management and conservation. In particular, it recognizes and identifies the key role of Indigenous peoples, African-Colombian, Black and peasant communities, as well as vulnerable populations in forest management.

In addition to the political and regulatory framework for forest management in Colombia, the National Climate Change Policy was established in 2017, the Climate Change Law sanctioned in 2018 and, more recently, the Climate Action Law came into force in the end of 2021. Together, they steer the country's actions and set its responsibilities in the face of climate change. With this set of instruments, the country seeks to articulate different sectors, including forestry and local development stakeholders, and boost their potential to address socioeconomic problems and overcome gaps with a focus on emissions reduction, adaptation, and the promotion of development models that move past the extraction of natural resources.

Description of the REDD+ readiness process

Colombia decided to start its REDD+ readiness process in 2008 by preparing a national REDD+ strategy in accordance with UNFCCC guidelines. The country established that the REDD+ mechanism could be developed through early implementation initiatives, known as REDD+ projects, as well as national and subnational programs. The aim was to insert the projects into the voluntary carbon market and the programs into results-based payment strategies.

In 2009, Colombia received the first international grant from the FCPF and began preparing its Readiness Project Idea Note (R-PIN). After submitting the R-PIN to the FCPF, the country started developing the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). That same year, funds provided by the Moore Foundation were committed to the design and start-up of the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC) operated by IDEAM.

The development and implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy, led by the Ministry of Environment, required the creation and strengthening of internal technical and administrative skills in order to lay the institutional, political and social grounds for its deployment and to understand the local causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

In 2010, the readiness process focused on the Colombian Pacific and Amazon regions, which concentrate almost 60% of the country's natural forest cover. NGOs in Colombia set up the REDD+ Board (Mesa REDD) and forest conservation information was disseminated to relevant stakeholders such as the national government, Indigenous peoples, African-Colombian and Black communities, peasant organizations, organized civil society members (NGOs), the productive sector and academia.

In 2011, the SMByC allowed the country to produce the first estimates of carbon emissions and a five-year deforestation rate and carry out the first study of drivers and agents of deforestation and forest degradation. Protocols and models were developed to estimate deforestation and emissions in Colombia. In 2010, early REDD+ initiatives started to be developed. By 2014, SMByC initiatives had consolidated the system, providing biannual and annual deforestation rate estimates, setting up an early warning system and implementing methodologies for calculating forest carbon emissions. Adjustments were made to the design of the 2009 National Forest Inventory and Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL) were published for the Amazon biome (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2018).

In 2013, the Colombian readiness process received support from international cooperation programs such as GIZ's Protection of forests and the climate/REDD+ and United Nations REDD+ Program (UN REDD), and a second grant from the FCPF Readiness Fund was negotiated. The eighth version of the R-PP document was published and included feedback from different stakeholders and inputs from a national REDD+ board discussion. Additionally, a participatory process was carried out to discuss the interpretation of REDD+ social and environmental safeguards based on the guidelines laid by the Cancun Agreement at COP16.

REDD+ readiness continued with the signing of the second FCFP funding agreement in 2015, which ran until 2019, a period that saw the development of the EICDGB as the national REDD+ strategy. Participatory and outreach projects were also carried out within the scope of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the Amazon and the Pacific. Dialogue processes and platforms were expanded to allow and foster the participation of different stakeholders. During this period, the National Climate Change System (SISCLIMA) was created, establishing the Regional Climate Change Centers and the Intersectoral Climate Change Commission. The REDD+ school was launched with trainers from the National Learning Service (SENA) and four national REDD+ board meetings were held. Moreover, the National Safeguards System (SNS) was also consolidated with the implementations of the Safeguards Facilitating Committee and four Safeguards Information Summaries (RIS) were prepared and submitted to the UNFCCC emphasizing the Amazon region. The fifth issue was published in 2020.

As for the SMByC, during this period, important milestone achievements should be noted, such as the implementation of the National Forest Inventory, the preparation of the Forest Reference Emission Levels for the UNFCCC, the first Biennial Update Report (BUR), the participatory community monitoring related to the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System, the second Survey on Drivers and Agents of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, the Portfolio of Measures and Actions, the Forest Reference Emission Level Technical Annex, the Forest Degradation Protocol and the Deforestation Control Protocol. After having verified the country's progress in REDD+ readiness, the FCPF provided additional financing (third grant) under a 2020 agreement that is still in force.

Self-assessment process and results

A simple methodological process was established based on the recommendations of the Readiness Assessment Framework Guide (FCPF, 2013) that establishes self-assessment procedures that must be

carried out through interaction with REDD+ stakeholders. The call was made based on a list of stakeholders who took part in REDD+ readiness initiatives as well as in the implementation of projects and programs. In total, 99 actors were invited to three regional workshops and one national workshop, the latter aimed at validating results of the first workshops, which can be seen in greater detail in chapter 4 of the R-Package document, REPORT ON PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF REDD+ READINESS and later, in Table 6. In addition to the workshops, interviews were conducted with four relevant REDD+ readiness actors who contributed to the strategy in different capacities (NGOs, public sector and international cooperation). The interviews proposed a self-assessment based on guiding questions suggested by (FCPF, 2013). Interview respondents talked about key aspects of the REDD+ readiness process, which later served as input for the workshops, and valuable information was obtained regarding details of the process, pieces of evidence and concepts linked to each assessed criterion[2]. This exercise helped to clarify doubts and better frame the guiding questions during the workshops. A color scale was used by participants to indicate the degree of progress of each item, as follows: Significant progress (green), making good progress, further development required (yellow), further development required (orange), not yet showing progress (red), and not applicable or no response (white).

The most relevant arguments of each evaluated criterion are summarized below and are based on evidence retrieved from publications, reports, websites and regulations.

Component 1: Readiness organization and consultation. Subcomponent 1a: National REDD+ management arrangements.

Colombia's REDD+ readiness process has unquestionably provided the country with sound national mechanisms and developed advanced skills and capacities, proof of which is the successful management of international funds and its participation as a relevant counterpart in global agreements and discussions. It is also clear – and recognized by the EICDGB – that the various regions of the country must count on plans that correctly address local needs and reality, avoiding the development of centralist action plans and views.

Participants of the regional workshops carried out during the self-assessment process sent a clear message that **many stakeholders face lack access to information**, and that internet publications are not sufficient given the limited connectivity in rural areas. In order to improve information sharing and availability, platforms should be in place to inform the general public and regional public officials who can then convey this information face-to-face to the population with limited internet access.

FCPF's third grant to Colombia should help to strengthen these REDD+ program management arrangements and find strategies to overcome the aforementioned gaps, leveraging existing platforms such as the Regional Climate Change Hubs (NRCC) and the Forestry Boards together with the established REDD+ structures. The process must include control entities (Prosecutor's Office, Comptroller's Office) environmental oversight agencies, as well as the moralization and environmental commissions and all

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[2] The Readiness Assessment Framework Guide (FCPF, 2013) gives recommendation on how to identify important achievements in the REDD+ readiness process as well as areas for further development. It does that through 34 criteria grouped in 4 components and 9 subcomponents.

institutions that deal with claims and grievances for violation of rights. **The self-assessment result for this component determines what is making good progress but requires further development.**

Component 1: Readiness organization and consultation. Subcomponent 1b: Consultation, participation and outreach.

The EICDGB process was highly constructive and participatory, establishing work groups to aimed at each region's reality. Spaces for participation and debate were set up with legitimate community representatives (Black, Indigenous, and peasants) and vulnerable sectors of the population (women) as well as civil society organizations from different regions.

These processes strengthened stakeholder groups in the territories and should be further replicated, building on the REDD+ readiness processes to act more assertively in programs or projects designed for their location. Installed capacities (informed participation, monitoring and collective management of forests, among others) must be maintained in the territories so that members of the community can propose and execute projects, access and manage economic resources, and interact with key actors in their surroundings. In the EICDGB update and future implementation must draw an accurate picture of the actors involved to foster and improve peasants' participation, as the first inhabitants of the country's deforestation hotspots. In addition, an update is required given that many stakeholders will probably have changed between the readiness and implementation stages. The result of the self-assessment for the Subcomponent indicates that good progress is being made but requires further development. **The self-assessment result for this component shows what is making good progress but requires further development.**

Component 2: REDD+ strategy preparation. Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance

For the EICDGB, together with local stakeholders and national experts, a broad and in-depth analysis has been carried out regarding historical changes in land use and deforestation drivers. The Forest and Carbon Monitoring System has been strengthened in the last ten years, providing more detailed information to guide decision-making on deforestation control. Understanding causes and drivers has led to priority actions such as the implementation of the multipurpose registry and the management of cooperation resources aimed at it. In general, the following criteria were well evaluated in the workshops: assessment and analysis; prioritization of direct and indirect drivers or barriers to the enhancement of forest carbon stocks, relationships between drivers and barriers and REDD+ activities, and implications for forest law and policy. The criterion on action plans to address the right to natural resources, land tenure and management had a positive evaluation, but further development is still needed given that the regional REDD+ plans have been started and are underway but not all have been finished. The developments of the EICDGB have been recognized, namely its lines of action and measures, the regional action plans that have made some progress (especially the Pact for the Antioquia Forests as the only regional plan with relevant advancements) and the REDD+ projects prioritized in the 14 Zones of Development Programs with a Territorial Approach (PDET). **The self-assessment result for this subcomponent shows that it has made significant progress.**

Component 2: REDD+ strategy preparation. Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ strategy options.

The strategy options were widely discussed from the early stages of dialogue and stakeholder engagement, and, as it matured, began to integrate the best knowledge available about the causes and drivers of deforestation and successful experiences that could be replicated. The EICDGB's lines of action and measures recognize the multiple ways of understanding and using the land and forests and the higher purpose of obtaining the environmental services necessary for life and production.

Throughout the readiness process, policies, actions and measures were developed and articulated for the REDD+ implementation framework. The lines of action were soundly and carefully formulated to tackle the needs and tap into the potential of the national territory; however, to ensure success, key stakeholders must be continuously present at regional and local levels. Significant efforts must be made to decentralize the EICDGB implementation and expand its benefits. In addition to the above, one key improvement is to ensure intersectoral actions to control deforestation and sustainable forest management at the regional and local levels. **The self-assessment result for subcomponent 2b shows that it is making good progress but requires further development.**

Component 2: REDD+ strategy preparation. Subcomponent 2c: Implementation framework.

Regional stakeholders involved lack knowledge regarding laws and regulations. Dissemination mechanisms are not adequate to ensure access to information in many rural communities. It is necessary to bolster feedback and grievance redress mechanism, integrate information about projects underway (who leads them, where, value of investments, estimates of GHG reductions). Further discussion on benefit sharing mechanisms is still needed for communities to make informed decisions when subscribing to REDD+ projects.

Although there is an Emission Reduction Registry platform (RENARE), greater transparency is needed regarding initiatives developed at the local and subnational levels, since that is where possible violations of communities' rights might occur. **The self-assessment result for subcomponent 2c shows that it requires further development.**

Component 2: REDD+ strategy preparation. Subcomponent 2d: Social and environmental impacts.

The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) provided a comprehensive analysis in terms of time and coverage. The results were discussed in an organized way with regional actors and integrated as the basis for defining the lines of action of the EICDGB. A national safeguards interpretation process was carried out, but the monitoring system for implementing them has yet to be put into operation.

Although it is true that the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has not been adopted by Colombia, it began to be developed during the second FCPF grant period and is currently being updated thanks to the third FCPF grant. **The self-assessment result for subcomponent 2d shows that it has made significant progress.**

Component 3: Reference Emissions Levels/Reference Levels

Regarding the deforestation assessment methodology, a robust structure can be appreciated in the available documentation, showing how the initial subnational considerations were taken into account and incorporated by the national level as well. However, due to the lack of better spatial resolution, the methodology lacks the level of detail to evaluate forest degradation in a higher scale, since forest carbon storage estimates require going beyond the forest/non-forest dichotomy. On the other hand, the quality

of the SMByC technical team, as well as the efforts and progress made, were widely recognized during the self-assessment workshops.

The documentation regarding methodology and approach recognizes the adoption of National Forest Inventory data and participatory community monitoring as fundamental steps for the future. By doing so, the impacts on conservation and the sustainable use of forests can be accurately estimated. The challenge ahead is to incorporate new technologies and information sources to meet the needs of carbon markets, a goal that the country has already established for its programs and projects. These challenges will require the technical cooperation of other actors such as the National Environmental System's (SINA) research centers and universities, in such way that efforts made by the SMByC and subsequent results, can be scattered all over the country and shared on a national scale. **The final self-assessment result for component 3 shows that it has made significant progress.**

Component 4: Monitoring systems for forests, and safeguards. Subcomponent 4a: National forest monitoring system.

It is clear that Colombia has made progress after setting up a forest monitoring system in line with climate change agreements signed by the country. However, stakeholders mentioned that information stored on the current technological platforms (RENARE MRV, SMByC) is outdated and often does not reflect the reality on the ground. Other actors stated that they do not know how to manage and interpret this information and some people were unaware that these monitoring systems even existed. This implies the need for a single source of updated REDD+ information that gives easy access to consultation mechanisms available at the national level in a comprehensible language, with communication formats and channels adapted to different target audiences. Knowledge should be provided on the means of access to information and training on how to use the platforms developed.

The SMByC has been strengthened in recent years and currently generates reliable, robust information and reports used by different stakeholders. It has options for improvement and innovation, integrating information from participatory community monitoring schemes aimed at gathering information at the local level and building capacities in the territory, as well as integrating other methodologies. However, its operation depends on the amount of resources allocated to the IDEAM budget, therefore, a long-term resource management arrangement must be ensured for its operation and sustainability. **The self-assessment result for subcomponent 4a shows that it is making good progress but requires further development.**

Component 4: Monitoring systems for forests, and safeguards. Subcomponent 4b: Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards.

It is clear that the EICDGB has a comprehensive approach to forest management that recognizes the possibility of maintaining livelihoods and facilitating access for forest-dependent communities to generate income from non-timber forest products and, at the same time, strengthen their capacities to develop projects and manage resources. It is also recognized that there is still a need to generate indicators to measure and monitor the rural population's livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and the provision of ecosystem services to understand the impacts of REDD+ beyond carbon sequestration benefits.

It is necessary to improve mechanisms and/or tools to make information not only available, but also accessible to stakeholders through coordination with all initiatives that promote participation, exchange and update of existing information in the territories. Communities consulted in this assessment have repeatedly stated that MinAmbiente, as the responsible for the project, must promote broad discussions to raise awareness about benefits distributed by REDD+ projects, a process that is currently developed by project developers and presented as results to potential beneficiaries. The National Safeguards System still needs to be developed to monitor safeguards compliance at different levels of REDD+ implementation: national, subnational (programs) and local (projects). This system requires an institution specially dedicated to this purpose, such as the SMByC. **The final self-assessment result for subcomponent 4b shows that it requires further development.**

Conclusions

The country has made significant progress in the REDD+ readiness process, although the R-Package self-assessment may have yielded less optimistic results. The foregoing may be due in part to two factors: the first, the long duration of the process, which has resulted in a scattered implementation of REDD+ projects rather than organized programs at the subnational level in regions other than the Amazon. Secondly, the difficulties faced by the Colombian State to control forest territories previously occupied by the FARC-EP guerrillas. In addition, similarly to other countries, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic changed most priorities during 2020 and 2021. Consulted stakeholders have a higher expectation of REDD+ readiness. Conditions have changed substantially and the EICDGB must adapt to the new territorial realities during its implementation.

The assessment of some criteria during the territorial workshops were highly influenced by the previous negative experiences of REDD+ projects formulated or implemented by private stakeholders, making readiness evaluation heavily biased.

With regard to the readiness organization and consultations, it should be noted that process participants has access to information and accountability and transparency mechanisms, which was not the case for the population of those territories invited to REDD+ projects directly by private entities. This unequal access hinders territorial governance of community organizations and reduces their power of negotiation.

REDD+ project developers and executors have consistently looked to involve the population in these processes, a key initiative considering that some projects developed in these territories have raised concern and complaints by inhabitants, affecting their perception of REDD+. It is necessary to remap the scope of stakeholders and involve them in the process.

Given the conditions of projects undertaken by private managers and the difficulties imposed by their views, the self-assessment feedback points to the need to regulate the sector and ensure a fair benefit sharing structure. The need to improve communication and information flows was also highlighted, especially those experiences where the community developed a strong sense of ownership.

With regard to the Information System for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards, self-assessment feedback mentions the need for the National Safeguards System to be more operative and serve the communities invited to participate in REDD+ projects and who suffer from limited access to information to make the right choices, assess the proposed conditions and decide whether to participate.

Improving information flows also means strengthening REDD+ skills that can leverage on the installed capacities of the territory to promote REDD+ schools[3].

The SMByC is recognized for its technical excellence and is trusted by self-assessment participants. However, it is also clear the incorporation of SINA research centers and members of the academia can contribute to deepen and achieve results at better spatial scales than the ones obtained from the REDD+ early implementation program (REM Visión Amazonia) run by the Amazon Institute for Scientific Research (SINCHI).

The development Colombia's R-Package made it possible to take stock of the EICDGB processes, evaluate their progress and identify gaps and needs. It also provided the opportunity to highlight the effort made by the country to comply with the agreed commitments. In addition, it motivated consulted participants to look for additional information and address REDD+ issues that had been postponed after losing its priority status in some spaces of debate.

The Amazon region is the main focus of interest in terms of REDD+ programs, and provides references and lessons learned from experiences of interaction with Indigenous communities and in the development of technical processes. This generates expectation in other regions eager to implement similar programs. Therefore, the Ministry of Environment must continue to encourage other regions to take ownership of the strategy and replicate positive experiences seen in the Amazon. The development of some early implementation programs by MinAmbiente[4] came to a halt, therefore, those that made the furthest progress should provide inputs to replicate successful and effective actions in other regions of the country.

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[3] MinAmbiente, together with UN REDD, adapted the REDD+ Academy modules to the Colombian context to respond to the needs and concerns of different groups regarding climate change and REDD+ issues. The modules are available through SENA's digital platform SOFIA. The REDD+ School managed to establish capacity building processes with indigenous, African-descendant and black communities; as well as with officers from national and regional entities, such as Colombia's PNNs, CAR, among others (UN-REDD, 2017).

[4] Resolution 1447 of 2018 establishes that REDD+ programs can be national or subnational initiatives, can cover a significant portion of the national territory and may include several biomes or natural forest areas, which are the exclusive responsibility of public entities under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

INTRODUCTION

The reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the promotion of conservation, sustainable forest management and the increase of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) is an initiative launched within the scope of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with the aim of creating financial incentives for developing countries to reduce forest-related greenhouse gas emissions.

The Colombian Constitution sets a framework of principles that clearly recognizes the country's wealth of natural resources and environmental heritage and establishes a common commitment to its management and conservation. The Constitution imposes on the Colombian State and the people the duty to protect its environmental diversity and integrity, and to maintain, conserve, restore and substitute its natural resources (art. 8). It also grants citizens the right to enjoy a healthy environment and to participate in decisions about its management (art. 79), which entails the duty of citizens to protect natural resources and ensure environmental conservation. (Art. 95). It explicitly recognizes Colombia's ethnic and cultural plurality (art. 7) and the autonomy of Indigenous territories in the management of land use and the preservation of natural resources (art. 330). While recognizing private property, it establishes conservation as a social and ecological function (art.58), and determines that public natural assets, natural parks, communal lands of ethnic groups, among others, are inalienable, imprescriptible and unattachable (art. 63). It also defines the role of the State study in planning the management and use of natural resources to guarantee their sustainable development, conservation, restoration or substitution (art. 80).

The Government of Colombia, as managers of the country's natural resources, recognized the importance of developing REDD+ activities as a key instrument to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while achieving a positive impact on the livelihoods and well-being of forest-dependent and forest-related human communities. The foregoing also recognizes Indigenous peoples, African-Colombian and Black communities, and peasants as strategic agents in the management of forests, and their conservation and enhancement as carbon sinks within the framework of international cooperation (FCPF REDD+ readiness support program, UN-REDD and GIZ's Protection of forests and the climate program) and national capacity building in line with the UNFCCC provisions.

As a result of several years of work, institutional effort, broad participation of strategic actors and strengthening of technical and management capacities, the Colombian Government, under the leadership of MinAmbiente and with the technical support of IDEAM, consolidated the country's REDD+ strategy – the EICDGB – with a broad, innovative and intersectoral approach that addresses the territorial and socioeconomic complexities in Colombia and prioritizes deforestation and forest degradation prevention actions. More recently, the Government issued CONPES's Document 4021 establishing the National Policy for the Control of Deforestation and Sustainable Management of Forests (DNP, 2020) that defines instruments, roles and responsibilities of various national institutions for the national implementation of the strategy, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, a forest-based economy and community development.

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), managed by the World Bank, supports REDD+ implementation in Colombia and requires the completion of a readiness package (R-Package) that consists of a set of documents that provide evidence of REDD+ readiness development and serves as a preamble

for the review of countries' emission reduction programs by the FCPF, using a standardized methodology established by the Readiness Assessment Framework Guide (FCPF, 2013).

The R-Package provides a common framework to measure the country's progress in the basic preparation activities, based on a participatory self-assessment that takes stock of the actions carried out during the readiness stage of REDD+ and evaluates the completion status of each phase.

This following document is Colombia's R-Package. The first chapter summarizes the policy framework in which the REDD+ mechanism operates in the country and, in particular, how the developed strategy is articulated with other national climate change targets and the sustainable management of forests.

The second chapter provides supporting documentation to describe the REDD+ readiness process in Colombia and the assessment of subcomponents as established in the Readiness Assessment Framework Guide. Chapter three reports on the engagement process implemented by the assessment framework with various relevant stakeholders consulted during the R-Package development process. Chapter four explains the participatory self-assessment process and the results of each evaluated criterion, and chapter five gives an overview of future REDD+ readiness actions. Finally, conclusions and supporting annexes are presented.

1 REDD+ VISION, STRATEGY AND PERSPECTIVES IN COLOMBIA: FORESTS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Colombia's EICDGB sets as a vision to zero deforestation by 2030, a goal that has been reaffirmed more recently in CONPES's Document 4021, whose main objective is reducing deforestation by 30% in 2022 and bring the annual deforestation rate to less than 100,000 hectares by 2025, leading the country to a national zero net deforestation figure in 2030 (DNP, 2020). These goals may prove quite challenging without comprehensive support for communities located in High Deforestation Spots (NAD), shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Historical deforestation rates (ha/year).
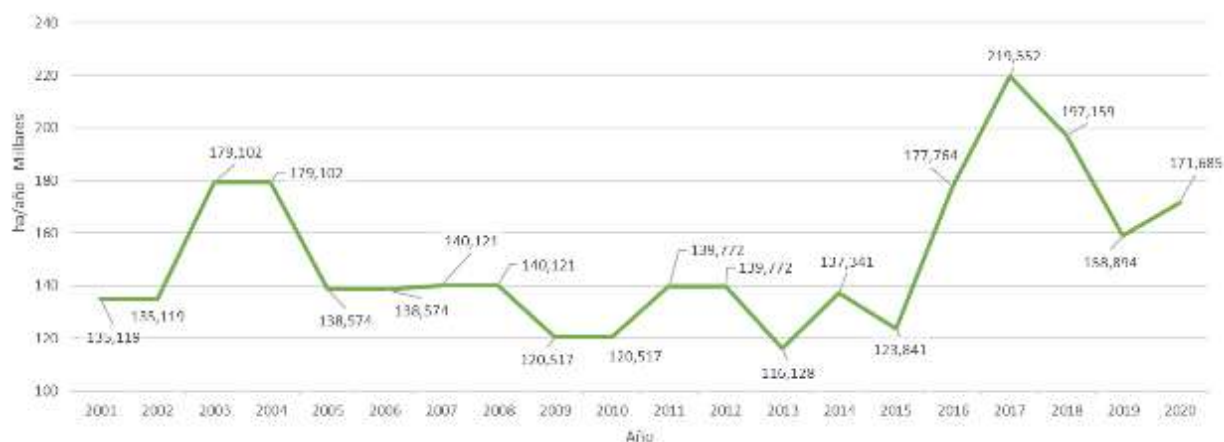
Source:(DNP, 2020) and data from (IDEAM, 2021).

Compliance with the proposed goals requires following the international strategies that most contribute to the slowdown of the causes and drivers of deforestation and making use of instruments such as the REDD+ mechanism and others derived from forest-related declarations and decisions made in the Conference of the Parties in Glasgow in 2021 (COP26). The Global Forest Finance Pledge puts forward actions to promote and support forest and soil governance, contribute to land tenure formalization to the benefit of local communities, foster sustainable agriculture and deforestation-free financial markets, push for forest restoration and conservation, and fight against crime and forest fires. Moreover, the Declaration on Forests and Land Use recognizes the role of all types of forests in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reaching a balance between GHG emission and reduction, adapting to climate change and preserving ecosystem services. The joint declaration of donors on forest land tenure seeks to strengthen forest tenure and custody rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, based on the recognition of their role as guardians of tropical forests and ecosystem services. And finally, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), ratified by Colombia through Law 165 of 1994, mandates that the national policy framework be adjusted to the 2011-2020 Action Plan, to effectively contribute to the fulfillment of the Aichi Targets aimed at reducing the rates of biodiversity and ecosystem services loss. To comply with the CBD, Colombia developed its 2016-2030 Biodiversity Action Plan, with goals that will also contribute to the REDD+ mechanism, such as the decrease of deforestation rates, the implementation of

forest governance instruments (I.6), development and implementation of the National Program of Payment for Environmental Services to engage environmental authorities in the conservation of strategic ecosystems (I.9) and the establishment of mechanisms to transfer resources from municipalities that benefit from conservation to those that allocate conservation areas in contributing basins, especially in the páramo and high Andean forest areas, among others (I.11). Together these targets support the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the sustainable management of forests, the conservation of forest carbon stocks, and the improvement forest carbon stocks conservation.

The EICDGB is part of the recognition of the diverse and complex conflicts in the Colombian territory regarding land use and tenure. To address this complexity, the strategy seeks to provide different perspectives as to how to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while promoting forest management with a comprehensive sustainable rural development approach. The EIDCGB's 2030[5] goals are consistent with the commitments signed by the country in terms of emission reduction, within the framework of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) (Government of Colombia, 2020). The strategy addresses cross-sector issues in the country, and provides eleven guiding principles (see Figure 2) for a comprehensive approach on topics related to forest management in its role as an essential provider of natural resources for human development and economic growth, recognizing the wide diversity of actors and views regarding its use, management and conservation. In particular, it recognizes and identifies Indigenous peoples, African-Colombian, Black and peasant communities, as well as vulnerable populations.

CONPES's Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management Policy establishes four strategic lines: 1) to integrate strategies for the sustainable use of forests to improve communities' quality of life and local economy; 2) to articulate cross-sector actions in the national government to encourage joint efforts towards forest management and territorial conflict resolution; 3) to promote prevention and control strategies to reduce illegal activity and 4) strengthen information management for decision-making.

These for lines of action are aimed at complying Sentence STC 4360 of 2018 issued by Colombia's Supreme Court for the immediate protection of the Colombian Amazon, as well as international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the New York Declaration on Forests, the Leticia Pact, the Joint Declaration of Intent (DCI) between the Governments of Colombia, Germany, the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Norway for the control of deforestation, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition, the sentence established a six-month period for the development of an action plan to zero deforestation in the Colombian Amazon by 2020, also in support of the Constitutional Court's Sentence T-622 of 2016 that recognizes nature as a legitimate subject of rights.

Figure 2. EICDGB's eleven guiding principles and five lines of action. Adapted from (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2018)

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[5]Goals by 2030: 1) reduction of 32.4 Mton of CO_{2eq} emissions through avoided deforestation, 2) positive trade balance in the forestry sector, 3) zero gross deforestation and 4) improvement of local forest population's quality of life.

Circle labels (clockwise from top):
- Shared vision of the forest
- Multisector approach in sustainable
- Regional balance
- Community engagement
- Gender equality
- Sustainable development and
- Complementarity
- Innovation
- Comprehensive Rural Development
- Comprehensive ecosystem and biodiversity
- Social and environmental impacts

Center: Estrategia Integral de Control de la Deforestación y Gestión de los Bosques "Bosques Territorios de Vida"

Bottom boxes:
- *Socio-cultural management of forests and citizen awareness*
- *Development of a forest economy for the closure of the agricultural frontier*
- *Multisectoral management of land use planning and environmental determinants*
- *Permanent monitoring and control*
- *Development and strengthening of legal, institutional and financial*

All aforementioned policy and regulatory documents address the need to develop a short, medium and long-term action plan to deal with deforestation drivers in the Amazon. In addition, the Ministry of National Defense, the Military Forces and the National Police are given the mission of defining strategic areas of comprehensive intervention and potential areas to directly fight deforestation and environmental damage.

Recognizing climate change as a national priority, Colombia established the National Climate Change Policy in 2017, the Climate Change Law was sanctioned in 2018 and, more recently, the Climate Action Law came into force in the end of 2021. Together, they steer the country's actions and set its responsibilities in the face of climate change (see Figure 3). With this set of instruments, the country seeks to articulate different sectors, including forestry and local development stakeholders, and boost their potential to address socioeconomic problems and overcome gaps with a focus on emissions reduction, adaptation, and the promotion of development models that move past the unsustainable extraction of natural resources.

Figure 3. REDD+ normative and regulatory framework

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE REDD+ READINESS PROCESS

Colombia, recognizing the importance of its forest coverage and the difficulties of adapting its own resources to manage forests, decided to embark on a REDD+ readiness process in 2008, preparing a national REDD+ strategy in accordance with the UNFCCC guidelines. The country established that the REDD+ mechanism could be developed through early implementation initiatives, known as REDD+ projects, as well as national and subnational programs. The aim was to insert the projects into the voluntary carbon market and the programs into results-based payment strategies. The process timeline is shown below in Figure 4.

Figure 4. REDD+ readiness process timeline
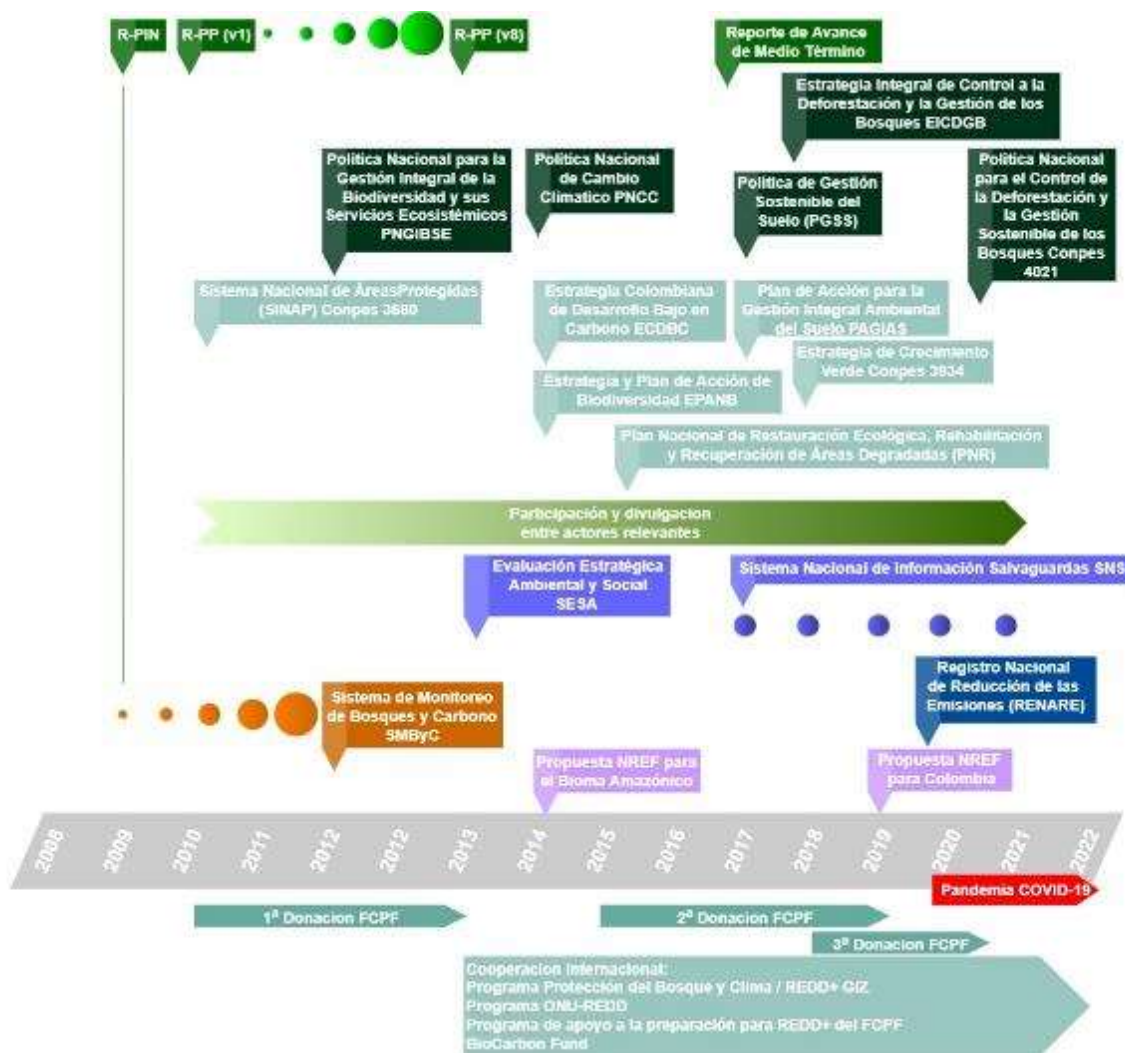
The readiness process received support from the first international donations in 2009, with grants given by the FCPF and the Moore Foundation. These first donations were used by Colombia to start preparing a Project Idea Note (R-PIN) to be submitted to the FCPF Readiness Fund and subsequently began drafting

the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal. The second grant was committed to the design and start-up of the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC) operated by IDEAM.

The development and implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy, led by the Ministry of Environment, also required the creation and strengthening of technical and administrative skills in the ministries in order to lay the institutional, political and social grounds for its deployment and to understand the local causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

In 2010, the readiness process focused on the Colombian Pacific and Amazon regions, which concentrate almost 60% of the country's natural forest cover Moreover, NGOs in Colombia set up the REDD+ Board (Mesa REDD) and forest conservation information was disseminated to relevant stakeholders such as the national government, indigenous peoples, African-Colombian and black communities, peasant organizations, organized civil society members (NGOs), the productive sector and academia. Between 2010 and 2013, 31 workshops were held with the participation of more than 690 people (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2018).

Fondo Acción, a Colombian organization, was selected to manage the resources of the first FCPF donation, which was used to develop capacity-building spaces for Indigenous organizations in the Amazon and establish dialogues with key stakeholders and explain the REDD+ mechanism to them. This provided the means to assess potential risks and benefits and helped protecting the rights of communities against private actors proposing projects in these areas (Fondo Acción, 2021).

In 2011, the SMByC allowed the country to produce the first estimates of carbon emissions and a five-year deforestation rate and carry out the first study of drivers and agents of deforestation and forest degradation. Protocols and models were developed to estimate deforestation and emissions in Colombia. In 2010, early REDD+ initiatives were undertaken by the Community Council of Black Communities of the Tolo River Basin and the South Coastal Zone (COCOMASUR)[6] in a partnership with Anthrotec. In 2011, together with peasant communities, the Macarena Special Management Area began to be designed under the leadership of the National Natural Parks authority. In that same year, initially led by USAID, nine REDD+ projects began to be developed in the collective territories of Indigenous, African-Colombian and Black communities in the Chocó region. By 2014, SMByC initiatives had consolidated the system, providing biannual and annual deforestation rate estimates, setting up an early warning system and implementing methodologies for calculating forest carbon emissions. Adjustments were made to the design of the 2009 National Forest Inventory and Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL) were published (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2018).

Alongside the creation of the REDD+ Board, the Department Forestry Boards were set up as spaces for dialogue, articulation and agreements among all stakeholders that interact and contribute to the development of the forestry sector. These boards came out of the need to update the 1996 Forestry Policy. The first forestry board was formed in 2011 in the department of Antioquia and currently there are 13 of them in different departments. They address issues such as agreements for legal timber activity, forest regulations, use of forestry resources, forest management and local leadership.

In 2013, the Colombian readiness process received support from international cooperation programs such as GIZ's Protection of forests and the climate/REDD+ and United Nations REDD+ Program (UN REDD). A second grant from the FCPF Readiness Fund was negotiated and a subnational program to reduce AFOLU

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[6] COCOMASUR was the first registered, validated and verified project in Colombia to sell carbon credits.

emissions was designed together with the BioCarbon Fund for the Orinoquia region. The eighth version of the R-PP document was presented that year, with reviews based on the comments received by different stakeholders and feedback from the national REDD+ board (Fondo Acción, 2021). Also, a participatory process was put in place to discuss the interpretation of REDD+ social and environmental safeguards based on COP16 Cancun Agreement guidelines.

REDD+ readiness continued with the transfer of the second FCFP grant in 2015, aimed at developing a participatory and inclusive process to formulate a national strategy. This grant agreement was executed between 2015 and 2019 (Fondo Acción, 2021). In that period, specifically in 2017, the EICDGB was launched as the national REDD+ strategy and the Intersectoral Commission for Deforestation Control and the Comprehensive Management of Protected Natural Forests (CICOD) was set up by decree 2057 of 2017. This commission is aimed at articulating national-level entities, local territorial institutions, communities and civil society in order to establish a balanced design of strategies, actions and measures to control deforestation. Also, it should advise the national government in matters regarding deforestation policies, plans, programs and control strategies, including direct and indirect drivers.

Between 2015 and 2019, participatory and outreach projects were also carried out within the scope of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the Amazon and the Pacific. Workshops were held to prepare the EICDGB, stakeholders were mapped, participation and capacity-building plans were developed, the Amazon Indigenous Board on Climate Change and the Environment was restored, the Black Women's Platform was created, dialogues were established with the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC). The Pacific Regional Board on Climate Change and REDD+, the National Climate Change System (SISCLIMA) – with a series of regional Climate Change Hubs –, and the Intersectoral Climate Change Commission were also created. The National Meeting and Workshop of Peasant Reserve Zones was also held, as well as exchange tours to the COCOMASUR REDD+ project and the REDD+ School run by SENA's instructors. Finally, five REDD+ National Board sessions took place that year. Moreover, the National Safeguards System (SNS) was also consolidated with the implementations of the Safeguards Facilitating Committee and four Safeguards Information Summaries (RIS) were submitted to the UNFCCC emphasizing the Amazon region. The fifth issue was published in 2020.

As for the SMByC, during this period, important milestone achievements should be noted, such as the implementation of the National Forest Inventory, the preparation of the Forest Reference Emission Levels for the UNFCCC, the first Biennial Update Report (BUR), the participatory community monitoring of the SMByC, the second Survey on Drivers and Agents of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, the Portfolio of Measures and Actions, the Forest Reference Emission Level Technical Annex, the Forest Degradation Protocol and the Deforestation Control Protocol.

Decree 298 of 2016 established the organization and operation of the National Climate Change System, created the Regional Climate Change Hubs (NRCC) as regional bodies responsible for promoting, monitoring and supporting the implementation of regional policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects and actions through inter-institutional coordination between national and local levels to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, in close articulation with land planning and zoning processes and a comprehensive risk management structure. Department Climate Change Boards are set up by subnational levels to articulate their risk management and climate change policies with their respective NRCC.
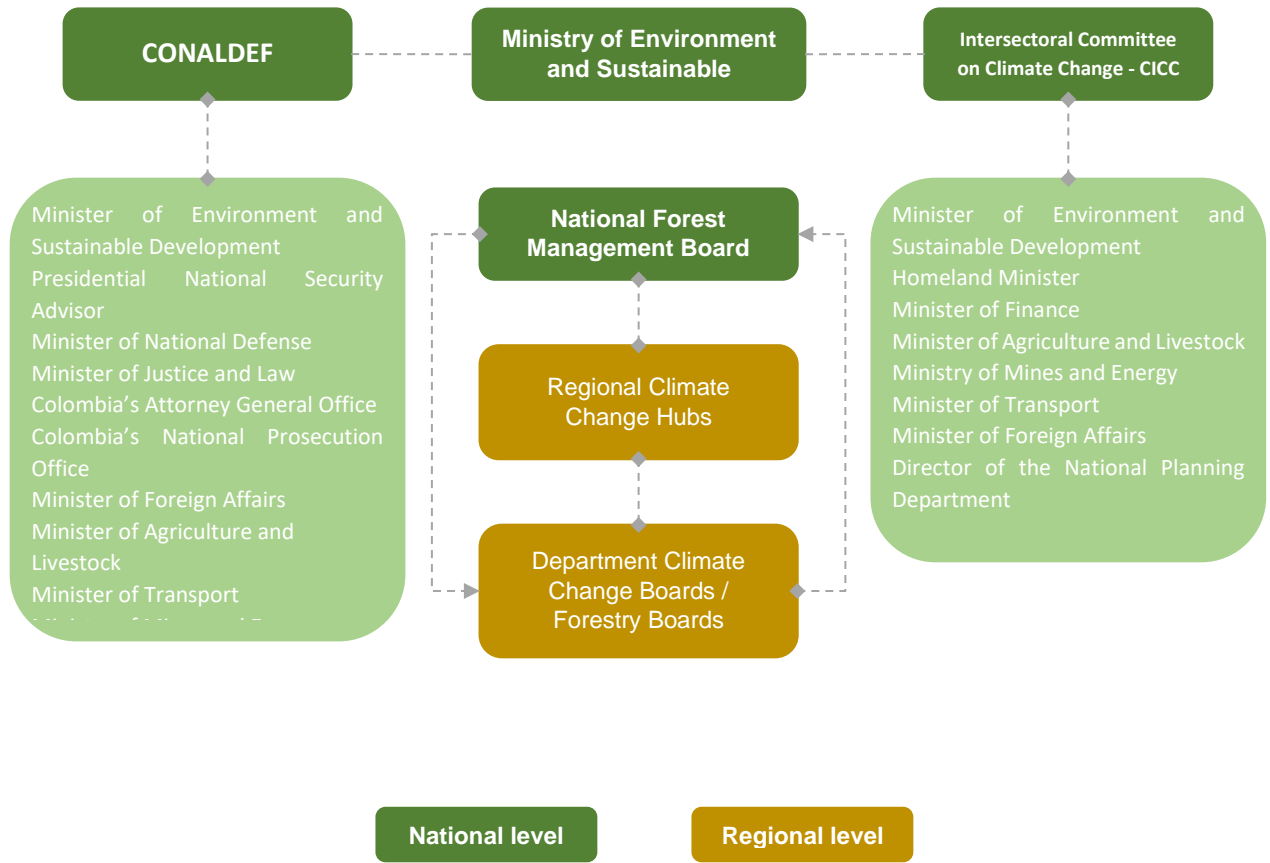
In January 2017, MinAmbiente submitted its Mid-term Progress Report to the FCPF, which presented the results of the self-assessment regarding general readiness progress, organization and consultation; preparation of the REDD+ strategy; reference emission levels; forest and safeguards monitoring systems and a summary of the request for additional FCPF funds. At the twenty-third meeting of the FCPF's Participants Committee (PC23), PC members congratulated Colombia for the progress made in strengthening national REDD+ management agreements, as well as the Forest Reference Emission Levels submitted to the UNFCCC and the development achieved by the EICDGB. This assessment included the following recommendations: improve management of donations to avoid overlapping funds, understand the legal status of carbon rights, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples, African-Colombian, black, and local communities, continue to strengthen benefit monitoring systems, explore the possibility of allocating resources under the consultation, participation, and outreach component through a participatory mechanism, such as a call for proposals, following an inclusive approach that takes into account ethnic diversity, gender, young people and local communities, and strengthen regional governance structures for REDD+ implementation.

As a result of the significant progress shown by the country in REDD+ readiness, the FCPF provided additional financing under a 2019 agreement that is still in force. In the first quarter of 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 due to the outbreak of the new coronavirus and some face-to-face activities have been rescheduled both for actions planned under the scope of the third donation and for further development of the EICDGB.

Some of the goals established for the third grant are: 1) four regional REDD+ plans for the future areas of Catatumbo, Bajo Cauca Antioquia, Chiribiquete and surrounding parks, and for the Nariño Pacific region, 2) stakeholder engagement platforms at the national and regional levels, 3) completion of the strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) at the national level and of the environmental and social management framework (ESMF), 4) an action plan with deforestation and forest management commitments agreed by MinAmbiente and the indigenous organizations of Colombia, 5) inclusion of the National REDD+ Safeguards System within in the National Environmental Information System (SIAC), 6) a national REDD+ feedback and grievance redress mechanism (FGRM) with improved access and cultural relevance, 7) a community communication, education and knowledge management strategy, 8) a capacity-building plan under the EICDGB, 9) policy inputs for deforestation control, 10)regional payment for environmental services (PES) pilot projects, 11) development of maps showing deforestation and land use changes in 13 departments under the EICDGB scope, 12) intervention models for the REDD+ strategy for deforestation hotspots and definition of agricultural frontier zones, 13) a community forest monitoring system in three deforestation hotspots and 14) development of parameters for the REDD+ safeguards information system modules.

Law 1955 of 2019 replaces the Intersectoral Commission for Deforestation Control and the Comprehensive Management of Protected Natural Forests (CICOD) with the National Council for the National Fight against Deforestation and other Associated Environmental Crimes (CONALDEF), which, as shown in Figure 5, is coordinated by Colombian REDD+ institutions and will give continuity to the readiness process.

Figure 5. National and regional coordination institutions. Adapted from (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2018)

CONALDEF

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable

Intersectoral Committee on Climate Change - CICC

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development
Presidential National Security Advisor
Minister of National Defense
Minister of Justice and Law
Colombia's Attorney General Office
Colombia's National Prosecution Office
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
Minister of Transport

National Forest Management Board

Regional Climate Change Hubs

Department Climate Change Boards / Forestry Boards

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development
Homeland Minister
Minister of Finance
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
Ministry of Mines and Energy
Minister of Transport
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Director of the National Planning Department

National level

Regional level

3   SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS

This chapter describes the most relevant arguments of each evaluated criterion, which are based on evidence retrieved from publications, reports, websites and regulations. At the end of each subcomponent there is a colored box with the entire assessment reviewed in the national workshop at the end of this process.

3.1   Component 1: Readiness organization and consultation

3.1.1   Subcomponent 1a: National REDD+ management arrangements

For this criterion, stakeholders who participated in the self-assessment were consulted on the six following aspects: accountability and transparency, operating mandate and budget, multisectoral coordination mechanisms and intersectoral collaboration, technical supervision capacity, fund management capacity and information sharing mechanisms and compensation of claims.

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent	
Component 1. Readiness organization and consultation	
Subcomponent 1a. National REDD+ management arrangements	
1	Accountability and transparency
2	Operating mandate and budget
3	Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration
4	Technical supervision capacity
5	Funds management capacity
6	Feedback and grievance redress mechanism

Color conventions

	Significant progress
	Progressing well, further development required
	Further development required

The Government of Colombia developed the EICDGB as its National REDD+ Strategy, as part of the actions on climate change established within the national policy framework. The institutional structure is consolidated by SISCLIMA which, at the national level, establishes intersectoral coordination and, at the regional level, defines the Regional Climate Change Hubs (NRCC). As mentioned above, the EICDGB is nationally led by MinAmbiente, in coordination with IDEAM. At the regional level, forest management is carried out by Regional Autonomous Corporations (CAR) and the Sustainable Development Corporations (CDS), which are responsible for managing forest resources, forest areas, licensing and monitoring their use and restoring degraded areas. The Special Administrative Unit called National Natural Parks of Colombia (PNN) is responsible for managing forests within the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP). The strategy also has the support of national and regional advisory groups which include academics and researchers, communities (African-Colombian and Black populations, Indigenous peoples and peasants), non-governmental organizations, private entities and collaborators (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2018).

The REDD+ readiness process has involved all actors described above in exercises and initiatives that include information outreach, dialogue and communication, development and capacity building. This interaction has allowed the country to advance in the development of the four REDD+ pillars required by the UNFCCC: 1) National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan, 2) National Forest Monitoring System (SNMB), 3)Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL) and 4) National Safeguards Information System (SNS). At the same time, Colombia has worked on the implementation of early and strategic actions to reduce deforestation, such as: 1) the Visión Amazonía Program; 2) GEF's Corazón Amazonía Project; 3) the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) signed between the Government of Colombia and the Governments of Norway, the United Kingdom and Germany, 4) the Sustainable Forest Landscapes initiative, among others.

The progress made by the country have generated important instruments for political and technical decision-making. However, consulted stakeholders have mentioned that the implementation of measures and actions in said instruments must be accompanied by a work plan that incorporates the livelihood of communities (indigenous, black and peasant), strengthens the capacities national, regional and local public officers to achieve intercultural dialogue and ensure an effective EICDGB information access and outreach process that takes into account the current means available to communities in their territory.

Accountability and transparency

Since 2012, Colombia has been a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). This is a multilateral initiative that seeks to improve government performance, promote effective participation and bolster governmental capacity to respond to citizens through strategies aimed at effective and concrete changes in transparency, access to information, citizen participation, innovation and use of new technologies. Law 1712 of 2014 establishes the Law of Transparency and the Right to National Public Information as part of the initiatives by State entities and regulated institutions[7] to count on reliable and timely information, in order to strengthen the creation, improvement and publication of updated and publicly available information.

The problem of environmental issues related to deforestation was one of the topics addressed by Colombia's IV Open State Action Plan 2020-2022, which establishes the following commitments for the country: "Promote access to environmental public information, environmental education, access to environmental justice and stakeholder engagement, particularly in the areas of deforestation, climate change, and protected areas, through the update and strengthening of the Environmental Information System (SIAC)".

Resolution 1447 of 2018 is also part of the government's transparency efforts since it regulates the monitoring, reporting and verification systems for national mitigation actions. Based on this resolution, the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRV) was created to provide resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The resolution also regulates the National Registry of GHG Emissions Reduction (RENARE) as a technological platform within the MVR system aimed at managing national data regarding GHG mitigation initiatives. RENARE can also include a national registry of

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[7] Article 5 of Law 1712 of 2014 defines regulated institutions as public entities, organs, agencies and independent or autonomous state entities and control agencies; natural and legal persons, public or private, who provide public services with respect to information directly related to the service provision; any natural or legal person or entity that performs a public mandate or has public authority regarding information directly related to their function, political parties or movements, and significant groups of citizens; entities that manage parafiscal institutions, funds or resources of a public nature or origin.

programs and projects aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Colombia.

Some early-action and strategic programs to reduce deforestation have been put forward to publish first-hand accountability data. For example, the Visión Amazonía Program has its own accountability mechanism. In 2020, accountability was carried out through four 90-minute online Facebook Live sessions (due to COVID-19). The sessions were announced on social media channels and other media and drew a fairly large attendance during the live broadcasts, highlighting the participation of people from different interest groups throughout the Amazon. The videos of these events were uploaded to the YouTube channel and recorded 1,100 views by the end of March 13, 2022. Below are the links to watch the sessions:

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTx48qaOGe4&t=3520s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbH9jkySH08

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyy7xMYTqmw&t=11s

In Colombia, accountability is a citizens' right exercised through transparent processes in which public institutions expose their management performance and show the good governance principles adopted in all their actions. Institutions involved in REDD+ programs (MinAmbiente as the governing body, CAR, PNN) must publish reports and descriptions of the progress and results achieved by their management and the mechanisms used to guarantee the rights of citizens and social organizations through public dialogue spaces. These processes must promote citizens' right to receive information and data and to provide feedback to institutions by means of assessments and improvement proposals, giving incentives to correct management, reward or sanction results (Government of Colombia & Civil Service, n.d.).

The actions described above demonstrate that the country has made great progress in the development and implementation of transparency and accountability mechanisms. However, open and transparent accountability by REDD+ institutions is a continuous task that brings about the challenge of providing permanent feedback to strengthen legal provisions and maintaining the human and technological resources necessary to count on reliable, timely, up-to-date and publicly available information. This will make it possible to strengthen decision-making processes at the local, regional and national levels.

Operating mandate and budget

The National REDD+ Strategy and the programs and projects are developed within the framework of the National Forest Development Plan[8]. They are articulated and regulated by international conventions and agreements signed by Colombia in terms of: Forests, Biodiversity and Climate Change, as well as national policies linked to these agreements. (Kyoto Protocol –1997 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) - International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006). The allocation of financial resources for REDD+ institutions and programs is established in accordance with national legislation, accountability, transparency and access to information and benefit-sharing rules.

Currently, the CBD and the UNFCCC remain as benchmarks for the implementation of REDD+ measures. In particular, progress is being made in complying with the Warsaw REDD+ framework with the adoption

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[8] The National Forest Development Plan is a long-term policy in force until 2025 as a joint forest management inter-ministerial effort.

of the EICDGB, the consolidation of reference levels for the Amazon and the forest and carbon monitoring system, and the design of the national safeguards system.

REDD+ readiness activities financed by the FCPF are established by the Grant Agreements as follows:

1. First grant agreement (TFAO7024) for the development of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) executed between 2010 and 2013.
2. Second grant agreement (TF018501) that aims to develop a participatory and inclusive process with the main stakeholders involved in the preparation of Colombia's national REDD+ strategy, carried out between 2015 and 2019.
3. The third additional funding agreement (TFOA7032) aims to create enabling conditions to prepare the national REDD+ strategy in a participatory and inclusive manner consulting the main stakeholders and allowing proper implementation.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is the grants recipient, which have been managed by Fondo Acción. The management of grant resources has been audited by third parties throughout their execution.

Visión Amazonía and cooperation programs have internal and external mechanisms to avoid corruption and ensure transparent management. Additionally, management of the funds follow strict procurement procedures.

Colombia has submitted periodic country reports to different donors providing a clear and transparent account of actions carried out with allocated resources and the achieved results. These reports are public and show progress within the policy, regulatory and social frameworks designed and implemented for the proper functioning of the REDD+ mechanism.

Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration

The participation of the different multisectoral stakeholders in the development of EICDGB projects and programs has fostered a sense of ownership by process participants. The inclusion of different sectors (agriculture, tourism, livestock, mines, transportation etc.) has enriched discussion providing different perspectives and pointed out some socio-environmental risks, especially those related to false expectations or potential conflicts with local communities.

As a multisectoral coordination and collaboration mechanism, Colombia's Institutional Strategy for the Articulation of Climate Change Policies and Actions can be mentioned as an initiative to promote intersectoral articulation, since all ministries took part in preparing a strategy for coordinating climate change policies, plans, programs, methodologies, incentives, projects and actions.

Decree 1257 of 2017 created the Intersectoral Commission for Deforestation Control and Comprehensive Management of Protected Natural Forests (CICOD), an essential element for intersectoral coordination. But in 2019, Law 1955 established the 2018-2022 National Development Plan, the National Council for the National Fight against Deforestation and other Associated Environmental Crimes (CONALDEF), replacing CICOD, putting deforestation control in the hands of the Colombian public authorities. Currently, it is not possible to assess the overall effectiveness of CONALDEF in reducing deforestation and forest

degradation, despite the results achieved by Operation Artemisa[9]. There is lack of recent information on deforestation in Colombia, given that the SMByC has not been updated regarding information on deforestation and early detection of deforestation since 2021.

Law 2169 of 2021 sets the goals in terms of climate change adaptation and updates Colombia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted to the UNFCCC for all sectors (housing, mines and energy, industry, trade and tourism, transport, agriculture, fisheries and rural development and environment and sustainable development).

There are also Department Forestry Boards (MDF) that operate in some regions as an instrument of intersectoral and interinstitutional coordination (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2018). As sectoral REDD+ actions, it has been proposed that forest and biodiversity conservation legislation be adopted in the environmental and territorial planning instruments. Colombia has also strengthened the Intersectoral Pact for Legal Timber signed in 2009, a voluntary agreement between public and private entities, which aims to ensure that all timber extracted, transported, marketed and used in the country comes exclusively from legal sources. In December 2021, the general assembly for the second phase of the Pact was held, reaffirming its will contribute to the country's environmental commitments by 2030.

In 2017, Colombia joined the Tropical Forests Alliance (TFA) and consolidated the Alianza Colombia TFA, a public-private partnership in which four zero deforestation agreements have been signed (palm of oil in 2017; cocoa 2018, meat and milk in 2019). With these agreements, the country aims to comply with the objectives of the New York Declaration on Forests, which in turn contribute to the achievement of the Nationally Determined Contribution of the Paris Agreement, the National Policy on Climate Change related to Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Rural Development, and the EICDGB (Alianza Colombia TFA, 2021).

In 2019, the Amazon Planning Administrative Region - RAP was ratified. This initiative sets up a management, planning and articulation process that allows partner departments to carry out regional initiatives in a decentralized manner. RAP establishes a vision for the region that includes productive systems based on agricultural diversity and biotrade, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, agroforestry projects to stop deforestation and the consolidation of an intermodal transport system that improves service provision in rural areas.

In accordance with the foregoing, the country has managed to improve communication and articulation between different sectors, but it is necessary to continue promoting actions and spaces aimed at building and formalizing comprehensive articulation instruments that contribute to the reduction of deforestation and the development of all sectors. Multisectoral institutions should also be encouraged to take ownership of REDD+ processes and actions so that information generated by different institutions is coherent and mutually complementary. The participation of sectors with a strong influence on change in

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[9] On April 28, 2019, the Government of Colombia announced the launch of Operation Artemisa, a strategy with a large military and law-enforcement component to fight deforestation. This operation has three objectives: to stop deforestation, to recover the tropical rainforest, and finally, to prosecute those responsible for deforestation. The operation will be carried out by the Illegal Mining Brigade, six Jungle Battalions, six Jungle Infantry Battalions, 10 High Mountain Battalions, 19 Special Road Energy Battalions and 4 Drug Trafficking Battalions and will integrate military intelligence to combat illegal economic activity that preys on ecosystems.

land cover, such as mining and transportation, can enrich the dialogue and agreements in forums such as the REDD+ boards.

Technical supervision capacity

REDD+ initiatives promote the strengthening of technical, legal and administrative governance capacities of stakeholders directly involved in them. Capacity-building is aimed at setting the conditions to meet the proposed goals and objectives. Currently, technical supervision of REDD+ initiatives focuses on identifying and strengthening existing coordination efforts, recognizing ongoing territorial processes. This has made it possible to design specific proposals and agendas for sectors, stakeholders and territories at national, regional and local levels. Consequently, specific roadmaps have been developed with Indigenous peoples, Black communities and peasants, and intersectoral and intercultural spaces have been strengthened for the outreach and monitoring of progress made by projects, as well as their correct implementation.

MinAmbiente is responsible for the technical supervision the REDD+ strategy activities in coordination with IDEAM and is carried out by highly-trained professionals. However, it is clear that each activity of the strategy requires continuous monitoring by a stable work team or with a knowledge transfer program to train employees or contractors who join the work group. This will coordinate REDD+ strategies and supervision, as well as multisectoral and local processes, avoiding any duplication of effort.

The National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management states under objective 4: To improve the management of state information regarding pressures on forest resources to support the development of actions aimed at the sustainable management of the country's forests. Between 2020 and 2030, IDEAM and MinAmbiente plan to develop regulations for the National Forest Inventory, the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System and the National Forest Information System, in accordance with the provisions of Decree 1655 of 2017 that establishes the organization and operation of the National Forest Information System, the National Forest Inventory and the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System, all part of Colombia's Environmental Information System. In the workshops carried out for the self-assessment process, the following actions were identified as necessary to overcome current gaps: Government officials who participate in the REDD+ strategy, in any of its phases, must have appropriate and sufficient professional training and/or experience to avoid potential delays. Execute training plans for public officials, carry out an efficient handover between outgoing and incoming officers in order to maintain institutional legacy and not duplicate efforts or disrupt processes, and maintain adequate continuity of regional, departmental or municipal Forest Control and Surveillance Committees.

Funds management capacity

The Colombian Government, under the leadership of MinAmbiente, has carried out a highly active management of international funds. Only international funds have been used in the REDD+ readiness process. Resources have been obtained from the FCPF Readiness Fund, GIZ's Forest and Climate Protection Program / REDD+, UN-REDD, joint cooperation resources from the governments of Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom and cooperation from the government of Germany – IKI – BMUB[10]. It

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[10] Climate protection investment (REDD+) and peacebuilding in Colombia.

is important to mention that access to funds from the aforementioned sources and their execution were planned in such way to avoid funding duplication, and to provide constant and complementary financing to fulfill Colombia's REDD+ readiness commitments.

Consequently, and with the purpose of increasing transparency regarding the flow of climate funding, the Colombian Government made the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRV) available to the public, which is part of the UNFCCC guidelines regarding measurement, reporting and verification systems for climate finance. This platform makes it possible to demonstrate the alignment of climate financing with the National Climate Change Policy guidelines and with territorial mitigation and adaptation needs.

The system is based on the [Methodological Guide for the Measurement and Classification of Financial Resources Associated with Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Colombia](#), which defines the set of activities that contribute to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, as well as the process to track investments aimed at financing them. The guide classifies investments in 12 sectors and 35 subsectors and discriminates them based on their final purpose, related to adaptation and mitigation objectives.

The MRV systems allows users to check public, private, international and financial flows of resources aimed at promoting adaptation and mitigation in Colombia. Through interactive tools, users can learn about climate change financing flows at national, regional, and local levels and incorporate this information into climate action planning, development, management, and monitoring processes. In addition, the platform presents cases in which MRV system has been deployed by different stakeholders, providing examples of the use and potential of the system for different purposes.

Regarding management of projects and programs funded by grants, there are mechanisms to ensure the effective management of resources, such as internal and/or external carried out for the managing entities, project reports and reports submitted to the FCPF.

It cannot be ignored that there is still a degree of uncertainty about fiscal management carried out by different entities and institutions. However, the country has been able to draw a clear picture of resource movements through technology instruments that integrate methodological approaches and overcome gaps in the monitoring of financial flows from public, private and international sources. However, it is important to continue strengthening technical and technological capacities in order to increase transparency and create an adequate method to outreach information and make it easily accessible to the public.

Table 1. Actions planned within the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management regarding fund management capacity. Source: (DNP, 2020)

Action	Responsible institution	Execution period	
		Start date	End date
1.9. Designing a payment for environmental services (PES) projects portfolio within the framework of the national PES program in areas of high deforestation (line of action 2).	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; National Planning Department	01-01-2021	31-12-2023

1.12. Developing technical and operational guidelines to enable the implementation of environmental compensation investments of no less than 1%, towards sustainable alternatives in natural forests (line of action 2).	National Authority for Environmental Licenses; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	01-01-2021	31-12-2022
2.22. Coordinating and articulating the management of non-reimbursable international technical cooperation funds between different actors involved in the fight against deforestation and sustainable management of forests in Colombia (line of action 7).	Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	01-07-2021	31-07-2030
2.23. Coordinating and articulating the management of projects in the NAD, through public investment funded by the General National Budget (PGN) (line of action 7).	National Planning Department	01-01-2021	31-12-2021

Feedback and grievance redress mechanism

As mentioned before, at the national level, there are a series of regulations regarding transparent, accessible and timely information. The MVR provides information related to GHG emissions reduction and removal accounting system, and the EICDGB projects and programs. The MRV system, regulated by MinAmbiente's Resolution 1447 of 2018, is composed by RENARE, the GHG emission reduction and removal accounting system, the SMByC and the national GHG inventory system (SINGEI) . Resolution 831 of 2020 made modifications to Resolution 1447 of 2018 regarding the validity of mitigation results and the necessary accreditation of validation and verification entities (OVV). It also established additional criteria for the methodologies used to quantify mitigation results in sectoral projects (other than REDD+) in accordance with the principles of the MRV system (MinAmbiente, n.d.).

Likewise, MinAmbiente and different institutions and programs that compose the institutional safeguards framework have websites and social media profiles where different types of content are published on a regular basis: news, infographics, videos, forums, webinars, etc. Additionally, there are spaces for participation and national, regional and local work groups to address issues associated with the EICDGB.

Table 2: Channels made available by MinAmbiente on the Citizen Contact Center.

CHANNEL	SERVICE
Onsite channel	Provides assistance and guidance regarding the institutional mission and face-to-face procedures and services.
Telephone channel	Free-of-charge national line (018000915060) and in Bogotá (3323400).
Institutional web chat	Accesses through the Ministry website: https://acortar.link/LCP87Y
Email channel	serviciosalciudadano@minambiente.gov.co: Feedback and grievance redress mechanism (FGRM).
Single correspondence window	Located at Calle 37 # 8 -40, open from Monday to Friday between 8 am and 4 pm.

	Requests, complaints, claims, suggestions and written reports related to the Ministries are received through this window.
Institutional fax	Phone: 3323422, available 24 hours a day.
WhatsApp	WhatsApp can be accessed through the MinAmbiente website or by calling 3102213891 https://acortar.link/JuQRE4

Source (MinAmbiente, 2022).

Recently, MinAmbiente set up a Citizen Service Protocol that aims to ensure interaction between citizens who access the MAC REDD+ Citizen Service Mechanisms (MinAmbiente, 2022). Under this protocol, several channels managed by MinAmbiente's Coordinating Unit for Open Government were established, which are summarized in Table 2. These channels deal with everything related to the ministry's management and tasks and is not exclusive for REDD+ matters.

In general, response times are determined by Law 1755 of 2015, which regulates the Fundamental Right to Petition. Article 14 of this law establishes the terms to resolve the different types of requests: *Except for special legal regulations and under penalty of disciplinary sanction, all requests must be resolved within fifteen (15) days of receipt. The resolution of the following requests will be subject to a special term: 1. Requests for documents and information must be resolved within ten (10) days of receipt. If the petitioner has not received a response within that period, it will be understood, for all legal purposes, that the respective request has been accepted and, therefore, the administration will no longer be able to refuse the delivery of said documents to the petitioner, and, as a consequence, copies will be delivered within three (3) days. 2. Requests that raise a query to the authorities in relation matters under their responsibility must be resolved within thirty (30) days following their receipt.*

The National Safeguards System, with the aim of reporting on how safeguards defined by the UNFCCC for REDD+ in Colombia are being addressed and complied with, uses MinAmbiente's Citizen Contact Center to receive and address questions, complaints, claims, suggestions and reports. It is important to mention that some of the national REDD+ programs and projects also use their own mechanisms, since specific email addresses have been defined to respond to requests, complaints and claims. Currently, the Visión Amazonía Program has its own deedback and grievance redress mechanism. There is a citizen assistance module on the website for that purpose.

The tools described above make it possible to demonstrate that there are information sharing mechanisms and that the government is willing to respond to comments and claims that arise within the framework of the EICDGB. However, in the consultations carried out, it is evident that mechanisms for disseminating and accessing information must continue be further strengthened, taking into account that several communities do not have access to computer, cell phones, internet etc. Therefore, the government must continue to promote connectivity (phone, internet), and use and strengthen the communities' own and culturally appropriate means of communication. The need to have a visible point of contact present in the territories to provide stakeholders a direct access to complaint mechanisms was also discussed in the regional workshops. It was suggested that this contact could be made through CAR and CDS territorial officers, who can be contacted directly by the populations and have access to internet, but first better training is required to properly serve and guide petitioners.

During regional and national workshop, consulted stakeholders have talked about actions to overcome these gaps, namely: Be clear on how the communities (Indigenous, African-Colombian, Black people and peasants) have created mechanisms for obtaining and exchanging information and know what

communication channels they use in order to strengthen and use them to disseminate the information. Strengthen and innovate institutional capacities and adopt technical language that communities can understand and consolidate the REDD+ strategy platform.

Self-Assessment result for subcomponent 1a	Progressing well, further development required	
Colombia's REDD+ readiness process has unquestionably provided the country with sound national mechanisms and developed advanced skills and capacities, proof of which is the successful management of international funds and its participation as a relevant counterpart in global agreements and discussions. It is also clear – and recognized by the EICDGB – that the various regions of the country must count on plans that correctly address local needs and reality, avoiding the centralization of action plans and views. Participants of the regional workshops carried out during the self-assessment process sent a clear message that many stakeholders face lack access to information, and that internet publications are not sufficient given the limited connectivity in rural areas. As a mechanism to improve information exchange and availability, **it is convenient to have a platform that gathers all information regarding Colombia'a REDD+ mechanism**, which can be consulted by territorial officers to provide a faster response to local or regional populations. FCPF's third grant to Colombia should help to strengthen these REDD+ program management arrangements and find strategies to overcome the aforementioned gaps, **leveraging existing platforms such as the NRCCs and the Forestry Boards together with the established REDD+ structures.** The process **must include control entities (Prosecutor's Office, Comptroller's Office) environmental oversight agencies**, as well as the moralization and environmental commissions and all institutions that deal with claims and grievances for violation of rights.		

3.1.2   Subcomponent 1b: Consultation, participation and outreach

The four criteria evaluated for this subcomponent were: participation and intervention of main stakeholders, consultation processes, information access and exchange, and execution and public dissemination of consultation results.

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
Component 1. Readiness organization and consultation
Subcomponent 1b. Consultation, participation and outreach
7	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders
8	Consultation processes
9	Information sharing and accessibility of information
10	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

Color conventions

☐ Progressing well, further development required

☐ Further development required

Within the REDD+ readiness framework, a participation strategy was developed with Black, Indigenous and peasant communities, and other vulnerable groups, where the main participation mechanisms ere

workshops and/or regional events held from 2010 to 2017, with 7,596 participants in total. This participatory process achieved the following results:

- Greater involvement of stakeholders in REDD+ issues.
- Wide dissemination and adoption of information for decision-making.
- Strengthened engagement mechanisms.
- Incorporation by the EICDGB of stakeholders' visions, recommendations and proposals to reduce deforestation in Colombia.

The EICDGB provides the background and context of social engagement processes carried out to prepare the country for REDD+, a description of stakeholders and the proposed pathways for participation, results after implementation and, finally, lessons learned and recommendations for EICDGB deployment.

The consultation carried out during REDD+ preparation in Colombia should be understood as a constructive, participatory outreach process towards the development of the EICDGB. It should not be confused with Prior Consultations[11], a special participation mechanism based on ILO Convention 169 of 1989 and adopted by the Colombian State through Law 21 of 1991, which is recognized as a fundamental right for cultural, social and economic protection of Indigenous peoples and ethnic groups and applicable to all administrative, legislative and/or project-related decisions that may affect them. In 2018, the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) was carried out, aimed at the implementation of the EICDGB actions, measures and activities. A methodology was developed to identify environmental and social risks for every social and institutional stakeholder involved in the EICDGB, based on the experience accumulated since 2010 while preparing the strategy and building the R-PP.

At first, SESA prioritized the Amazon and Pacific regions, and during 2016 and 2017 the assessment was carried out in the Orinoquia, Caribbean and Andean regions. Different stakeholders from Indigenous and Black communities, peasant organizations, government institutions and NGOs participated identifying risks associated with the causes and consequences of deforestation and the benefits associated with the proposed measures to solve various issues (Gracia Hincapié, 2018).

The EICDGB's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) develops a background analysis based on the SESA results and combines it with the Legal Framework and the Institutional Framework of the national safeguards interpretation and the stakeholder map. The institutional arrangements envisaged for the EICDGB are initially based on the analysis of the institutional framework for the National Safeguards System, which aimed to: 1) ensure that EICDGB activities comply with the guidelines established by national legislation, 2) follow the Social and Environmental Safeguards defined in the national interpretation and the World Bank's operational policies and 3) adequately manage

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[11] Supreme Court Judgment No. SU-039 of 1997 established at the time the parameters for carrying out prior consultations with ethnic groups, where the following criteria are highlighted: 1) Prior consultation is a collective right that must follow the principle of good faith and be carried out before the decision is made, 2) It is carried out through a public, special and mandatory procedure in which due process is guaranteed (principled of timeliness, intercultural communication and bilingualism), 3) It is done prior to the adoption of administrative, legislative measures or to project-related decisions that may affect these populations and 4) Access to information should be guaranteed throughout the process in a clear, truthful and, above all, timely manner. Other legal dispositions that establish Prior Consultation in Colombia are: Political Constitution Art. 79 – Paragraph 330, Presidential Directive No. 01 of 2010, Code of Administrative Procedure and Litigation, Presidential Directive No. 10 of 2013, and Decree 2613 of 2013.

environmental and social aspects linked to the EICDGB. The framework is being updated and adjusted to the specific measures and actions of the Strategy with the contributions of the third FCPF grant (MinAmbiente, 2018).

Participation and engagement of key stakeholders

The strategy process was highly constructive and participatory, establishing work groups to aimed at each region's reality. Spaces for participation and debate were set up with legitimate community representatives (Black, Indigenous, and peasants) and vulnerable sectors of the population (women) as well as civil society organizations from different regions.

These processes strengthened stakeholder groups in the territories and should be replicated, building on the REDD+ readiness processes to act more assertively in programs or projects designed for their location. Installed capacities must be maintained in the territories so that members of the community can propose and execute projects, access and manage economic resources, and interact with key actors in their surroundings.

Consultation processes

During the R-Package self-assessment workshops, participants stressed that it is important to clarify that the REDD+ readiness process in Colombia was a consolidated and representative territorial process that managed to identify the causes of deforestation and forest degradation with clear measures and lines of action to counter them. But the term *consultation* in the methodological framework (FCPF, 2013) is not equivalent to the *Prior Consultation* defined by the Colombia's regulatory and legal framework.

The consultation processes included stakeholders that influence forest degradation and deforestation, however, spaces created such as the national and regional REDD+ boards did not have the participation of relevant actors, for example, representatives of the private mining sector. MinAmbiente's Resolution 110 determines the process for removing areas from national and regional forest reserves with the purpose of developing activities considered to be of public and social interest. Sectors such as mining, energy and transportation are relevant stakeholders and must be included in future consultations as part of an EICDGB update or during its implementation.

Regulations on prior consultation in Colombia must be enforced in REDD+, especially when dealing with projects that affect isolated communities, trying to avoid any violation of their rights.

Information sharing and access to information

The mechanisms for information sharing have been established, structured and designed. Documents regarding Colombia's REDD+ readiness process have been digitalized and uploaded to the internet. But these mechanisms are designed for people with better access to information, and data is dispersed, which makes access difficult and is often incomprehensible if it uses a foreign language. These mechanisms are not designed to facilitate access to different ethnic groups and establish a seamless exchange of information. Recommendation point to measures to make information easily accessible and translate the content into the different languages spoken in the country.

However, some experiences could be replicated, such as those carried out by Fondo Acción, as the implementing agent of the Chocó Biogeográfico REDD+ portfolio, where gender perspectives and

culturally appropriate materials have been developed with translations into the Emberá language to guarantee effective dissemination and adoption of information.

Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

There is sufficient information on the workshops methodology and the preliminary results of consultations. Some documents portray the discussions and conclusions that led to the definitions and validation of deforestation and forest degradation drivers, and potential impacts, as well as social and environmental benefits of the measures and actions planned for the EICDGB. Although workshop results are presented in the ESMF and SESA documents, they are not currently accessible to stakeholders an issue that must be addressed by MinAmbiente to ensure information access to all parties.

Self-Assessment result for subcomponent 1b	Progressing well, further development required	
In the EICDGB update and future implementation must draw an **accurate picture of the actors involved to foster and improve peasants' participation**, as the first inhabitants of the country's deforestation hotspots. In addition, this update considering that between the preparation and the implementation phases, considerable time passed and new stakeholders got involved in REDD+ initiatives.		

3.2 Component 2: REDD+ strategy preparation

3.2.1 Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance

This subcomponent includes five evaluated by stakeholders: evaluation and analysis, prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to increase forest carbon stocks, relationships between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities, action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and management and finally implications for forest law and policy.

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
Component 2. REDD+ strategy preparation
Subcomponent 2a. Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance
11 Assessment and analysis
12 Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement
13 Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+
14 Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance
15 Implications for forest law and policy

Color conventions

Significant progress

Progressing well, further development required

Assessment and analysis

As mentioned, in the end of 2018, Colombia approved the EICDGB's Comprehensive Strategy for Deforestation Control and Forest Management which expands actions to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The strategy document acknowledges the information generated by several national studies on deforestation drivers (direct and underlying) and agents between 1990 and 2015. The historical analysis carried out made it possible to describe the changes in local forest cover and developed a methodology to understand the relationship between change in forest cover and socioeconomic processes considered to be the most determining factors in the dynamics of deforestation (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2018).

Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement

The report on Drivers of forest degradation in Colombia: A first approach was published under the framework of the *Strengthening REDD+ national capacities in Colombia* program. The report suggests the direct and indirect drivers and other factors associated with forest degradation.

The third line of action established in the EICDGB: Multisectoral management of land use planning and environmental determinants bring about the need to resolve and avoid conflicts regarding land use, occupation and tenure with special emphasis on protected areas, deforestation hotspots and sustainable forest management areas. Line of action 4 is developed further in the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management (DNP, 2020). Develop comprehensive interventions for territorial planning and resolution of land use, occupation and tenure conflicts, which allow the stabilization of High Deforestation Spots (NAD), defining instruments and national organs responsible for ordering of the territory and formalizing land tenure between 2021 and 2029, prioritizing municipalities located in these areas. It is important to highlight that within the instruments provided, natural conservation contracts seek to create conditions for land tenure and productive management, fostering peasant family farming and productive inclusion associated with forestry development. The proposed actions aim to contribute to the conservation of strategic ecosystems in Forest Reserve Zones regularizing land and implementing sustainable productive systems.

Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+

Based on the historical analysis of changes in land use and its relationship with human activities, the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System has been improved and implemented with greater national coverage, improving decisions regarding deforestation control.

Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance

Currently there are regional action plans as a result of the progress of the EICDGB's design and planning work groups. For example, a budget was assigned to REDD+ actions within the framework of the Development Programs with a Territorial Approach (PDET). However, it is necessary to update and review these action plans, their progress and weaknesses.

Implications for forest law and policy

On July 29, 2021, Congress passed Law 2111 of 2021, replacing title XI of the Criminal Code on "Crimes against natural resources and the environment", changing the Code of Criminal Procedure and creating new institutions.

The new law is divided into VI chapters that regulate matters concerning the protection of the environment as a legal asset. Chapter I develops the definition of crimes against natural resources, chapter II classifies damages against natural resources, chapter III regulates environmental pollution, chapter IV sanctions the invasion of areas of special ecological importance, chapter V introduces the crime of illegal appropriation of vacant lots, and, finally, chapter VI establishes aggravating circumstances of sanctions, modifies the Criminal Procedure Code and creates new institutions. This law criminalizes deforestation, ecocide, damage to natural resources, financing of the illegal appropriation of vacant lots, wildlife trafficking, among others. In addition, chapter six establishes aggravating circumstances of sanctions (Soto L., 2021).

In addition to the Law on Environmental Crimes, Colombia has CONPES 4021, the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management (DNP, 2020) and decree 690 that regulates the sustainable management of wild flora and non-timber forest products.

Finally, on December 22, 2021, Law 2169, known as the Climate Action Law, was approved with the aim of establishing minimum measures and targets to achieve carbon neutrality, climate resilience and low-carbon development in the short, medium and long terms, within the framework of the international commitments made by Colombia on the matter (see Law 2169). The law has six titles and 38 articles and establishes goals for Colombia by 2030: restore at least one million hectares, reach a 600,000 electric-vehicle fleet in circulation, reuse 10% of domestic wastewater, have a minimum 30% of the seas and continental surface under protected areas status or implement complementary conservation strategies, incorporate climate change in formal education (preschool, primary, secondary and higher) and in professional training and human development activities through the Savia National Environmental Training School among other actions (MinAmbiente, 2021).

Self-Assessment result for subcomponent 2a	Significant progress	
For the EICDGB, **together with local stakeholders and national experts, a broad and in-depth analysis has been carried out regarding historical changes in land use and deforestation drivers.** The Forest and Carbon Monitoring System has been strengthened in the last ten years, providing **more detailed information to guide decision-making on deforestation control.** Understanding causes and drivers has led to priority actions such as the implementation of the multipurpose registry and the management of cooperation resources aimed at it. In general, criteria such as assessment and analysis; prioritization of direct and indirect drivers or barriers to the enhancement of forest carbon stocks, relationships between drivers and barriers and REDD+ activities, and implications for forest law and policy were well valued in the workshops. However, **the criterion on action plans to address the right to natural resources, land tenure and management had a positive evaluation, but further development is still needed given that the regional REDD+ plans have been started and are underway but not all have been finished.** The developments of the EICDGB have been recognized, namely its lines of action and			

measures, the regional action plans that have made some progress (Pact for the Antioquia Forests) and REDD+ projects prioritized in the 14 PDET[12] zones.

3.2.2   Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ strategy options

This subcomponent was evaluated through three criteria: selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options, feasibility assessment, and implications of the strategy on existing sectoral policies.

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
Component 2. REDD+ strategy preparation
Subcomponent 2b. REDD+ strategy options
16   Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options
17   Feasibility assessment
18   Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies

Color conventions

Progressing well, further development required

Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options

Assuming climate change as a national priority, Colombia approved the National Climate Change Policy in 2017 and the Climate Change Law in 2018, which established guidelines for climate change management in the country. Both the law and the policy seek to leverage synergies and the existing regulatory framework and systems to set up SISCLIMA as the main institution and repository of instruments and discussions regarding climate change.

Additionally, Colombia's planning instruments for climate action have been consolidated and are being put into operation. As a result, climate change has been incorporated into formal sectoral and territorial planning instruments, through the formulation of Comprehensive Climate Change Management Plans at the sectoral (PIGCCS) and territorial (PIGCCT) levels, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) were updated to define goals and measures for climate change management for the 2020-2030 period, and synergies with the 2030 SDG Agenda were identified. Likewise, the NDC is articulated with the Colombia E2050 Long-Term Climate Strategy.

Regarding the reduction of deforestation and degradation of ecosystems, there is a broad and evolving regulatory framework, for instance, the Demarcation of the agricultural frontier in 2018, the creation of the National Council to Fight Deforestation and other Associated Environmental Crimes (CONALDEF) in 2019, the signing of the Leticia Pact[13] in 2019, Law 1930 on the protection of páramo ecosystems and Decree Laws 870 of 2017 and 1007 of 2018 on payments for environmental services. Other examples are

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[12] The Development Programs with a Territorial Approach (PDET) are a special 15-year planning and management instrument, which aims to stabilize and transform territories most affected by violence, poverty, illegal economies and institutional weakness, and thus achieve rural development in 170 municipalities grouped into 16 subregions.

[13] The Leticia Pact seeks to unite countries in the protection of the Amazon biome; which accounts for more than 50% of the world's tropical forests and a quarter of the planet's species. It was signed by Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, Suriname and Guyana in 2019. Although it cannot be considered as part of the regulatory framework, its compliance supports framework implementation.

the start of the Visión Amazonía Program in 2016, the Low Carbon Sustainable Development program for the Orinoquia and the signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent with Norway, the United Kingdom and Germany on the Reduction of Deforestation and Sustainable Development in 2015 and endorsed in 2019, among others.

On the other hand, the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management (CONPES 4021) provides policy guidelines to counteract deforestation and promote sustainable forest management. Four strategic lines are established for the country to comply with the zero net deforestation target by 2030.

It is necessary continue and move forward with some of the participatory processes and monitoring of early actions that began with the preparation of the strategy. The EICDGB actions at the regional and local levels can be improved with the continuous work of the national, regional and local REDD+ boards, in addition to the inclusion of this topic in the forestry boards. These actions are considered in the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management (DNP, 2020) under objective 2: Improve cross-sectoral articulation and alignment of sectoral, territorial and environmental planning instruments for deforestation control and forest management whose objective is planned to be achieved by 2030.

Feasibility assessment

As mentioned above, the EICDGB lays down five main lines of action: 1) Socio-cultural management of forests and citizen awareness, 2) Development of a forest economy for the closure of the agricultural frontier, 3) Multisectoral management of land use planning and environmental determinants, 4) Permanent monitoring and control and 5) Development and strengthening of legal, institutional and financial capacities. Each one of them includes measures and actions to address the drivers and agents of deforestation and degradation in Colombia and reduce GHG emissions, providing sustainable management for natural forests, enabling decent living conditions for people who depend on these ecosystems and who have traditionally made significant contributions to forest conservation (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2018).

The strategy's action plans should be articulated with other action plans from different sectors to identify common goals, in addition to reviewing and articulating budgets to combine forces and ensure the implementation of REDD+ programs under Objective 4: Improve information management regarding the status and pressures exerted on forest resources, support actions aimed at the sustainable management of the country's forests according to the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management, that will be developed between 2020 and 2030 (DNP, 2020).

Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies

As for intersectoral actions, the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Management proposes to implement specific intersectoral mechanisms to control deforestation coordinated by CONALDEF, over a period of 10 years (2020-2030). The second strategy specifically addresses the strengthening of cross-sector coordination and management arrangements for the effective reduction of deforestation and in favor of forest management initiatives to deal with occupation and land tenure dynamics that generates pressure on forests. The aforementioned strategy is consistent with policy instruments such as CONPES 3958: Strategy for the Implementation of the Multipurpose Registry Policy,

and aims to expand access to property and other forms of tenure, foster the equitable distribution of land, provide legal security of tenure, carry out the planning, management and financing of rural lands and support a transparent land market.

These efforts are articulated with alternative development projects with an environmental focus that address the problem of illegal crops, provide master plans for structuring the economic, productive and environmental reactivation of PDET subregions, and establish a scheme of payments for environmental services.

Natural conservation contracts seek to create conditions for land tenure and productive management, fostering peasant family farming and productive inclusion associated with forestry development. The proposed actions aim to contribute to the conservation of strategic ecosystems in Forest Reserve Zones defined by Law 2 of 1959, regularizing land and implementing sustainable productive systems.

Improve intersectoral communication channels, to implement actions at the national, regional and local levels, as established by Objective 2: Improve cross-sectoral articulation and alignment of sectoral, territorial and environmental planning instruments for deforestation control and forest management whose objective is planned to be achieved by 2030 within the framework of the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management (DNP, 2020).

Self-Assessment result for subcomponent 2b	Progressing well, further development required	
The strategy options were widely discussed from the early stages of dialogue and stakeholder engagement, and, as it matured, began to integrate the best knowledge available about the causes and drivers of deforestation and successful experiences that could be replicated. **The EICDGB's lines of action and measures recognize the multiple ways of understanding and using the land and forests and the higher purpose of obtaining the environmental services necessary for life and production.** Throughout the readiness process, policies, actions and measures were developed and articulated for the REDD+ implementation framework. The lines of action were soundly and carefully formulated to tackle the needs and tap into the potential of the national territory; however, to ensure success, **key stakeholders must be continuously present at regional and local levels.** Significant efforts must be made to decentralize the EICDGB implementation and expand its benefits. In addition to the above, one key improvement is **to ensure intersectoral actions at the regional and local levels.**		

3.2.3   Subcomponent 2c: Implementation framework

The four criteria used to assess the implementation framework were: adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations, guidelines for implementation, national REDD+ registry and benefit-sharing mechanism, and REDD+ monitoring system activities.

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
Component 2. REDD+ strategy preparation
Subcomponent 2c. Implementation framework
19   Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations
20   Guidelines for implementation
21   Benefit sharing mechanism

| 22 | National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities |

Color conventions

    Progressing well, further development required

    Further development required

Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations

In Colombia, forest management and deforestation control laws date back to the 1950s and are truly diverse. The National REDD+ Strategy and its programs and projects have been developed within the framework of the National Forestry Development Plan, and are articulated within the international conventions and agreements signed by Colombia, in terms of: Forests, Biodiversity and Climate Change, as well as national policies linked to these agreements: the 1993 Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the International Tropical Timber Agreement, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Andean Community Decision 391 and the Paris Agreement.

Within the National REDD+ Strategy, a legal framework has been developed for actions related with the national safeguards interpretation. In this regard, a review of the country's main regulatory tools was carried out and a legal baseline of safeguards was established for a first proposal for a national interpretation of the Cancun safeguards.

It should be noted that the recently issued Resolution 110 of 2022 by the Ministry of the Environment, which determines the process for removing areas from national and regional forest reserves for the development of activities considered to be of public and social interest, generated controversy among consulted stakeholders, since it goes against REDD+ targets by facilitating the removal of forest reserve areas leaving the decision in the hands of the Regional Autonomous Corporations (CAR)[14] that should assess requests and decide whether to remove areas from regional protected forest reserves. MinAmbiente in in charge of decisions regarding productive and protective forest reserves, which weakens regional environmental authorities in their jurisdictions and puts them in conflict with communities affected by these decisions made outside their scope of action. For further information on the REDD+ normative and regulatory framework in Colombia, check Table 3.

Table 3: REDD+ regulatory framework. Adapted from (DNP, 2020)

Instrument	Description or objective	Relation with the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management
Legislative Decree 2278/ 53	Defines the forests of general interest and protected forest that contain slopes, headwaters and riverbanks, water springs etc.	Limits intervention on protected forests that contain slopes and waters.

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[14] The Regional Autonomous Corporations are the Regional Environmental Authorities.

Instrument	Description or objective	Relation with the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management
Law 2/59; Decrees 0111/59 and 2278/53	On the nation's forest economy and conservation of renewable natural resources.	Declares seven national zones of forest reserves and defines its purpose as forest and sustainable use.
Law 37/1989	Creates the forest service and structures the PNDF.	So far, the national forestry service has not been created, so the forestry institutional framework is disarticulated and lacks a forestry extension service.
Law 99/93	Creates the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the authorities, institutes and functions of the SINA	The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is the forest policy steward, especially regarding conservation of natural forests. Environmental authorities established under SINA are in charge of execution.
Law 388/1997. Decrees that regulate 2201/03; 3600/07	Promotes land use planning, equitable and rational land use, preservation and defense of ecological heritage at the municipal and district levels.	Promotes the joint work of national and territorial entities, environmental, administrative and planning authorities in terms of land use planning. Including determining factors of conservation, protection of resources and prevention of natural risks.
Decree 2372/10	Regulates SINAP and its management categories.	The norm defines scope, objectives, types of public and private protected areas that include forest ecosystems subject to deforestation and illegal activities.
Forest reserve zoning resolutions: 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 of 2013	Establish different zoning schemes according to protection or production purposes of the reserves in Law 2/59.	Determines the activities allowed in each type of area (a, b and c), it is an indicative zoning at a 1:100,000 scale, which must be taken into account for land use planning exercises.
Decree 1076/2015	Issues the Single Regulatory Decree for the Environmental and Sustainable Development Sector. Includes the institutional structure of SINA, the environment sector regime, resources, principles of interpretation, among others.	Gathers and combines in a single instrument all the regulations in force to date that address environmental matters. Sets up standards for forests, forest resources, wild flora and biodiversity.
Decree 870/2017	Creates PES and other incentives.	Establishes the basis for the economic inclusion of ecosystem services.
Decree 1257/2017	Creates the CICOD.	Coordination instrument between authorities and sectors to improve the effectiveness of deforestation control and inspection.
Decree 1655/2017	Establishes the organization and operation of the National Forest Information System (SNIF), the National Forest Inventory (IFN) and the SMByC.	This decree defines the objectives, operation and articulation between the three systems. which are instruments to develop official information to facilitate decision-making and establish policies and regulations for the planning and sustainable management of natural forests.

Instrument	Description or objective	Relation with the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management
Resolution 261/2018	By which the national agricultural frontier is defined and the methodology for general identification is adopted.	This resolution defines the agricultural frontier, its objectives, scope, characteristics, reach and its incorporation in agricultural planning instruments.
Law 1953/2018	Climate Change Law	Defines SMByC's (IDEAM) role of generating official data to inform the measures taken to decrease deforestation and foster sustainable forest planning and management. It also sets the responsibility of Ministries that compose the CICC to establish guidelines and carry out necessary actions to meet the GHG reduction goals.
Law 1955/2019	By which the 2018-2022 PND is issued	Replaces the Intersectoral Commission for Deforestation Control and the Comprehensive Management of Protected Natural Forests (CICOD) with the National Council for the National Fight against Deforestation and other Associated Environmental Crimes (CONALDEF).

Guidelines for implementation

Resolution 1447 of 2018 creates and regulates the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system aimed at mitigation actions at the national level to provide transparency mechanisms and measure progress in the NDC. Explains RENARE's role in recording results-based payment mitigation initiatives and similar compensations or actions aimed at achieving mitigation results within the framework of national climate change goals. It also creates the emission reduction and GHG removal accounting system as the first carbon accounting mechanism in Colombia. This resolution establishes that REDD+ programs can be national or subnational initiatives, can cover a significant portion of the national territory and may include several biomes or natural forest areas, which are the exclusive responsibility of public entities under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. On the other hand, REDD+ projects have a more limited scope in terms of their size since they can only be developed at a subnational scale but can be executed by both public and private entities. In both cases, activities must demonstrate their mitigation results within the framework of compliance with the Comprehensive Strategy for Deforestation Control and Forest Management (EICDGB).

Between 2016 and 2017, the government identified the main regulatory elements, the relevant aspects of each instrument in relation to REDD+, their scope of application and all subjects of right. To date, there is a regulatory framework and a document that came out of the work of the UN-REDD Colombia Program to help the country define the national approach to safeguards and the national safeguard interpretation established by the UNFCCC. . The document entitled Regulatory Framework: Analysis of the Colombian legal framework presents for each safeguard the main regulatory instruments and provisions to ensure that each one is addressed and respected, and identifies whether the instrument applies at the national, regional or local level (Camacho. A., 2017).

In Colombia there are also two carbon markets at the regulatory level. The first, already in operation, is associated with the national carbon tax. Law 1819 of 2016 established this tax, responding to the country's

need for economic instruments to encourage compliance with national GHG mitigation goals. The tax consists of a fee related to the carbon content, in other words, the level of chemicals released by fuels in the form of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere when energy sources are burned.

Figure 6. REDD+ financing by stage. Adapted from (Lagos, 2018).
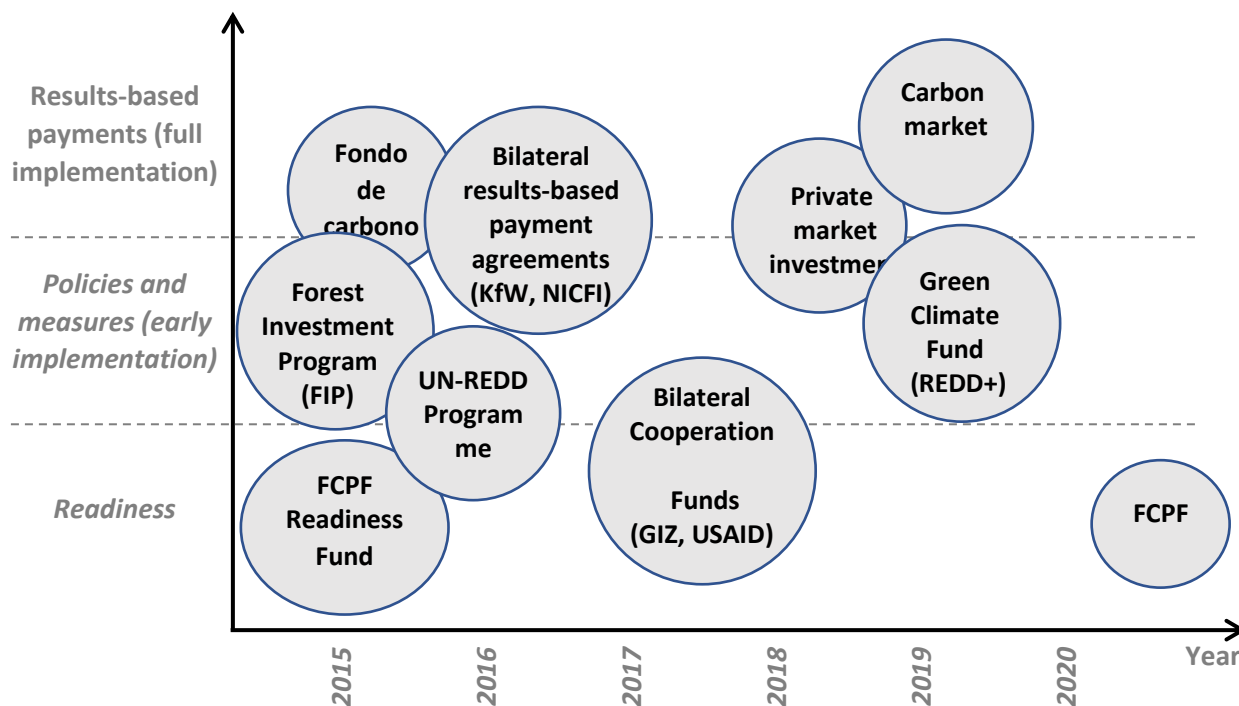
The second market that has not yet been regulated and implemented is the emissions trading system, introduced by Law 1931 of 2018. This system works under a tradable GHG emission quotas scheme, by which MinAmbiente annually establishes a number of quotas compatible with the national GHG emission reduction goals and determines, through general regulations, the conditions for acquiring tradable GHG emissions tradable quotas in an annual auction.

Financing options provided for REDD+ projects in Colombia are classified first according to the origin of the funds: public or private. International public funding means contributions from multilateral sources made until 2018, covering readiness, early implementation and results-based payment stages, as shown in Figure 6. Since 2018, financing by the Green Climate Fund is expected to support early implementation, and private and carbon market funds are expected to complement investment in REDD+ projects from the early and full implementation stage onwards. The third FCPF grant to Colombia is planned for the completion of the readiness phase.

Benefit sharing mechanism

The document entitled "Regulatory Framework: Analysis of the Colombian legal framework" contains a series of regulations for benefit distribution safeguards. However, there is no specific regulation in Colombia for benefit sharing structures for REDD+ initiatives and projects.

In 2020, the country submitted the [Environmental and Social Management Framework document (ESMF)](#) for the REDD+ Results-Based Payment Project (RBP) to the Green Climate Fund (FVC). This document presents a Colombian REDD+ results-based project that will use FVC resources to implement measures established by the national strategy to control deforestation in the Colombian Amazon. This project will promote sustainable rural development, reinforcing forest governance, strengthening environmental governance of Indigenous peoples and fostering enabling conditions, focusing mainly on the consolidation of the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC) as the main decision-making instrument at the local level. Small landowners and Indigenous peoples of the Amazon region will be the main beneficiaries.

Currently, the REM Visión Amazonía program has guaranteed the sharing of economic benefits and technical capacities through different interventions and direct actions in the territories. The program's benefit-sharing and investment scheme is based on five intervention pillars (forest governance improvement, sustainable sectoral planning and development, agri-environmental, environmental governance with Indigenous peoples and enabling conditions) that aim to achieve effective results in the reduction of deforestation and regional sustainable development. This scheme is understood as a dynamic and evolving framework, which should be updated over time, depending on the results of the participatory construction processes and the lessons learned from implementation experiences.

The resources are distributed in accordance with the provisions of the Separate Agreement and the Global Work Plan: 38% for pillar 3, agri-environmental development; 22% for pillar 4, people's environmental governance and 15% for both pillar 5, enabling Conditions and the forest governance pillar. Pillar 2, sustainable sectoral planning and development gets 6% and the program's operation is covered by the remaining 4%.

At present, the country does not have a plan to draft benefit sharing legislation. However, the description above shows the need to generate specific regulations so that communities that carry out activities for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forest ecosystems and that are part of a REDD+ project receive a fair and equitable share of the benefits; therefore, the government must guarantee, through specific legal instruments, a mechanism for sharing benefits and share all the information regarding this process and results. In this way, the EICDGB will be strengthened by having clear guidelines and making tools available to local stakeholders so they can feel supported by actions implemented by the Government or third parties at the local level regarding forest management and climate change.

REDD+ national registry and monitoring system activities

As mentioned above, the country has a [monitoring, reporting and verification system (MRV)](#) for mitigation actions at the national level. The RENARE platform is part of the MVR and is regulated by [Resolution 1447 of 2018](#), with the purpose of managing GHG mitigation information at the national level. RENARE records national REDD programs and projects and the different types of GHG emission reduction and removal initiatives are monitored (low-carbon development projects and programs (PDBC), REDD+ projects and programs).

However, stakeholders' feedback confirmed that despite there being a technological platform to record information on REDD+ projects, further development is needed, in the sense the current technological tools must be combined in a robust and interactive web platform where users can run previews, searches and analysis of detailed information on each REDD+ project. The information obtained can then be

presented and outreached to national, regional and local stakeholders through mechanisms with different approaches using effective media tools that are accessible to communities. As an action plan, the platform must be updated, disseminated and training should be offered on how to use it. Although there is no established plan to make the necessary developments, the third FCPF grant will hopefully help to build a much more robust monitoring system for REDD+ activities.

Self-Assessment result for subcomponent 2c	Further development required	
Regional stakeholders involved lack knowledge regarding laws and regulations. **Dissemination mechanisms are not adequate to ensure access to information in many rural communities. It is necessary to bolster feedback and grievance redress mechanisms**, integrate information about projects underway (who leads them, where, value of investments, estimates of GHG reductions). **Further discussion on benefit sharing mechanisms is still needed** for communities to make informed decisions when subscribing to REDD+ projects. Although the RENARE platform is available, **greater transparency is needed regarding initiatives developed at the local and subnational levels**, since that is where possible violations of communities' rights might occur.		

3.2.4   Subcomponent 2d: Social and environmental impacts

This subcomponent was evaluated using 3 criteria: analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues, REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts, and environmental and social management framework.

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
Component 2. REDD+ strategy preparation
Subcomponent 2d. Social and environmental impacts
23   Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues
24   REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts
25   Environmental and Social Management Framework

Color conventions

▉ Significant progress

The regional assessment of this subcomponent reflected above all a sense of a general lack of protection for communities (workshops in the Pacific and Amazon regions) against external actors, especially private entities who try to engage them in REDD+ project commitments where they feel negotiations are not fair and end up causing disagreements and conflicts in the communities. Consequently, this subcomponent was given a low value by stakeholders in the assessment. However, the interviews with experts and the national validation workshop and all participation processes (see section 8.2) made it clear that the EIGBCD and, later, the guidelines developed for the ESMF and SESA, received full support from all parties at all times and this subcomponent should not be punished for the flaws shown during the implementation and development of REDD+ initiatives.

Analysis of actions related to social and environmental safeguards

As part of the continuous construction, preparation and feedback regarding the EICDGB, the 2017 progress report on the national interpretation of social and environmental safeguards for REDD+

according to the UNFCCC was published. The document called [Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+ in Colombia](#) aims to provide understanding and report on the state of the interpretation process and serve as a guiding tool for stakeholders involved.

In Colombia, the national interpretation of REDD+ safeguards was carried out, integrating different perspectives from communities, the government and other involved. This took place in different spaces developed in the country for REDD+ engagement and capacity-building, which began in 2010. In this way, in Colombia, the seven Cancun safeguards for REDD+ have been translated into fifteen items that must be applied to all REDD+ policies, actions and measures implemented at the national, regional and local levels. In addition, the country is still committed to implementing the National Safeguards System (SNS) to monitor how the safeguards are being addressed and respected. Likewise, every two years a summary has been submitted to the UNFCCC, showing how regional and local actions regarding safeguards (see section 4b. Safeguards Information Summaries – RIS).

In the Visión Amazonía Program, the socio-environmental safeguards are managed according to the GIRSA (Comprehensive Management of Socio-environmental Safeguards) guidelines, established by a participatory process that includes guidelines from the Cancun Safeguards, the National Interpretation and the National Safeguards System. It basically consists of the application of a series of instruments and methodologies that allow, on the one hand, to verify that the actions of the program and its different levels of action, such as the pillars, the interventions and the projects with peasant and Indigenous communities, comply with national and international legal frameworks and management guidelines. On the other, it performs a risk analysis and prioritization of safeguard measures specific to each case.

REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts

The [Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (SESA)](#) is the instrument used to identify the benefits and risks, both social and environmental, of each strategy line. It was developed under the EICDGB framework, starting with the Amazon and Pacific regions as priorities for having the largest areas of forest cover in the country. In 2016 and 2017, the assessment was carried out for the Orinoquia, Caribe and Andean regions.

SESA was developed under a nested approach, based on a series of department-level workshops in each region, together with other regional and national dialogue and engagement events with Indigenous peoples, Black communities, peasants, civil society and governmental and non-governmental organizations, who made contributions based on their knowledge of the territory and their viewpoint. On the one hand, the causes and consequences of deforestation were evaluated. On the other hand, proposals of solution were submitted to the multiple issues associated with deforestation, as well as their risks and benefits, so that the policies, actions and measures can foster alternative development opportunities through sustainable projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change.

In addition, it is important to note that SESA contributes to the National Safeguards System (SNS), since its policies actions and measures seek to fulfill and guarantee environmental and social rights in all Colombian regions in order to prevent risks and maximize benefits of the emission reduction strategies involving all actors in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, assessing environmental and social risks and benefits contributes to the application of national safeguards.

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (2018) aims to guide institutions and others responsible for implementing the EICDGB providing an adequate environmental and social management of the strategy and keeping communities as direct beneficiaries.

The ESMF carries out a background analysis based on the results of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and its contributions to the EICDGB. It links the legal and institutional frameworks of the national interpretation of safeguards and the map of stakeholders. Based on the analysis of the 23 measures under the 5 EICDGB lines of action, a methodology is developed for the assessment of environmental and social risks, as well as the main benefits. Similarly, the operational policies of the World Bank and the Environmental and Social Safeguards of the National interpretation for each of the 23 measures are put into practice and, at the same time, the mitigation measures of safeguard instruments are defined for the EICDGB.

In addition to the above, the ESMF defines the guidelines for the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework, the Procedures Framework and the social and environmental safeguard mechanisms for each of the 23 measures, which must be taken into account during the strategy execution. Finally, the Citizen Service Mechanism (MAC) is presented, describing the design methodology and the communication channels available, as well as the progress of the country's Safeguards Information System.

Self-Assessment result for subcomponent 2d	Significant progress	
The SESA provided a comprehensive analysis in terms of time and coverage. The results were discussed in an organized way with regional actors and integrated as the basis for defining the lines of action of the EICDGB. **A national safeguards interpretation process was carried out, but the monitoring system for implementing them has yet to be put into operation.** **Although the ESMF has not been adopted by Colombia, it began to be developed during the second FCPF grant period and is currently being updated thanks to the third FCPF grant.**		

3.3   Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels

The Reference Emission Levels/Forest Reference Levels component is evaluated based on 3 criteria: Methodology demonstration, historical data use adjusted to the national circumstances and the technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines.

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
Component 3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels
🟩 *Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels*
26 Demonstration of methodology
27 Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances
28 Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines

Color conventions
🟩 Significant progress

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
☐ Progressing well, further development required

MinAmbiente's Resolution 1447 of 2018 defined Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL) as baselines, measured in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2eq) that indicate the amount of GHG emissions expected in the absence of REDD+ and calculated for a national or subnational area, for one or several REDD+ activities and one or several carbon compartments (*Resolution 1447 of 2018*) in accordance with the provisions of the UNFCCC and IPCC[15]. The national FREL will include REDD+ activities that reduce deforestation and carbon stocks found in above-ground and below-ground biomass, which will be used to account for the REDD+ mitigation results since 2018. The same resolution establishes a validity period of no less than 5 years and will be updated by the Ministry of Environment.

Table 4 Main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and links with REDD+ and FREL strategy options

	Main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation	Links to REDD+ and FREL strategy options
1	Conversion to grasslands	It occurs due to the large-scale conversion of forests into grasslands, for the purpose of land grabbing and expansion of cattle ranching. This happens mainly in the Amazon.
2	Illegal crops	They have a direct impact on the reduction of forest areas.
3	Bad farming practices	When the productive capacity of the soil is depleted, unsustainable livestock systems are expanded at the expense of new forest areas.
4	Illegal mining	It seriously affects ecosystems, water, biodiversity and the health of the population. Illegal mining activities do not have the proper mining licenses or authorization by landowners, and do not comply with the legal requirements (labor, environmental, safety or industrial health standards).
5	Illegal logging	Land colonization processes that expand rapidly without planning, creating a demand for resources and land.

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[15] (Penman et al., 2003) y (Eggleston et al., 2006).

Main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation		Links to REDD+ and FREL strategy options
6	Unplanned transportation infrastructure	Informal road infrastructure becomes a driver of forest loss facilitating forest conversion into Illegal crop and pasture areas used in unsustainable livestock breeding, or as a mechanism for land accumulation and speculation.

Demonstration of methodology

Colombia has voluntarily submitted two Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL), as part of the technical evaluation requirements to participate in results-based payment mechanism. These FRELs are aimed at generating a baseline to measure the performance activities carried out according to paragraph 70 of Decision 1/CP.16 and obtaining payments for REDD+ results defined in the Warsaw REDD+ Framework guidelines, and in line with Decisions 9/CP.19, 13/CP.19, 14/CP.19 and others cited therein, as well as Article 5 of the Paris Agreement (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2019a).

The first FREL was submitted in 2014. It had a subnational level and was a first step towards the construction of a national FREL. The area covered at that time corresponded to the Amazon Biome (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2014). More recently, in 2019, a second national-scale FREL was presented, including five biomes distributed in the Colombian continental territory (Amazon, Andes, Caribbean, Orinoquia and Pacific) (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2019a).

Figure 7 FREL estimation methodological approach for Colombia.

Definition
- Scale
- Reference periods and projection

Activity data
- Phase 1: Digital pre-processing of satellite images
- Phase 2: Digital processing of satellite images
- Phase 3: Assessment of thematic accuracy
- Phase 4: Calculations and reports

Emission factors
- Source and treatment of field data
- Stratification
- Estimators

National circumstances
- Behavior observed regarding deforestation drivers during negotiations and after the signing of the Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and FARC-EP
- Assumptions and modeled approach to the calculation of the adjustment due to national circumstances
- Logistic model
- FREL adjustment due to national circumstances 2018-2022

Own elaboration based on (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2019).

The second FREL was based on historical deforestation data generated by the SMByC (2008-2017 reference period), considering regional dynamics of deforestation. In this FREL, Colombia proposes an approach to project deforestation behavior (from 2018 to 2022), in which national circumstances do not maintain a uniform trend over time, but instead show annual variations with respect to historical deforestation average, which can be estimated with a logistic model (MinAmbiente & IDEAM, 2019b). The methodology used is summarized in Figure 7. For the development of the second FREL, the country followed the guidelines established in the Annex to Decision 12/CP.17 of the UNFCCC and applied a step-wise approach, moving from a subnational to a national scale.

The UNFCCC assessment team recognized that the Colombian FREL included the most significant activities, the most important forest biomes and the most significant pools in terms of forest emissions; further acknowledging that the information provided to develop FRELs for other activities, carbon stocks and GHGs mean a step towards progressive improvement (UNFCCC, 2022).

The estimate of emissions submitted by Colombia in 2020 to the UNFCCC explains that the total biomass (BT) was estimated from the sum of the above-ground biomass (BA) and below-ground biomass (BS) per hectare for each of the five natural regions. Subsequently, the carbon content of the total biomass (CBF)

was determined for each of the natural regions, as the product of the BT and the carbon fraction of the dry matter (f) suggested by the IPCC Guidelines (2006), according to the following equation:

$$CBF_i = BT_i \times f$$

Where:
CBF$_i$ = Is the carbon content of the total biomass in region i
BT$_i$ = Is the total biomass of region i
f = Carbon fraction of dry matter (0.47)

The carbon dioxide equivalent contained in the total biomass per hectare (CBFeq) is the product between the carbon contained in the total biomass per hectare (CBF) and the constant of the molecular proportion between carbon (C) and carbon dioxide (CO_2), equal to 44/12, according to the following equation:

$$CBFeq_i = CBF_i \times 3{,}67$$

Where:

CBFeq$_i$ = Is the equivalent carbon dioxide content of the total biomass of region i
CBF$_i$ = Is the carbon content of the total biomass in biome i
3.67 = Molecular ratio constant between carbon (C) and carbon dioxide (CO_2)

For the FREL calculation, it is assumed that all the carbon contained in the above-ground and below-ground biomass stocks is emitted in the same year that the deforestation event occurs. To estimate emissions due to deforestation of soil deposits, a gross emission is assumed where the soil carbon content (COS) is emitted in equal proportions for 20 years once the deforestation event occurs (Table 3). For this, the annual rate of soil carbon emitted in 20 years (COS20años) was calculated, dividing the soil carbon content of each natural region by 20, according to the following equation.

$$COS_{20años_i} = \frac{COS}{20 \ años}$$

Where:
COS$_{20AÑOS-i}$ = annual rate of soil carbon emitted in 20 years (COS20años) per hectare of region i
COSi = soil carbon content of region i
20 AÑOS (20 YEARS) = Years in which the loss of soil organic carbon is assumed to occur, following the default parameters of the IPCC (2006).

Like BT, the carbon dioxide equivalent contained in the soil per hectare (COSeq) is the product between the annual rate of soil carbon emitted in 20 years (COS20años) and the constant of the molecular proportion between carbon (C) and carbon dioxide (CO_2), as shown in the following equation:

$$COSeq_i = COS_{20años_i} \times 3{,}67$$

Where:
COS$_{eqi}$ = Soil carbon dioxide equivalent emitted annually per deforested hectare of region i.
COS$_{20años-i}$ = annual rate of soil carbon emitted in 20 years (COS$_{20años}$) per hectare of region i
3.67 = Molecular ratio constant between carbon (C) and carbon dioxide (CO_2).

Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances

The two FRELs presented use the same definition of forest[16] which, in turn, is consistent with criteria defined by the UNFCCC in its Decision 11/CP.7, the definition adopted by Colombia for the Kyoto Protocol (MAVDT, 2002), the definition of natural forest cover used to estimate and report the National GHG Inventory and the definition of the CORINE Land Cover Colombia (CLC) methodology adapted for the country (IDEAM, 2010).

The NRF only includes CO_2 emissions from:

- emissions due to deforestation; progress made until FREL submission does not include information on emissions due to forest degradation, given the levels of uncertainty.
- Above-ground Biomass (BA), below-ground biomass (BS) and organic soil carbon (COS) sinks, but above-ground biomass sinks such as litter and dead wood are not included since no information is available so far.

The FREL document recognizes that it is necessary to increase technical capacities to understand forest degradation dynamics in Colombia and how it could be incorporated into future Forest Reference Emission Levels. It should be noted that Colombia has made significant progress during this new FREL process, such as the improvement of its emission factors, which have been adjusted based on the information provided by the national forest inventory (IFN), which, once completed, will provide more accurate results.

It also states that the SMByC must be complemented by community monitoring measures and that efforts have been made to strengthen the technical capacities of communities to incorporate information obtained on the ground in decision-making processes regarding forest management on a national scale. This is supported in part by the proposed of guidelines for participatory community monitoring in Colombia and its articulation with the National Forest Monitoring System.

Technical viability of the approach and alignment with the UNFCCC's/IPCC's orientation and guidelines

The Technical Evaluation Report of the Colombian Forest Reference Emission Levels Proposal presented in 2020, recognizes the country's efforts in preparing reference levels, showing a strong commitment to the continuous improvement of its estimates, in line with the step-wise approach. The UNFCCC assessment team recognized that the information used by Colombia to develop its FREL for the reduction of emissions from deforestation is transparent, mostly complete and largely in accordance with the established guidelines. But it also warns that in general, the FREL is not consistent with the national GHG inventory included in the second BUR of Colombia. The country used a slightly different definition of forest, which resulted in different estimates of forest, deforested areas, and deforestation emissions per unit of area. In addition, the national GHG inventory covers the six IPCC land-use categories, while for the FREL a forest/non-forest approach was followed to estimate gross deforestation.

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[16] Land covered mainly by trees that may contain shrubs, palms, bamboo, herbs and vines, in which tree cover is predominant with a minimum canopy density of 30%, a minimum canopy height (in situ) of 5 meters at the time of identification and a minimum area of 1 ha. Tree cover of commercial forest plantations, palm crops and trees planted for agricultural purposes are excluded.

The [Technical Evaluation Report of the Colombian Forest Reference Emission Levels Proposal submitted in 2020](#) identified the following differences between the submitted FREL and the national GHG inventory:

1. the gains and losses method was used for the GHG inventory, while a gross deforestation approach was followed for the FREL;
2. lagged soil carbon emissions are considered in the GHG inventory since 1990 and for the FREL since 2000; and
3. dead wood is included in the GHG inventory, but not in the FREL.

The UNFCCC assessment team identified the following technical improvements for future reports:

a. Consider the inclusion of the Colombian islands biome in the FREL
b. Complete the first cycle of the National Forest Inventory to obtain data that can be used to improve estimation of forest carbon stocks in all carbon pools and consider establishing permanent sample plots to monitor forest disturbance;
c. Introduce additional stratification of biomes with a view to increasing the precision of estimates by addressing variability within the biome;
d. Clarify the definition of deforestation by describing how it relates to methods for identifying deforested areas;
e. Continue efforts to identify any temporary declines in carbon stocks that may be classified as deforestation;
f. Enhance quality control procedures to cover the entire historical reference period and not just the six years prior to the events to avoid double accounting of deforestation events;
g. Monitor land use after deforestation to enable implementation of IPCC methods and equations for living biomass and soil carbon content;
h. Improve the integrity of future FRELs using detailed information from the National Forest Inventory;
i. Adopt a consistent approach to treating different carbon pools to ensure a consistent historical reference period when measuring these pools;
j. Consider the moment when the effects of the peace agreements will affect the projection of the FREL values to produce the most precise estimates of future areas of deforestation;
k. Improve the performance of the logistic model to estimate the FREL;
l. Avoid using the lower end of the logistic model's confidence interval in order to produce the most accurate FREL values possible and, as much as possible, estimate the general propagated uncertainty associated with FREL values;
m. Include other potential sources of error and bias in the uncertainty assessment;
n. Improve the consistency of the forest definition used for the FREL with the forest definition used in the national GHG inventory;
o. Include information on the classification of commercial forest crops and how they differ from forests;
p. Improve the consistency of the FREL with the national GHG inventory.

The UNFCCC assessment team pointed out that some of the activities, pools and gases excluded by Colombia could be significant in the context of the FREL, and has suggested the following technical improvements in the future:

a. Evaluate if the REDD+ activities implemented in forest areas help to maintain forests;
b. Assess whether REDD+ activities implemented in forest areas are important in relation to forest-related emissions and removals;
c. Evaluate the importance of CO_2 and other emissions from organic soils under forests, because they could be significant;
d. Continue collecting data through the National Forest Inventory and consider including dead organic matter;
e. Consider including gases other than CO_2 to maintain consistency with the national GHG inventory.

Self-Assessment result for component 3	Significant progress	
The methodology for the assessment of deforestation is robust in terms of structure and documentation provided. It also shows the progress of the initial subnational considerations and their transition to the national scale together with the uncertainties found. However, **due to the lack of better spatial resolution, the methodology lacks the level of detail to evaluate forest degradation in a higher scale, since forest carbon storage estimates require going beyond the forest/non-forest dichotomy.** On the other hand, the quality of the SMByC technical team, as well as the efforts and progress made, were widely recognized during the self-assessment workshops. **The documentation regarding methodology and approach recognizes the adoption of National Forest Inventory data and participatory community monitoring as fundamental steps for the future.** By doing so, the impacts on conservation and the sustainable use of forests can be accurately estimated. **The challenge ahead is to incorporate new technologies and information sources to meet the needs of carbon markets**, a goal that the country has already established for its programs and projects. **These challenges will require the technical cooperation of other actors such as the SINA research centers and universities**, in such way that efforts made by the SMByC and subsequent results, can be scattered all over the country and shared on a national scale.		

3.4 Component 4: Monitoring systems for forests and safeguards

3.4.1 Subcomponent 4a: National forest monitoring system

The national forest monitoring system was evaluated based on three criteria: documentation of the monitoring approach, demonstration of early system implementation, and institutional arrangements and capacities.

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
Component 4. Monitoring systems for forests, and safeguards

	Subcomponent 4a. National forest monitoring system
29	Documentation of monitoring approach
30	Demonstration of early system implementation
31	Institutional arrangements and capacities

Color conventions

    Progressing well, further development required

Documentation of monitoring approach

IDEAM is the official institution in charge of generating environmental knowledge, data and information required by the Ministry of the Environment and other SINA entities in order to evaluate, monitor, follow-up and model natural phenomena and human activities that affect forest ecosystems. In this context, since 2009, IDEAM, with the continuous support of the Ministry of Environment and the financial support of various national and international partners, began a process of technical and scientific strengthening of national capacities regarding forest cover monitoring. Thanks to this work, Colombia has a forest and carbon monitoring system (SMByC) capable of identifying and establishing national reference levels, a key element for defining international REDD+ commitments. This system generates periodical information at a higher temporal and spatial scale using satellite images and field sites, which identifies coordinates of deforested areas, generates monthly data for critical sites as a key input for effective deforestation control.

The SMBYC complies with the provisions of the relevant UNFCCC and IPCC decisions in terms of good practices, operating under principles of transparency, completeness, comparability, consistency and accuracy.

Demonstration of early system implementation

[Decree 1076 of 2015](#) establishes the organization and operation of the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC), the National Forest Information System (SNIF) and the National Forest Inventory (IFN), which are part of the Colombian Environmental Information System (SIAC) and instruments used to generate official information for decision-making and the development of policies and regulations for sustainable planning management of natural forests in Colombia.

The SMByC's Participatory Community Monitoring (MCP) component is a valuable aspect, since it recognizes the participation of communities (indigenous, Black and peasant) in the monitoring and follow-up processes of Colombia's forests, as stakeholders who contribute to the generation and use of information.

Institutional arrangements and capacities

The National Forest Information System (SNIF), also operated by IDEAM, is a computer tool for the setup and operation of the forest monitoring program information system. It is supported by an alphanumeric database that feeds on the information from different entities in the forestry sector. In this context, information related to exploitation, mobilizations, confiscations of forest products, establishment of protective plantations and forest fires is obtained from the Regional Autonomous Corporations for Sustainable Development and the Environmental Authorities of large urban centers, namely ANLA and MinAmbiente. .

The National Forest Inventory (IFN) is a large-scale initiative, whose field implementation began in 2015. [Decree No. 1655 of 2017](#) defines the IFN as the statistical operation that, through processes, methodologies, protocols and tools, collects, stores, analyzes and disseminates quantitative and qualitative data that show the current state and composition of the country's forests and their changes over time. The development of the IFN is based on obtaining information directly from the field, from the measurement of structural and flora-related attributes of forests, as well as samples of soils and wood in a state of decomposition. For the initial cycle of the IFN baseline, a 5-year duration was established, counted from the entry into force of Article 2.2.8.9.3.15, of Decree 1655 of 2017. Subsequently, the IFN will be implemented in five-year cycles, through annual surveys, in which new measurements will be made in twenty percent (20%) of the sampling units (Olarte Villanueva et al., 2021).

Table 5. Actions planned within the National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management related to forest monitoring and information systems on safeguards. Source: (DNP, 2020)

Action	Responsible institution	Execution period	
		Start date	End date
2.21 Increase capacities for social control and socio-cultural management of forests, based on the consolidation of the transparency and participation mechanism, within the framework of the National System of Environmental and Social Safeguards (Line of action 6).	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	01-01-2021	31-12-2022
4.1. Design and implement SINA's digital transformation strategy through SIAC, so that information for deforestation control facilitates SINA's own processes. For the above, information regarding deforestation and the management of forests within the scope of SIAC must be organized, centralized, standardized and operated, following the technical guidelines established by MinTIC. (Line of action 11).	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	01-01-2021	31-12-2030
4.2. Prepare regulations of the National Forest Inventory, Forest and Carbon Monitoring System and National Forest Information System mechanisms, in accordance with the provisions of Decree 1655 of 2017. (Line of action 11).	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	01-07-2022	31-12-2030
4.3. Technically strengthen measurements of the National Forest Account conceptually structured under the System of Environmental and Economic Accounts (SCAE-MC). (Line of action 11).	National Administrative Department of Statistics; Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies; Ministry of Environment and	01-01-2021	31-12-2030

Action	Responsible institution	Execution period	
		Start date	End date
	Sustainable Development		
4.4. Design the financial sustainability strategy of instruments for the management and monitoring forest resource dynamics, using national resources. (Line of action 11).	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	01-01-2021	31-12-2026
4.5. Develop deforestation analysis tools for public policy decision-making. (Line of action 12).	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	01-01-2021	31-01-2030
4.6. Implement forest resource monitoring modules. (Line of action 12).	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	01-01-2021	31-12-2030
4.7. Consolidate the Participatory Community Monitoring process, which articulates national monitoring systems to access information on local community initiatives. (Line of action 12).	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	01-01-2021	31-12-2030

Self-Assessment result for subcomponent 4a	Progressing well, further development required	
It is clear that Colombia has made progress after setting up a forest monitoring system in line with climate change agreements signed by the country. However, stakeholders mentioned that information stored on the current technological platforms is outdated and often does not reflect the reality on the ground. Other actors stated that they do not know how to manage and interpret this information and		

some people were unaware that these monitoring systems even existed. This implies **the need for the EICDGB to count on a single source of information that gives easy access to consultation mechanisms available at the national level** in a comprehensible language, with communication formats and channels adapted to different target audiences. Knowledge should be provided on the means of access to information and training on how to use the platforms developed.

The SMByC has been strengthened in recent years and currently generates reliable, robust information and reports used by different stakeholders. It has options for improvement and innovation, integrating information from participatory community monitoring schemes aimed at gathering information at the local level and building capacities in the territory, as well as integrating other methodologies. However, **its operation depends on the amount of resources allocated to the IDEAM budget, therefore, a long-term resource management arrangements must be ensured for its operation and sustainability.**

3.4.2 Subcomponent 4b: Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards

This subcomponent was evaluated through 3 criteria: identification of relevant non-carbon and social and environmental issues, monitoring, reporting and information sharing, and institutional arrangements and capacities.

Criteria evaluated by component and subcomponent
Component 4. Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards
Subcomponent 4b. Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards
32 Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues
33 Monitoring, reporting and information exchange
34 Institutional arrangements and capacities

Color conventions

Progressing well, further development required

Further development required

Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues

Based on the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF, 2018), Colombia defined the approach of the National Safeguards System (SNS) establishing that the safeguards apply at the national level, that is, they are articulated to the strategy at the regional level with regional scope programs and regional and local implementation plans through REDD+ projects and initiatives.

The National Safeguards System (SNS) and its components are described in the publication entitled National Safeguards System Structure, which shows Colombia's provisions to address and follow social and environmental REDD+ safeguards with a national scope, and describes how each component contributes to the respect of the safeguards, as well as to the fulfillment of the country's commitments with the UNFCCC. The safeguards in Colombia are based on national legislation and an institutional framework, as an instrument of guarantee and respect for rights, under a risk-benefit approach. Currently, the SNS is still under development and the safeguards progress reports are linked to the Safeguards Information Summaries (RIS).

Monitoring, reporting and information exchanges

Regarding the presentation and progress of the Safeguards Information Summaries (RIS), Colombia formally submitted the First Safeguards Information Summary for REDD+ in 2017, as part of the Third National Communication on Climate Change. This summary addressed the national advances on safeguards since the early dialogue phase between 2010 and September 2016, and the specific advances in the Amazon since the beginning of the REM Visión Amazonía Program.

The Second Safeguards Information Summary for REDD+ also emphasized the Amazon, based on lessons learned after the first summary and the implementation of the REM program activities. The Third Safeguards Information Summary for REDD+ showed the national advances and challenges derived from the transition from preparation to implementation in the different regions of the country, and presented how the different REM pillars approach and respect the safeguards.

 2018 was a transition year for the Government, for which the implementation of the safeguards monitoring system focused mainly on the implementation of the REM Visión Amazonía Program, as it is the only payment-for-results program in force. Other projects and actions complementary to REDD+ count on safeguards from cooperation projects and the national legislation, such as forest governance and community forestry actions supported by FAO and the EU, the BioCarbon Fund's Sustainable Landscapes project in the Orinoquia, the Corazón Amazonía project, the UNDP's Sustainable Amazon for Peace, GIZ's land-use planning project in Caquetá, among others. In this same year, the Fourth Safeguards Information Summary on REDD+ (RIS IV) was published to inform how the set of policies, measures and actions developed for REDD+ have addressed and respected environmental and social safeguards through mechanisms that enable access to information, participation, agreements and processes aimed at avoiding adverse effects, promoting benefits and respecting the rights of communities and their territories. Although there has been important progress in terms of reducing deforestation, there are still many challenges that the country must face to effectively protect forests and the rights of the communities that inhabit them.

The Fifth Summary (RIS V) reports actions and progress between September 2019 and October 2020, a period in which the execution of the 2018-2022 National Development Plan (PND) continued.

Institutional arrangements and capacities

As for an information system for multiple benefits, the country currently does not have an integration mechanism for reporting this information, however, it has made a valuable effort regarding regulations to promote non-timber resource management, by means of Decree 690 of June 24, 2021, which seeks to regulate the sustainable management of wild flora and non-timber forest products (flowers, fruits, seeds, roots, among others) and their derivatives. This regulatory instrument seeks to encourage more initiatives and economic solutions based on production chains in the pharmaceutical, food, and cosmetic sectors, among others.

This regulation is a first step to consolidate actions and innovation in terms of non-timber forest products, linked also to capacity-building processes that are an essential part of REDD+ program activities. Within the framework of Visión Amazonía, agri-environmental projects are carried out under Pillar III, implementing the agricultural extension strategy with institutional support for beneficiary families, who receive feedback on technical production, but also on forest conservation and relevant administrative and

financial knowledge. Likewise, under Pillar IV, financing interventions for Indigenous Peoples' projects, experience has shown socio-environmental risks related to political-institutional issues regarding the administrative and financial challenges that Indigenous organizations face to manage resources efficiently.

Finally, the self-assessment process pointed to improvements in beneficiaries' livelihoods, an increase in the provision of ecosystem services, including cultural services, for which national experts suggest including indicators of indirect benefits to livelihoods obtained by means of REDD+ actions.

Self-Assessment result for subcomponent 4b	Further development required

It is clear that the EICDGB has a comprehensive approach to forest management that recognizes the possibility of maintaining livelihoods and facilitating access for forest-dependent communities to generate income from non-timber products and, at the same time, strengthen their capacities to develop projects and manage resources.
It is also recognized that there is still a need to generate indicators to measure and monitor the rural population's livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and the provision of ecosystem services to understand the impacts of actions beyond carbon.
It is necessary **to improve mechanisms and/or tools to make information not only available, but also accessible to stakeholders** through coordination with all initiatives that promote participation, exchange and update of existing information in the territories. Communities consulted in this assessment have repeatedly stated that **MinAmbiente, as the responsible for the project, must promote broad discussions to raise awareness about benefits distributed by REDD+ projects**, a process that is currently developed by project developers and presented as results to potential beneficiaries.
The National Safeguards System still needs to be developed to monitor safeguards compliance at different levels of REDD+ implementation: national, subnational (programs) and local (projects). This system requires an institution specially dedicated to this purpose, such as the SMByC.

4 REPORT ON PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF REDD+ READINESS

4.1 Consultation process for participatory self-assessment

The Readiness Assessment Framework Guide (FCPF, 2013) establishes self-assessment procedures that must be carried out through interaction with REDD+ stakeholders and according to the following conditions:

- It should be participatory process.

- Based on existing structures, platforms and protocols created for REDD+.

- Conducted through thematic, national or regional workshop(s), working group(s), etc.

- The R-Package should be disclosed and validated before its submission to the Participants Committee (PC).

With these guidelines a simple methodology was proposed based on a list of stakeholders who took part in REDD+ readiness initiatives as well as in the implementation of projects and programs. In total, 99 stakeholders were invited to three regional workshops and one national workshop, the latter to validate the results of the former (Table 6).

Table 6: Stakeholders gathered by regions in self-assessment workshops

Region	Number of stakeholders	City and date of the workshop
Andean and Caribbean	22	Bogotá D.C., February 8, 2022
Pacific	19	Cali, February 10, 2022
Amazon and Orinoquia	21	Leticia, February 15, 2022
National	27	Bogotá D.C., March 1, 2022
TOTAL	**99**	

The percentage of gathering effectiveness was 61%, workshop participation is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Origin of the attendees at the beginning of the regional and national workshops

REGION	By Gender		By ethnic or peasant group				By affiliation				TOTAL
	Men	Women	Peasants	African descendants and Black people	Indigenous	Not ethnic nor peasant	Public institutions	NGO	Academia	Other groups	
Andean and Caribbean	5	10	2	0	2	11	11	3	0	1	15
Pacific	9	5	0	8	2	4	8	0	2	4	14
Amazon and Orinoquia	10	4	0	0	5	9	6	2	1	5	14
National	10	8	0	2	3	13	14	3	0	1	18
TOTAL	34	27	2	10	12	37	39	8	3	11	61
Participation (%)	56%	44%	3%	16%	20%	61%	64%	13%	5%	18%	100%

In addition to the workshops, interviews were conducted with four relevant REDD+ readiness actors who contributed to the strategy in different capacities (NGOs, public sector and international cooperation). The interviews proposed a self-assessment. Interview respondents talked about key aspects of the REDD+ readiness process, which later served as input for the workshops, and valuable information was obtained regarding details of the process, pieces of evidence and concepts linked to each assessed criterion. This exercise also helped to clarify doubts and better frame the guiding questions during the workshops.

Regional workshops were developed in three moments. First, a clear explanation of the self-assessment process and how the R-Package was prepared. Also, results obtained so far in other spaces were presented to show that it was not necessary to have a single evaluation per criterion and that free and spontaneous discussion, based on the knowledge and experience of each stakeholder, can be used to evaluate of each criterion.

The second moment of the workshop split participants into two or three subgroups whose members were randomly selected, so that, in each subgroup, a facilitator asked guiding questions, answered questions about the evaluated criteria and acted as rapporteur, taking notes of the feedback and comments of all participants. The facilitator read the component aloud and then the guiding questions, encouraged discussion about it, addressed concerns and asked participants to express their assessment individually, based on color codes (each person had a set of color palettes). Palettes were counted by color and the votes for each color category were recorded using the following coding:

Figure 8. Color scale used for the evaluation of the criteria.

Significant progress (green)	Progressing well, further development required (yellow)	Further development required (orange)	No progress seen yet (red)	Does not apply / Does not respond

Then, the facilitator would record information on the progress status of each criterion, its strengths, weaknesses, actions required to improve the progress to a satisfactory or desired performance, and any additional observations. Lastly, the facilitator requested that a single group assessment be selected for each component, reaching internal consensus and giving members the opportunity to present their arguments again.

At the end of the self-assessment of the four established components, the third moment of the workshop established a plenary session in which the results obtained by each subgroup were presented with the same colors and the similarities and differences in the assessment were discussed. Discussions were enriched with the participation of the attendees, allowing an exchange of information and learning that was highly valued.

After the workshops, the person responsible for preparing the R-Package defined a single value per criterion, comparing the evidence found in the information available on the REDD+ readiness process, the reasons exposed in the regional workshops and the comments obtained in the interviews.

The same three moments were considered for the national workshop, the first was the presentation of objectives and information on the regional workshops, the second was the validation of results from the single assessment obtained in the regional workshops and interviews. This validation was carried out with the participation of all attendees who expressed their opinions about each criterion and, as a group, they would approve or not the single assessment proposed.

In 30 criteria of the total of 34 there was agreement and for the remaining criteria (8 consultation processes, 14 action plans to address the rights to natural resources, land tenure and management, 25 environmental and social management frameworks and 34 institutional arrangements and capacities) they recommended a rating according to the color scale in Figure 8. This recommendation was accepted by the person responsible for preparing the R-Package and this is what is presented in the following number (4.2 Results of the participatory self-assessment) of this document. In the third moment of the national workshop, each criterion was taken up again and the facilitator was asked about the actions required to fulfill them to a satisfactory level.

It is important to clarify that, when inviting participants, the list of criteria and guiding questions was sent by email to everyone to facilitate their preparation. This worked well in most cases; however, it should be recognized that in the case of the Amazon and Orinoquia workshop in the city of Leticia, two participants who were part of the MRA said they were not able to download the information sent by mail due to connectivity problems and that, in their role as representatives of the MRA, they could not assess the criteria since, in their organization, legally established as the highest space for dialogue and agreement between Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon and the National Government (Decree 3012 of

2005), evaluations and assessments are complex processes that require gathering members who handle environmental and reach a single unified collective position. They also stated that they are currently carrying out a prior consultation process regarding the Visión Amazonía Program. The R-Package development process should not interfere with the consultation processes, so the decision of these representatives not to take part in the discussions was accepted.

4.2   Results of the participatory self-assessment

Table 8: Results of the participatory self-assessment per criterion

	Evaluated criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Gaps to overcome
1	Accountability and transparency	• There are laws that help promote access to public information.	• Not all stakeholders in the process have access to information. • In the territories, the accountability process is unknown. • There is no platform that consolidates the REDD+ strategy in its legal, financial, project detail aspects, among others.	• Consolidate a dissemination strategy according to the reality of the territory (connectivity) and create communication strategies with the different stakeholders in a participatory environment so that information is clear and easily accessible. • Due to the fact that there are so many climate change processes in the country, a specific platform for the REDD+ strategy must be created.
2	Operating mandate and budget	• There are several sources of financing.	• Limited resources to give continuity to initiatives or pilot projects under the REDD+ strategy.	• Allocate funds to strengthen the social and environmental management capacities of communities and institutions to provide adequate guidance in the formulation and execution of projects. • Support the development of market strategies for each nucleus of sustainable forest management. • Prepare and disclose official reports on financing and budget execution.
3	Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	• Colombia has an institutional strategy to articulate climate change policies and actions.	• There are sectors that still do not take ownership of the REDD+ strategy. There is little coordination within and between the institutions in charge of control.	• Multisectoral institutions should be encouraged to take ownership of REDD+ processes and actions so that information generated by different institutions is coherent and mutually complementary. • Generation of inter-institutional agreements with entities that produce information for inventories and GHG.

	Evaluated criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Gaps to overcome
4.	Technical supervision capacity	• There are different technical studies related to the formulation and preparation of the REDD+ strategy. • There are spaces with specific proposals and agendas for sectors, stakeholders and territories at national, regional and local levels to deal with REDD+ issues.	• Lack of interest from some stakeholders involved. • High turnover of professionals in government entities involved in the process.	• Government officials who participate in the REDD+ strategy, in any of its phases, must have appropriate and sufficient professional training and/or experience to avoid potential delays. • Execute training plans for public officials. • Make an efficient link between outgoing and incoming servants in order to maintain institutional memory and not duplicate efforts or disrupt processes. • Proceed to create or maintain continuity, as appropriate, of the Committees (Regional, departmental or municipal) of Forest Control and Surveillance.
5	Funds management capacity	• The Colombian Government, under the leadership of MinAmbiente, has carried out a continually active management of international funds for the REDD+ preparation process, and has obtained resources from the FCPF Readiness Fund, GIZ's Forest and Climate Protection Program / REDD+, UN-REDD, joint cooperation resources from the governments of Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom and cooperation from the government of Germany – IKI – BMUB.	• Ignorance on the part of the communities about management of the funds. • Lack of interest by some stakeholders and regions in recognizing the importance of their ecosystems and integrating themselves into the ENREDD+.	• Make efforts so that other regions, the Andean and Caribbean, which are highly vulnerable to deforestation and forest degradation, are promoted as eligible areas to receive international funds or national investment for REDD+ development. • Policies must include strategies and financing mechanisms of their own to be sustainable in the long term.

	Evaluated criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Gaps to overcome
6	Feedback and grievance redress mechanism	• The monitoring, reporting and verification system (MVR) provides information related to GHG emissions reduction and removal accounting system, and REDD+ strategy projects and programs. • The use of social media by institutions has made it possible to outreach information more easily.	• There is no comprehensive platform that receives all REDD+ complaints, grievances, claims and suggestions. • The strategies currently used for the exchange of information and compensation of claims are not accessible to all interested parties because there are still regions in the country with poor connectivity.	• Be clear on how communities (Indigenous, African-Colombian, Black people and peasants) have created mechanisms for obtaining and exchanging information and what are the communication channels used in order to strengthen them and disseminate information about the strategy . • Strengthen and innovate institutional capacity use technical language that is understood by communities (Indigenous, African-Colombian, Black people and peasants). • Consolidate the REDD+ strategy platform.
7	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	• The strategy included a process of constructive participation with ethnic groups and with representation from the national territory.		• Installed capacities must be maintained in the territories so that members of the community can propose and execute projects, access and manage economic resources, and interact with key actors in their surroundings.
8	Consultation processes	• Although Colombian regulations are robust in terms of consultation, the EICDGB preparation carried out a representative and consolidated territorial process able to consolidate direct causes of forest degradation and deforestation with clear measures and lines of action to counteract them.	• The consultation processes were not carried out strictly following the regulatory framework of prior consultation. • Peasants and the private sector did not have a dominant and relevant representation, despite being fundamental pieces in deforestation and forest degradation reduction.	• The territories where constructive participation processes are carried out must be expanded. • It is necessary to adopt a consultation normative framework in Colombia regarding REDD+. • Participatory and consultation processes must be continuous over time, regardless of government plans.
9	Information sharing and accessibility of information	• The mechanisms for information exchange have been established, structured and designed. • There are several digital documents related to the strategy preparation process.	• Mechanisms are designed for the population with better access to information (in a centralized way) and are not intended for the access of different ethnic groups, and even less so for a seamless exchange of information.	• Generate a digital platform to consult and provide feedback on the information generated. • Use more tools or means of outreaching information to ensure and increase access to it.

	Evaluated criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Gaps to overcome
			• There are no platforms or physical spaces where information can be compiled, exchanged or accessed.	
10	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	• There is sufficient information on the workshops methodology and the preliminary results of consultations. • There are advances in documents such as the ESMF and SESA where workshop results are presented.	• The mechanism for disseminating consultation results is unknown or not easily accessible.	• Use existing spaces, such as forestry boards and REDD+ boards, for the dissemination and feedback regarding results.
11	Assessment and analysis	• For the EICDGB, together with local stakeholders and national experts, a broad and in-depth analysis has been carried out regarding historical changes in land use and deforestation drivers.	• Information is centralized.	• Continue strengthening technical capacities so that community organizations can use the information and tools available and produced by the SMByC. • The information published by the institutions must reflect the reality on the ground. Efforts should be made to validate the information in the territory. • Do not duplicate efforts. Be clear about the institutions that are already working in the territory and the needs they are addressing. In this way, the use of economic resources can be stimulated.
12	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	• The third line of action established in the EICDGB: Temporary management of land use planning and environmental determinants, seeks to resolve and avoid conflicts of land use, occupation and tenure with special emphasis on protected areas.		

	Evaluated criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Gaps to overcome
13	Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+	• The report on Drivers of forest degradation in Colombia: A first approach was published under the framework of the *Strengthening REDD+ national capacities in Colombia* program. The report suggests the direct and indirect drivers and other factors associated with forest degradation. • Reports are prepared on demand characterizing the causes of deforestation by municipality, department, natural region or national level. Drivers and agents in high deforestation hubs are identified and described.		
14	Action plans to address the rights to natural resources, land tenure and management	• REDD+ regional plans began to be developed, but not all of them were finished.	• It has not been possible to consolidate action plans to address the relevant issues of land use, tenure and titling.	• Resume action plans that were left unfinished. • Facilitation and strengthening of articulated workspaces (institutional and community).
15	Implications for forest law and policy	• Through Decree 1257 of 2017, the Intersectoral Commission for Deforestation Control and Comprehensive Management for the Protection of Natural Forests is created in Colombia and other measures are taken.	• Lack of knowledge on the part of some stakeholders regarding forest laws and policies.	• Carry out massive campaigns to publicize legislation as a means to prevent non-observance.

	Evaluated criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Gaps to overcome
16	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options	• The EICDGB measures and actions are related to and respond to the concerns and expectations identified in participatory debates regarding drivers and agents of deforestation.	• There is disarticulation between some of the mechanisms proposed in the EICDGB to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and current measures.	• It is necessary continue and move forward with some of the participatory processes and monitoring of early actions that began with the preparation of the strategy. • The EICDGB actions at the regional and local levels can be improved with the continuous work of the national, regional and local REDD+ boards, in addition to the inclusion of this topic in the forestry boards.
17	Feasibility assessment	• The National REDD+ Strategy and its programs and projects have been developed within the framework of the National Forestry Development Plan and are articulated within the international conventions and agreements signed by Colombia.	• The costs of the lines of action are not contextualized at the regional level. • It is possible to improve the prioritization and feasibility of REDD+ actions since the detail of prioritization is not clear in the EICDGB.	• The strategy's action plans should be articulated with other action plans from different sectors to identify common goals, in addition to reviewing and articulating budgets to combine forces and ensure the implementation of REDD+.
18	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	• There are policies, actions and measures that must be implemented through intersectoral actions.	• Sectoral policies and their actions must be evidenced at the regional and local level.	• Improve intersectoral communication channels, to implement actions at the national, regional and local levels.
19	Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations	• The National REDD+ Strategy and its programs and projects have been developed within the framework of the National Forestry Development Plan and are articulated within the international conventions and agreements signed by Colombia.	• Ignorance of the laws by stakeholders involved. • Dissemination mechanisms are not in accordance with the conditions of the communities (connectivity, technology). • Creation of national laws that go against the REDD+ strategy. • Low effectiveness in the application of the legal framework.	• Establish a mechanism for disseminating regulations in which the REDD+ strategy is framed.

	Evaluated criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Gaps to overcome
20	Guidelines for implementation	• The document entitled "Regulatory Framework: Analysis of the Colombian legal framework" presents for each safeguard the main regulatory instruments and provisions to ensure that each one is addressed and respected, and identifies whether the instrument applies at the national, regional or local level.	• In many cases, the processes established by law are not carried out because they involve a tedious and time-consuming process. • There is disarticulation between institutions and communities. • Efforts are duplicated due to the disarticulation of strategies or initiatives.	• Follow all the provisions of the national and local government, and those defined by community organizations on the restrictions and actions allowed in the territories. • Institutions must previously know the territory and understand its interests and needs. • Local stakeholders should be involved in the formation of technical teams.
21	Benefit sharing mechanism	• The Visión Amazonía Program has its own benefit-sharing mechanism.	• There is no specific document or policy instrument for fair and equitable benefit sharing structures in REDD+ initiatives and projects.	• The government must guarantee, through specific legal instruments, how the distribution of benefits will be carried out. • Carry out an effective disclosure of the benefit sharing process and results.
22	National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities	• Creation of the RENARE platform.	• The existing platform is not robust enough to present detailed information on REDD+ projects.	• Platform update. • Correct disclosure and training in the management of the platform.
23	Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues	• UNFCCC safeguards were articulated in the preparation of the strategy. • A document was generated with all the efforts and advances in safeguards at the REDD+ level during preparation.	• The RIS are focused more on reporting actions of the regions that have more advanced processes, and do not report weaknesses or progress in all the regions of the country. • The dissemination mechanism for the RIS and advances in safeguards is centralized.	• Although the RIS exist, they must be fed back by stakeholders and, in addition, RIS must be generated to demonstrate the progress or weaknesses of the process in all the regions of the country.
24	REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts	• Both in SESA and in the ESMF, which were built from participatory processes, the impacts (risks) of the strategy are identified.	• Improve the outreach and dissemination of both SESA and ESMF.	• In the action plans, specific strategies could be articulated or generated to reduce impacts at the regional and local levels.

	Evaluated criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Gaps to overcome
25	Environmental and Social Management Framework	• There is a document from the ESMF that reports in detail the development and preparation of the EICDGB.	• The adoption of the ESMF for the EICDGB is pending.	• Carry out continuous monitoring of the ESMF, which allows monitoring the implementation and identifying weaknesses and potentialities of the EICDGB.
26	Demonstration of methodology	• Resolution 1447 of 2018 defined the FREL as baselines measured in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.	• Lack of inputs to apply the methodology.	• Allocate resources to strengthen technical and technological capacities. • Effective dissemination of the methodology in the communities.
27	Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances	• Use of the information reported in the national forest inventory (IFN).	• Lack of constant information update and validation in the field.	• Articulate the results of initiatives that are being carried out in the territory (academic, community monitoring, etc.) and use them to update the forest follow-up and monitoring system.
28	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	• Colombia complies with international agreements.	• There is no assignment of REDD+ responsibilities to institutional officials at the national, regional and local levels.	• Assignment of specific REDD+ responsibilities to officials of national, regional and local institutions. • Inter-institutional and community articulation so that the processes are effective.
29	Documentation of monitoring approach	• Law 1076 of 2015 establishes the organization and operation of the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC), the National Forest Information System (SNIF) and the National Forest Inventory (IFN), which are part of the components of the Colombian Environmental Information System (SIAC). All 3 platforms are up and running.	• Information on the platforms, in some cases, does not reflect the reality of the territory because it is outdated. • A platform management training mechanism has not been implemented in the communities. • An effective dissemination plan has not been developed.	• Strengthen local capacities so that stakeholders know how to interpret and manage information. • Information published by the institution must reflect the reality of the territory and, as much as possible, carry out a validation process with communities.
30	Demonstration of early system implementation			
31	Institutional arrangements and capacities			

	Evaluated criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Gaps to overcome
32	Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues	• In 2021, Decree 690 of June 24 was issued to regulate the sustainable management of wild flora and non-timber forest products (flowers, fruits, seeds, roots, among others) and their derivatives. • There is a structure for the National Safeguards System.	• There is still a need to generate a mechanism for the exchange of information on multiple benefits and other impacts • The National Safeguards System must be implemented. • It is necessary to improve the dissemination and feedback mechanism regarding the RIS.	• Strengthen the capacities of forest-dependent communities to develop productive activities with non-timber products, project generation and resource management. • Generate indicators to measure and monitor the rural population's livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and the provision of ecosystem services to understand the impacts of actions beyond carbon.
33	Monitoring, reporting and information exchanges	• Five Safeguards Information Summaries have been prepared and published on the UNFCCC[17] web platform.		• Improve mechanisms and/or tools so that information is not only available, but also to ensure that the true stakeholders are consulted. It is possible to use the forest boards and regional climate change hubs as a mechanism for exchanging and updating information.
34	Institutional arrangements and capacities			• Strengthening institutions on multiple benefit options (how to generate, develop and monitor these initiatives).

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[17] https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=CO

5 CONSOLIDATION ACTIVITIES OF THE REDD+ READINESS PROCESS.

A summary of actions proposed by stakeholders who took part in the self-assessment workshops for the consolidation of the REDD+ readiness process is presented below, grouped by component. Later, these actions will be related to the objectives developed in compliance with the third FCPF donation.

Readiness organization and consultation

- Integrate other relevant institutions to this final part of the REDD+ readiness process, especially control entities, so that they acquire and strengthen their capacities, and can adequately address claims made by the communities. Likewise, link processes such as citizen oversight and moralization commissions, environmental commissions, established in the territories.
- Include other actors in the process, such as PNN, mining sector and project developers and intermediaries. Bear in mind that changes in the national environment have generated new governance processes within the territories.
- Articulation and interaction of REDD+ boards with the forestry boards and NRCC. For this integration, the region must be clear about its information organization route or tree, in order to influence the management of the territory carried out at the departmental level.
- Participation, results-based payment benefit sharing must be integrated. In addition, strengthen the forestry boards with the possibility that they also have a decision on the investment of resources, and not just participation in a dialogue.
- The strategy must seek to include territorial stakeholders as key players, not only as passive recipients, but also as decision makers with more proactive roles.
- The visibility of Indigenous peoples, African-Colombian communities, Black people and peasants in other scenarios of participation in territorial and environmental planning that are directly or indirectly related to the purposes of REDD+ is important.
- Strengthen prior consultation processes to bolster governance within Indigenous, African-Colombian and Black communities.
- Determinant actions for the exchange of information: it is essential that there be a single platform that compiles and integrates information on REDD+, the strategy and its progress.
- A communication strategy is required to integrate communities, to allow their feedback and to favor their empowerment regarding the REDD+ mechanism.
- In terms of dissemination, although a lot of information has been generated, the mechanisms for knowing this information are not there. An alternative is for the communities themselves to generate information so that what already exists can be outreached; another mechanism is to work with institutions and teachers. Promote intermediate processes to reach territories, taking advantage of the lessons learned by technicians who previously carried out the process, who propagate actions; decentralization must be done with those who know the process at the regional level.

REDD+ strategy preparation

- Resume the formulation and implementation of regional REDD+ plans, including improving coordination mechanisms and avoiding the centralization of processes and resources.

- Emphasis should be placed on benefit sharing mechanisms, it is not clear how it is done: the discussion is open as to how it should be carried out at the regional level, surely with national guidelines, including the principles of transparency and fair distribution and equitable benefits.
- Strengthen the National Safeguards System, so that it improves the protection of rights and reduction of impacts on communities in real and practical terms. If the safeguards are properly monitored, the entire strategy is monitored. The joint work of safeguards with territorial entities and with the participation of attorneys' offices and supervisory offices should also be resumed.

Reference emission levels

- The task is to fine-tune the methodologies and be able to improve the scale, so that the reference level offers a greater resolution integrating efforts and capacities of the SINA and academia, but keeping the SMByC as coordinating entity in charge of integrating information and making official publications as defined in Decree 1655 of 2017.

Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards

- Operationalize safeguards so that they are broad in scope and closely monitored. This would allow a broad vision of the strategy development and implementation.
- Carry out REDD+ school for institutional officials such as attorneys, prosecutors, among others.
- The safeguards must not only be addressed with an impact analysis approach, but must also be anchored in rights, as subjects (the Atrato River and the Colombian Amazon, for example).

Table 9 presents the expected objectives of the execution of the third FCPF grant, additional financing for REDD+ readiness, which ends in June 2022, and which partially addresses the actions recommended by consulted participants.

Table 9: Objectives to meet with the execution of the third FCPF grant

Objective number	Objective description
1	Formulate four regional REDD+ plans for the future areas of Catatumbo, Bajo Cauca Antioquia, Chiribiquete and surrounding parks and for the Pacific in Nariño
2	Generate mechanisms for stakeholder participation at the national and regional levels
3	Update the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) completed at the national level and a prepared Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
4	Build an action plan for the commitments on deforestation and forest management agreed between MinAmbiente and the Indigenous organizations of Colombia
5	Incorporate the REDD+ National Safeguards System (SNS) into the National Environmental Information System (SIAC)
6	Improve the national REDD+ feedback and grievance redress mechanism (FGRM) with improved access and cultural relevance
7	Develop and implement a community strategy of communication, education, generation of knowledge
8	Build a capacity-building plan for the EICDGB

Objective number	Objective description
9	Generate policy inputs to control deforestation
10	Develop regional pilots for payment for environmental services (PES)
11	Generate a cartography with the dynamics of deforestation and changes in land use within the framework of the EICDGB for thirteen departments
12	Generate intervention models for the REDD+ strategy for deforestation hotspots and defined agricultural frontier areas
13	Establish a community forest monitoring system in 3 deforestation hotspots
14	Start parameterization of the modules in the REDD+ safeguards information system

With the execution of the activities presented in Table 9, the expectations of the consulted stakeholders regarding consolidation of the REDD+ readiness process have been largely satisfied. However, some of the actions presented would not be carried out under the scope of the third FCPF grant and may be addressed later because they really are MinAmbiente's roles such as: i) linking other relevant institutions such as control entities, citizen oversight and moralization commissions and environmental commissions, constituted in the territories, ii) a consolidated information repository on REDD+, the strategy and its progress, iii) involvement of communities, their institutions and teachers in the dissemination mechanisms of the EICDGB, iv) resuming and strengthening REDD+ schools, with an emphasis on public servants.

Other actions considered that would not be covered by the third FCPF grant and that require a more detailed structuring are regulating the benefit sharing mechanism and refining the methodologies and improving the scale, so that the reference level offers a greater resolution integrating efforts and capacities from SINA and academia.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The country has made significant progress in the REDD+ readiness process, although the R-Package self-assessment may have yielded less optimistic results. The foregoing may be due in part to two factors: the first, the long duration of the process, which has resulted in a scattered implementation of REDD+ projects rather than organized programs at the subnational level in regions other than the Amazon. Secondly, the difficulties faced by the Colombian State to control forest territories previously occupied by the FARC-EP guerrillas. In addition, similarly to other countries, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic changed most priorities during 2020 and 2021. Consulted stakeholders have a higher expectation of REDD+ readiness. Conditions have changed substantially and the EICDGB must adapt to the new territorial realities during its implementation.

The self-assessment process for Colombia, in which the three stages of the REDD+ mechanism are being carried out in parallel (readiness, implementation and results-based payment), required participants in the consultations and the team in charge of the R-Package to pay greater attention and extract from the assessment experiences unrelated to the readiness process. Some evaluations, especially in the territorial workshops, had a high influence of the implementation stage, especially projects undertaken with private entities.

With regard to the organization and readiness consultations, the criteria for which further strengthening is necessary are capacity for technical supervision and consolidation of an effective mechanism for the exchange and access to information and compensation of claims, aspects that have been identified and are being addressed in the execution of the third grant or additional financing from the FCPF. It is important to highlight that access to information and accountability and transparency mechanisms contribute to strengthening the territorial governance of community organizations, so the ownership of these processes and their results is vital for communities.

Despite the foregoing, REDD+ project developers and executors have consistently looked to involve the population in these processes, a key initiative considering that some projects developed in these territories have raised concern and complaints by inhabitants, affecting their perception of REDD+. It is necessary to remap the scope of stakeholders and involve them in the process. This is why, in terms of the REDD+ readiness strategy, the following criteria should be more emphasized: i) guidelines for implementation, ii) benefit-sharing mechanism and the REDD+ National Registry and iii) REDD+ monitoring system activities.

Given the conditions of projects undertaken by private managers and the difficulties imposed by their views, the self-assessment feedback points to the need to regulate the private sector and ensure a fair benefit sharing structure. The need to improve communication and information flows was also highlighted, especially those experiences where the community developed a strong sense of ownership, as seen in the Chocó Biogeográfico REDD+ portfolio.

With regard to the Information System for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards, self-assessment feedback mentions the need for the National Safeguards System to be more operative and serve the communities invited to participate in REDD+ projects and who currently suffer from limited access to information to make the right choices, assess the proposed conditions and decide whether to participate. That is why criteria such as monitoring, reporting and sharing of information and institutional arrangements and capacities were considered key to improving the current state of progress.

Improving information flows also means strengthening REDD+ skills that can leverage on the installed capacities of the territory, promoting and resuming, for example, the successful experiences of the REDD+ schools.

The SMByC is recognized for its technical excellence and is trusted by self-assessment participants. However, it is also clear the incorporation of SINA research centers and members of the academia can contribute to deepen and achieve results at better spatial scales than the ones obtained from REM Visión Amazonia run by SINCHI.

The development Colombia's R-Package made it possible to take stock of the EICDGB processes, evaluate their progress and identify gaps and needs. It also provided the opportunity to highlight the effort made by the country to comply with the agreed commitments. In addition, it motivated consulted participants to look for additional information and address REDD+ issues that had been postponed after losing its priority status in some spaces of debate. The self-assessment of the 34 criteria was a participatory and inclusive process undertaken with stakeholders. For this, three regional workshops and a national workshop were held to validate results. Additionally, there was interaction with people who have been involved since its conception, which allowed for a critical and prospective view of the readiness process.

The Amazon region is the main focus of interest in terms of REDD+ programs, and provides references and lessons learned from experiences of interaction with Indigenous communities and in the development of technical processes. This generates expectation in other regions eager to implement similar programs. Therefore, the Ministry of Environment must continue to encourage other regions to take ownership of the strategy and replicate positive experiences seen in the Amazon. The development of some early implementation programs came to a halt, therefore, those that made the furthest progress should provide inputs to replicate successful and effective actions in other regions of the country.

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8 ANNEXES

8.1 Annex 1: Official documents

DOCUMENT	YEAR	LANGUAGE*	LINK
REDD+ Readiness Plan Idea Note R-PIN	2008	EN	https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Colombia_R-PIN_07-15-08.pdf
PC Resolution on R-PP	2011	EN	https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/2e_20111011_Colombia_R-PPv.final_Review_PC_consolidated.pdf
Readiness Preparation Plan R-PP	2013	EN	https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/R-PP%20REDD%2B%20V-8.0%2030-sept-2013.pdf
Subnational scale FREL - Amazon Biome	2014	ES	https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref_amazonia_colombia_espanol_19_12_2014_esp.pdf
Signed Grant Agreement	2015	EN	https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Colombia%20Grant%20Agreement%20April%202015.pdf
Mid-term Progress Report and Request for Additional Funding	2017	EN	https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Colombia%20Mid-term%20Progress%20Report%20-%20final%20for%20posting_0.pdf
Resolution PC/23/2017/2 Colombia's Request for Additional Funding)	2017	EN	https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Final+Resolution+2+Colombia+Additional+Funding+Request.pdf
Mid-term Progress Report and Request for Additional Funding	2018	ES	https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Colombia%20Mid-term%20Progress%20Report_10-02-17%20Spanish.pdf
Comprehensive Strategy for Deforestation Control and Forest Management (EICDGB)	2018	ES	https://redd.unfccc.int/files/eicdgb_bosques_territorios_de_vida_web.pdf
National-scale FREL	2019	ES	https://redd.unfccc.int/files/02012019_nref_colombia_v8.pdf
Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Comprehensive Strategy to Control Deforestation and Forest Management	2018	ES	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F8q2s-sRGZre01awQXzy3TbKuQ5xj1fk/view?usp=sharing
Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) Comprehensive Strategy to Control Deforestation and Manage Forests	2018	ES	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QP6MdUmTBJh4CB0H4YSJRNqO6Ayh8Lpt/view?usp=sharing

* ES = Spanish, EN = English

Other sites with Relevant information on the REDD+ Readiness Process in Colombia

https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/country/colombia

https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=CO

https://www.unredd.net/documents/un-redd-partner-countries-181/latin-america-the-caribbean-334/colombia-706.html

http://renare.siac.gov.co/GPY-web/#/gpy

http://smbyc.ideam.gov.co/MonitoreoBC-WEB/reg/indexLogOn.jsp

https://visionamazonia.MinAmbiente.gov.co/biblioteca/

DOCUMENT	YEAR	LANGUAGE*	LINK
National Policy for Comprehensive Management of Biodiversity and its Ecosystem Services (PNGIBSE)	2012	ES	https://www.MinAmbiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Poli%CC%81tica-Nacional-de-Gestio%CC%81n-Integral-de-la-Biodiver.pdf
National Climate Change Policy	2017	ES	https://www.MinAmbiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/9.-Politica-Nacional-de-Cambio-Climatico.pdf
Sustainable Land Management Policy (PGSS)	2016	ES	http://www.andi.com.co/Uploads/Pol%C3%ADtica_para_la_gesti%C3%B3n_sostenible_del_suelo_FINAL.pdf
National Policy for Deforestation Control and Sustainable Forest Management (CONPES 4021)	2019	ES	https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/CONPES/Econ%C3%B3micos/4021.pdf
National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) CONPES 3680	2010	ES	http://www.invemar.org.co/redcostera1/invemar/docs/RinconLiterario/2011/julio/JC_136.pdf
Colombian Low-Carbon	2014	ES	https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Ambiente/Desarrollo%20Bajo%20En%20Carbono%20Para%20Colombia.pdf

DOCUMENT	YEAR	LANGUAGE*	LINK
Development Strategy (ECDBC)			
Green Growth Strategy CONPES 3934	2018	ES	https://www.dnp.gov.co/Crecimiento-Verde/Documents/Pol%C3%ADtica%20CONPES%203934/CONPES%203934%20-%20Pol%C3%ADtica%20de%20Crecimiento%20Verde.pdf
Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (EPANB)	2014	ES	http://www.humboldt.org.co/es/noticias/parlotiando-humboldt/item/356-estrategia-y-plan-de-accion-de-biodiversidad-epanb#:~:text=La%20EPANB%20es%20el%20resultado,los%20grupos%20%C3%A9tnicos%20y%20la
National Plan for Ecological Restoration, Rehabilitation and Recovery of Degraded Areas (PNR)	2015	ES	https://archivo.MinAmbiente.gov.co/images/BosquesBiodiversidadyServiciosEcosistemicos/pdf/plan_nacional_restauracion/PLAN_NACIONAL_DE_RESTAURACI%C3%93N_2.pdf

8.2 Annex 2: Summary of the REDD+ readiness consultation process

The main activities from 2010 to 2017 are summarized below, a period that covers the entire process of participatory construction and technical preparation of the EICDGB.

From 2010 to 2013, early approaches and dialogue with organizations and platforms of Black and Indigenous peoples. In this period, the prioritized regions were the Amazon and the Pacific, due to the percentage of natural forest in these territories. In general, the result of this period was to inform the different stakeholders and their organizations on the subject of climate change and REDD+; and national and international discussions on the matter.

From 2015 to 2017, dialogues and meetings with social and civil society organizations were resumed, with the goal of strengthening capacities for the construction of the National REDD+ Strategy. As a result of this process, the initial mapping of stakeholders and a participation route were obtained. The document Social participation: from REDD+ readiness to the construction of the Bosques Territorios de Vida Strategy consolidates and presents the results of this period.

Within the UN-REDD Program and as a contribution to the process of building the National REDD Strategy, the mapping of indigenous peoples, African-descendants, black people and peasants was developed for Colombia. Emphasis was placed on three population groups due to their importance in relation to the ownership of natural forests -Indigenous peoples, Black/African-descendant people and peasant communities. This progress was consolidated as the baseline to generate a stakeholder participation plan in the development of the National REDD+ Strategy.

Another important process within the participation framework was the consolidation of the Perspective of indigenous peoples in the face of deforestation and degradation of the territory. The document is based on recommendations and dialogues held with Indigenous organizations at the national, regional and territorial levels, during the 2015-2017 period, and led by MinAmbiente.

In March 2017, the creation and first session of the National REDD+ Board was held in Bogotá. This meeting was attended by 93 people from public entities, community organizations (African-Colombians, Black people and community councils, peasants and Indigenous people), NGOs, research institutes, academia, private entities and international cooperation. The main objective of the REDD+ Board was to serve as a national platform for the engagement of key stakeholders in the process carried out by the Ministry. It is of strategic relevance because it includes different sectors and stakeholders in the dialogue, outreach and monitoring of the actions and measures developed and the effective implementation of REDD+ in Colombia. The composition of the board is presented in Figure 9.

The second and third National REDD+ Boards were held in October 2017 and June 2018, respectively. Their main objective was to outreach the advances in the process of building and implementing REDD+ and its articulation with the Comprehensive Strategy Against Deforestation and Forest Management, in order to receive feedback and recommendations.

From 2018 to 2021, the path of stakeholder engagement was consolidated by the creation of enabling conditions and the implementation of the EICDGB. In addition, actions were carried out to comply with the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI), signed by the Colombian State with the governments of Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom, which aims to achieve the environmental objectives of reducing

deforestation on several fronts and achieving verified emission reductions from deforestation at the national level.

Figure 9. Composition of the National REDD+ Board
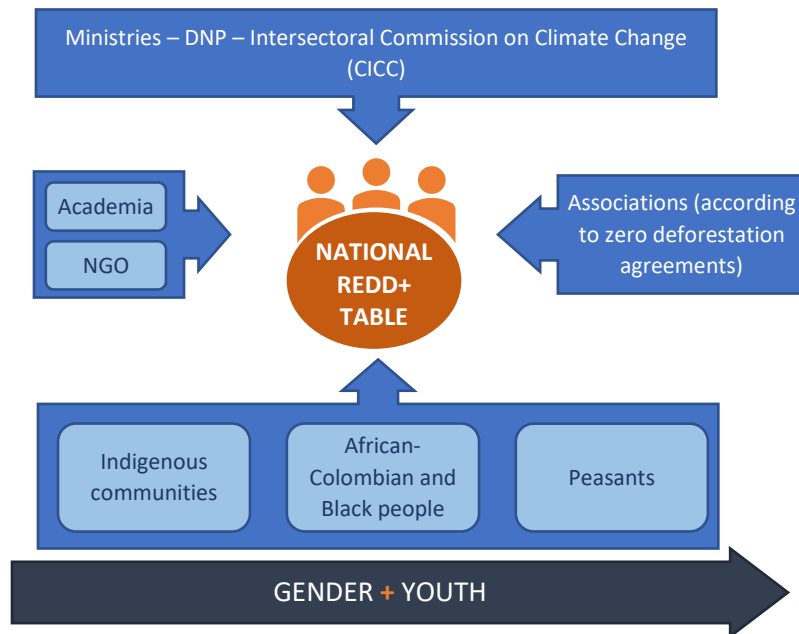
The Fourth Session of the National REDD+ Board was held on January 23, 2019, with the main objective of informing attendees about the actions carried out by the National Government in relation to the progress of the implementation of the Joint Declaration of Intent and the future perspectives.

The Fifth National REDD+ Board was held in July 2021, this session had three main objectives i) Disseminate the progress of the first Report on the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI). ii) Present the results obtained by the implementation of the Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan and iii) Consolidate the inputs and contributions by the strategic actors for the PPI and the JDI report.

Regarding the advances in information exchange and access to it, there is currently a National Registry for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (RENARE), created by Resolution 1447 of 2018. The RENARE platform integrates four registration phases, through which the initiatives to reduce and remove GHG emissions are followed up (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Initial presentation of the RENARE platform.

 In addition, RENARE allows generating certification with the report on the status of the GHG mitigation initiative, which, among others, serves purposes such as not accruing the carbon tax and generates an accounting report where the traceability of transactions can be consulted made by each GHG mitigation initiative.

Finally, RENARE has a Technical Guide, published in September 2020, whose main objective is to guide users in filling out information on GHG mitigation initiatives on the platform.

Table 10. Summary of participants during the REDD+ readiness consultation process in Colombia.

Amazon						
Stakeholders	Events	Men	Participation %	Women	Participation %	Total
Indigenous	10	274	81	65	19	339
Multi-stakeholder/Institutions	7	72	57	55	43	127
Total	17	346		120		466

Andean						
Stakeholders	Events	Men	Participation %	Women	Participation %	Total

Multi-stakeholder/Institutions	27	450	54	385	46	835
Total	27	367		295		835

Caribbean						
Stakeholders	Events	Men	Participation %	Women	Participation %	Total
Indigenous	9	430	80	109	20	539
Multi-stakeholder/Institutions	10	199	61	129	39	328
Black peoples	1	33	67	16	33	49
Total	20	662		254		916

Orinoquia						
Stakeholders	Events	Men	Participation %	Women	Participation %	Total
Indigenous	2	47	90	5	10	52
Multi-stakeholder/Institutions	11	138	62	85	38	223
Total	13	185		90		275

Pacific						
Stakeholders	Events	Men	Participation %	Women	Participation %	Total
Indigenous	21	419	71	172	29	591
Multi-stakeholder/Institutions	42	526	55	432	45	958
Black peoples	33	636	56	491	44	1127
Total	96	1581		1095		2676

National						
Stakeholders	Events	Men	Participation %	Women	Participation %	Total
Peasants	3	82	72	32	28	114
Indigenous	18	335	72	130	28	465
Multi-stakeholder/Institutions	56	1018	55	831	45	1849
Total	77	1435		993		2428

Total, participation process						
Stakeholders	Events	Men	Participation %	Women	Participation %	Total
Peasants	3	82	72	32	28	114

Indigenous	60	1505	76	481	24	1986
Multi-stakeholder/Institutions	153	2403	56	1917	44	4320
Black peoples	34	669	57	507	43	1176
Total	250	4659	61	2937	39	7596

Total, participation process 08/2017-09/2018						
Stakeholders	Events	Men	Participation %	Women	Participation %	Total
Peasants						
Indigenous	33	810	76	252	24	1062
Multi-stakeholder/Institutions	70	1248	55	1012	45	2260
Black peoples	11	265	60	179	40	444
Total	114	2323	62	1443	38	3766

8.3   Annex 3: Summary of recommendations of the Mid-Term Progress Report

Communication issued from the Summary of the Twenty-third meeting of the members of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC23) held in Washington DC, from March 27-29, 2017, on the review of the Mid-term Progress Report period and requests for additional financing by Colombia.

Participants congratulated Colombia for the progress made, in particular in the strengthening of national REDD+ management agreements, the presentation of Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL) to the UNFCCC; and on the extensive and inclusive process REDD+ Strategy development. Participants encouraged Colombia to take into account the following issues raised by the PC, during preparation:

- Strengthen the coordination of donor resources flowing to Colombia for REDD+ activities in order to avoid overlapping funds.
- Improve understanding of the legal status of carbon rights and continue to work to further clarify these carbon rights, while respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples, African-Colombian communities, Black people, and local communities.
- Continue strengthening co-benefit monitoring systems.
- Explore the possibility of allocating resources under the consultation, participation and disclosure component through a participatory mechanism, such as a call for proposals, following an inclusive approach, taking into account ethnic diversity, gender, youth and local communities.
- Strengthen regional governance structures for REDD+ implementation.

Additional budget requested from the FCPF for REDD+ preparation in Colombia.

COMPONENTE	SUBCOMPONENTE	ACTIVIDAD	MONTO (MILES DE US$)
Preparación de la organización y consulta para REDD+	Consulta, participación y divulgación	Diálogos a nivel local y divulgación con el sector indígena y afrocolombiano	700
		Espacios de diálogo y comunicación con el sector sociedad civil a nivel subnacional	180
		Instancias Nacionales/Internacionales para diálogo y divulgación de la ENREDD+	200
Preparación de la estrategia REDD+	Opciones de estrategia REDD+	Desarrollo de medidas habilitantes para proyectos piloto de acciones REDD+	1.700
	Marco de implementación	Fortalecimiento institucional nacional y regional. MADS CARS PNN	1.200
Sistema de monitoreo forestal y de salvaguardas	Sistema nacional de monitoreo forestal	Implementación del protocolo de monitoreo comunitario	400
		Monitoreo de causas y agentes de deforestación	200
	Sistema de información de beneficios múltiples, otros impactos, gobernanza y salvaguardas	Salvaguardas (operación del Sistema de Información de Salvaguardas, generación de reportes y seguimiento a la implementación de salvaguardas)	350
		TOTAL	4.930

The Government of Colombia, in order to comply with the above recommendations, has been permanently monitoring resources from different international sources, through MinAmbiente; the coordination of the use of resources has allowed to integrate them to REDD+ readiness avoiding redundant efforts and ensuring their complementarity. Likewise, in view of improving the understanding

of the legal status of carbon rights, progress is being made in defining legal guidelines and optimizing tools for capturing information on compensation credits. With the Participatory Community Monitoring promoted and in process of integration with the SMByC, the collateral benefit monitoring systems are strengthened. The pilots of the intervention models for NADs are in progress and serve to strengthen the regional governance structures for the implementation of REDD+. It is necessary to allocate resources to promote calls for proposals under broad participation mechanisms, although work is being done on the preparation of projects financed through Payment for Environmental Services mechanisms.

8.4   Annex 4: Summary of workshops and interviews conducted

Introduction

The implementation of initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), should follow a phased approach to improve the chances of success. During the first phase, countries prepare REDD+ strategies at the national level and initiate processes to ensure social and environmental soundness (including reference levels, safeguards, an implementation framework), usually called the readiness phase. The second phase is a period in which REDD countries begin the implementation of enabling strategies and processes, as well as undertake policy and legal reforms and execute demonstration activities. These two phases, taken together, are expected to ensure that REDD countries are ready to receive performance-based payments, which is the third phase.

The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), which provides support to Colombia for the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism, requires the completion of a Readiness Package (R-Package), prepared by the countries at the end of the readiness phase, which consists of a collection of documents with evidence of the progress made by the country.

The R-Package is the main international assessment of countries' REDD-readiness efforts, thus determining or influencing access to resources from the FCPF and other REDD+ funds.

The purposes of the R-Package are:

- Provide an opportunity for REDD+ participating countries to self-assess progress in REDD+ readiness in each of the components and subcomponents and identify any remaining gaps and additional needs;
- Demonstrate a REDD+ Participating Country's commitment to its readiness process and transparency in conducting readiness activities in a way that can provide confidence to donors and national and international stakeholders; and
- Generate feedback and guidance for REDD+ country participants through PC national multi-stakeholder self-assessment and assessment processes.

In this context, Colombia is moving from the readiness phase to the implementation phase of REDD+ activities. To measure and communicate the progress made by the country in basic preparation activities, an evaluation is carried out in order to collect lessons learned, evaluate activities carried out and identify actions to advance in the transition towards the implementation of REDD+ activities.

The assessment process has two stages: i) a multi-stakeholder national self-assessment (leading to the readiness package) and ii) an assessment of the readiness package by the Participants Committee with input from the Technical Advisory Panel, the implementing partner (e.g. World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, Inter-American Development Bank) and others. The implementation of initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), should follow a phased approach to improve the chances of success. During the first phase, countries prepare REDD+ strategies at the national level and initiate processes to ensure social and environmental soundness (including reference levels, safeguards, an implementation framework), usually called the readiness phase. The second phase is a period in which REDD countries begin the implementation of enabling strategies and processes, as well as undertake policy and legal reforms and execute demonstration activities. These two

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➢ Generate feedback and guidance for REDD+ country participants through PC national multi-stakeholder self-assessment and assessment processes.

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8.4.1 Summary of regional workshops for the self-assessment of progress and national readiness capacity for a national REDD+ strategy in Colombia (R-Package)

General objective

Present to participants the self-assessment of 34 criteria regarding the state of REDD+ progress in Colombia.

Carry out the self-assessment of 34 criteria of the R-Package with representative groups from different regions of the Colombian territory who are somehow involved in REDD+.

Expected results

Capture participants' views on the state of REDD+ progress in Colombia and include the assessment of indicators in the final R-Package document.

Methodology

This document is a summary of the self-assessment carried out in the five regions of Colombia (Andean, Caribbean, Pacific, Amazon and Orinoquia) through a participatory and inclusive process in which the perspectives and experiences of multiple stakeholders were recorded.

The person in charge of the workshops was Cesar Ignacio Garay Bohórquez with technical support of the Fondo Acción team. Moderators: Carolina Urquijo Merchán and Alejandra Rubio.

- In order to meet the self-assessment objective, representative stakeholders in the REDD+ processes of each of the regions were selected for the workshops. Once the stakeholders were defined, invitations were sent by email. The invitation included a document presenting the context of the R-package, the topics that would be covered in the workshop, the 34 criteria to be evaluated, and the guiding questions that would be asked to evaluate them.
- Workshops were developed in three moments. First, a clear explanation of the self-assessment process and how the R-Package was prepared. Also, self-assessment results obtained so far in other spaces were presented to show that it was not necessary to have a single evaluation per criterion and that free and spontaneous discussion, based on the knowledge and experience of each stakeholder, can be used to evaluate of each criterion.
- The second moment of the workshop split participants into two or three subgroups whose members were randomly selected, so that, in each subgroup, a facilitator asked guiding questions, answered questions about the evaluated criteria and acted as rapporteur, taking notes of the feedback and comments of all participants. The facilitator read the component aloud and then the guiding questions, encouraged discussion about it, addressed concerns and asked participants to express their assessment individually, based on color codes (each person had a set of color palettes). Palettes were counted by color and the votes for each color category were recorded using the following coding:

Significant progress (green)	Progressing well, further development required (yellow)	Further development required (orange)	No progress seen yet (red)	Does not apply / Does not respond

- The facilitator would record information on the progress status of each criterion, its strengths, weaknesses, actions required to improve the progress to a satisfactory or desired performance,

and any additional observations. Lastly, the facilitator requested that a single group assessment be selected for each component, reaching internal consensus and giving members the opportunity to present their arguments again.

- At the end of the self-assessment of the four established components, the third moment of the workshop established a plenary session in which the results obtained by each subgroup were presented with the same colors and the similarities and differences in the assessment were discussed. Discussions were enriched with the participation of the attendees, allowing an exchange of information and learning that was highly valued.

It should be noted that, after the workshops, the person responsible for preparing the R-Package defined a single value per criterion, comparing the evidence found in the information available on the REDD+ readiness process, the reasons exposed in the regional workshops and the comments obtained in the interviews carried out with different stakeholders. The foregoing can be evidenced in Table 3 of the Self-Assessment Report document for the Colombian REDD+ Readiness Package for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, which summarizes the strengths, weaknesses and actions necessary to move towards the implementation of the EICDGB in Colombia.

In general terms, in the three regional workshops, some participants expressed not having a full context of the REDD+ Strategy readiness process, mainly because they have public roles that constantly change within their institution or because former servants left the entity and new people came in and were assigned to participate in REDD+, but do not understand the context of the entire process.

ANDEAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION WORKSHOP

The workshop was held on February 8 in the city of Bogotá, with the multisectoral participation of 15 stakeholders (10 women and 5 men) representing the following institutions: Government of Antioquia, Government of Cundinamarca, Autonomous Corporation of Santander (CAS), Regional Autonomous Corporation of Cauca (CRC), Regional Autonomous Corporation of the Negro and Nare River Basins (CORNARE), Regional Autonomous Corporation of Cundinamarca (CAR), Monitoring Corporation of the Biodiversity of the South Mashiramo, Funcopromas, Agrosolidaria and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MinAmbiente).

During the workshop, the progress of the national REDD+ strategy in Colombia was discussed and three groups of randomly organized stakeholders were formed to evaluate the 34 criteria divided into the following components:

1. Organization and consultation for the REDD+ strategy readiness
2. REDD+ strategy preparation
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards

The following table compiles the results of the self-assessment carried out by the representatives of the Andean and Caribbean region.

Component		Subcomponent			Criteria		
1	Readiness organization and consultation	1a	National REDD+ management arrangements	Consultation, participation and outreach	1	Accountability and transparency	ORANGE
					2	Operating mandate and budget	YELLOW
					3	Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	ORANGE
					4	Technical supervision capacity	ORANGE
					5	Funds management capacity	YELLOW
					6	Feedback and grievance redress mechanism	ORANGE
		1b			7	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	ORANGE
					8	Consultation processes	WHITE
					9	Information sharing and accessibility of information	ORANGE
					10	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	ORANGE
2	REDD+ strategy preparation	2a	Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance		11	Assessment and analysis	YELLOW
					12	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	ORANGE
					13	Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+	YELLOW
					14	Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance	GREEN
					15	Implications for forest law and policy	ORANGE
		2b	REDD+ strategy options		16	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options	YELLOW
					17	Feasibility assessment	ORANGE
					18	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	RED
		2c	Implementation framework		19	Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations	ORANGE
					20	Guidelines for implementation	YELLOW
					21	Benefit sharing mechanism	WHITE
					22	National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities	YELLOW

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Component	Subcomponent			Criteria	
	2d	Social and environmental impacts	23	*Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues*	🟧
			24	*REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts*	🟨
			25	*Environmental and Social Management Framework*	🟩
3		Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	26	*Demonstration of methodology*	🟩
			27	*Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances*	🟩
			28	*Technical viability of the approach and alignment with the UNFCCC's/IPCC's orientation and guidelines*	🟨
4	National forest and safeguards monitoring systems	4a	National forest monitoring system	29	*Documentation of monitoring approach*	
				30	*Demonstration of early system implementation*	🟥
				31	*Institutional arrangements and capacities*	🟧
		4b	Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	32	*Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues*	🟨
				33	*Monitoring, reporting and information exchanges*	
				34	*Institutional arrangements and capacities*	🟧

Comments and/or recommendations

Below are the general recommendations given by stakeholders of the Andean and Caribbean region to improve the processes carried out in the EICDGB.

- Create an effective information outreach mechanism so that data generated within the EICDGB framework reaches national, regional, and local institutions and the community in a timely manner.
- Consolidate a REDD+ platform with all the EICDGB information with updated and easily accessible data.
- Identify the shortcomings and strengths of the projects implemented early in the process, systematize and disclose them in order to serve as support for other initiatives.
- Show the advances of the EICDGB in the spaces of community participation.
- Resume projects that were stopped due to lack of budget.
- Disseminate safeguards in national, regional, local institutions and in communities.

Photographic record of the Andean and Caribbean region workshop

PACIFIC REGION WORKSHOP

The workshop was held on February 10 in the city of Cali, with the multisectoral participation of 14 stakeholders (5 women and 9 men) representing the following institutions: Cauca Pacific Forestry Board, Nariño Tumaco Forestry Board, Regional Autonomous Corporation for the Sustainable Development of Chocó (CODECHOCO), Pacific Environmental and Black People's Rights Board, Movement of Indigenous Authorities of the South West (AISO), National Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC), Technological University of Choco, Choco Forest Board, Administrative Department of Environmental Management (DAGMA), Colombian Black Communities Process (PCN) and Pacific Environmental Research Institute (IIAP).

During the workshop, the progress of the national REDD+ strategy in Colombia was discussed and 2 groups of randomly organized stakeholders were formed to evaluate the 34 criteria divided into the following components:

1. Organization and consultation for the REDD+ strategy readiness
2. REDD+ strategy preparation
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels
4. Monitoring systems for forests, and safeguards

One aspect to note from this workshop was that the PCN representatives, at the end of the day, made a presentation on the exercise they carried out in their community for measuring carbon by plots. This exercise was particularly good because other actors were interested in replicating this carbon measurement methodology in their communities.

The following table compiles the results of the self-assessment carried out by the representatives of the Pacific region.

Component		Subcomponent		Criteria		
1 Readiness organization and consultation		1a National REDD+ management arrangements		1	Accountability and transparency	
				2	Operating mandate and budget	
				3	Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	
				4	Technical supervision capacity	
				5	Funds management capacity	
				6	Feedback and grievance redress mechanism	
		1b Consultation, participation and outreach		7	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	
				8	Consultation processes	
				9	Information sharing and accessibility of information	
				10	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	
2 REDD+ strategy preparation		2a Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance		11	Assessment and analysis	
				12	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	
				13	Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+	
				14	Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance	
				15	Implications for forest law and policy	
		2b REDD+ strateg		16		

Component	Subcomponent			Criteria	
				Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options	🟨
			17	*Feasibility assessment*	🟨
			18	*Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies*	🟧
	2c	Implementation framework	19	*Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations*	🟥
			20	*Guidelines for implementation*	🟥
			21	Benefit sharing mechanism	🟥
			22	*National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities*	🟧
	2d	Social and environmental impacts	23	*Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues*	🟧
			24	*REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts*	🟧
			25	*Environmental and Social Management Framework*	🟥
3		Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	26	*Demonstration of methodology*	🟩
			27	*Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances*	⬜
			28	*Technical viability of the approach and alignment with the UNFCCC's/IPCC's orientation and guidelines*	🟩
4	Monitoring systems for forests, and safeguards	4a	National forest monitoring system	29	*Documentation of monitoring approach*	🟧
				30	*Demonstration of early system implementation*	🟧
				31	*Institutional arrangements and capacities*	🟧
		4b	Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	32	*Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues*	🟧
				33	*Monitoring, reporting and information exchanges*	🟧
				34	*Institutional arrangements and capacities*	🟧

Comments and/or recommendations

Below are the general recommendations given by stakeholders of the Pacific region to improve the processes carried out in the EICDGB.

- Current information outreach mechanisms are not effective enough. It is recommended that the information be published in Spanish and translated into the languages of the indigenous communities.
- Implementation of more REDD+ actions in the Pacific region and that the strategy be equitable for all regions.
- The implementation of the EICGDB and forest-related public policies is necessary.
- The implementation of public policies must be done with a comprehensive vision of institutions and communities.
- Prior consultation must be carried out in all communities (Indigenous, African-descendants, Black people and peasants).
- Pedagogical mechanisms are recommended for the transfer of knowledge taking into account the dialects of the territories and their means of communication.
- The reinterpretation of safeguards is recommended in accordance with the reality of each territory.
- The implementation of a safeguards monitoring mechanisms is recommended.
- Compliance with the peace agreement is needed to improve security in the territory.
- Decentralization of information.
- Strengthen the articulation between community monitoring systems.

Photographic record of the Pacific region workshop

AMAZON AND ORINOQUIA REGION WORKSHOP

The workshop was held on February 15 in the city of Leticia, with the multisectoral participation of 14 stakeholders (4 women and 10 men) representing the following institutions: Ticoya Indigenous Reservation, Corpoamazonia, Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (FCDS Guainía), Autonomous University of Bucaramanga (UNAB), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Vissacha de Vista Hermosa Cooperative, Meta Forest Board, Yagua People, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MinAmbiente), Government of Caquetá, Amazon Regional Board (MRA).

During the workshop, the progress of the national REDD+ strategy in Colombia was discussed and 2 groups of randomly organized stakeholders were formed to evaluate the 34 criteria divided into the following components:

1. Organization and consultation for the REDD+ strategy readiness
2. REDD+ strategy preparation
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels
4. Monitoring systems for forests, and safeguards

However, participants who were part of the MRA said they were not able to download the information sent by mail due to connectivity problems and that, in their role as representatives of the MRA, they could not assess the criteria since, in their organization, legally established as the highest space for dialogue and agreement between Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon and the National Government (Decree 3012 of 2005), evaluations and assessments are complex processes that require gathering members who handle environmental and reach a single unified collective position. Therefore, only one group was formed for the self-assessment of the 34 criteria.

The following table compiles the results of the self-assessment carried out by the representatives of the Amazon and Orinoquía region.

Component	Subcomponent		Criteria		Status
1 Readiness organization and consultation	1a	National REDD+ management arrangements	1	Accountability and transparency	yellow
			2	Operating mandate and budget	orange
			3	Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	orange
			4	Technical supervision capacity	orange
			5	Funds management capacity	white
			6	Feedback and grievance redress mechanism	orange
	1b	Consultation, participation and outreach	7	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	orange
			8	Consultation processes	orange
			9	Information sharing and accessibility of information	yellow
			10	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	orange
2 REDD+ strategy preparation	2a	Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance	11	Assessment and analysis	yellow
			12	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	orange
			13	Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+	orange
			14	Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance	orange
			15	Implications for forest law and policy	red
	2b	REDD+ strategy options	16	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options	orange
			17	Feasibility assessment	orange
			18	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	red
	2c	Implementation framework	19	Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations	red
			20	Guidelines for implementation	red
			21	Benefit sharing mechanism	red
			22	National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities	red
	2d	Social and environmental impacts	23	Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues	red
			24	REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts	red

Component	Subcomponent				Criteria	
				25	Environmental and Social Management Framework	
3	Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels			26	Demonstration of methodology	■
				27	Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances	■
				28	Technical viability of the approach and alignment with the UNFCCC's/IPCC's orientation and guidelines	■
4	Monitoring systems for forests, and safeguards	4a	National forest monitoring system	29	Documentation of monitoring approach	
				30	Demonstration of early system implementation	
				31	Institutional arrangements and capacities	■
		4b	Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	32	Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues	■
				33	Monitoring, reporting and information exchanges	■
				34	Institutional arrangements and capacities	

Comments and/or recommendations

- It is recommended to take into account the conditions of the territory to develop participation spaces since transport is often difficult and there are not enough resources.
- There is no legal certainty for the registration or use of forests.
- Communities should be strengthened technically and administratively.
- Clarity is needed in contracts between private companies and communities.
- Some laws currently established in the country go against the EICGDB.
- The procedures for the transfer of information or to establish FGRM are tedious and some are not accessible.
- There is a high level of ignorance about Environmental Law.
- Decentralize information.
- A platform is needed to consult information generated within the EICGDB framework.
- Communities need to be strengthened in legal matters to understand the contracts they sign with third parties.
- Current platforms are not accessible to communities.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP

General objective

Show self-assessment results to participants (34 indicators) regarding the state of progress of REDD+ in Colombia obtained in regional workshops and validate the assigned rating.

Expected results

Validate the assessment of indicators carried out in regional workshops and interviews with experts for the final R-Package document.

> ➢ The workshop was held on March 1 in the city of Bogotá, with the multisectoral participation of 18 stakeholders (13 women and 5 men) representing the following institutions: Tayrona

Indigenous Confederation (CIT), Indigenous Authorities of Colombia (AICO) for Pachamama, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC), Amazonian Institute for Scientific Research (SINCHI), BioCarbon Registry, Fondo Acción, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MinAmbiente) Colombian Black Communities Process (PCN), Environmental Research Institute of the Pacific (IIAP), Norwegian Embassy, Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

➢ Similarly to regional workshops, the same three moments were considered for the national workshop, the first was the presentation of objectives and information on the regional workshops, the second was the validation of results from the single assessment obtained in the regional workshops and interviews. This validation was carried out with the participation of all attendees who expressed their opinions about each criterion and, as a group, they would approve or not the single assessment proposed.

➢ In the third moment, each criterion was taken up again and the facilitator was asked about the actions required to fulfill them to a satisfactory level.

Of the 34 criteria, national workshop participants agreed with the rating given to 30 of them. For the remaining criteria (8 consultation processes, 14 action plans to address the rights to natural resources, land tenure and management, 25 environmental and social management frameworks and 34 institutional arrangements and capacities) they recommended a rating according to the color scale.

Based on the validation assessment of the criteria and the recommended actions for a satisfactory progress in each one of them, Table 8 was built and summarizes strengths, weaknesses and necessary actions to advance towards EICDGB implementation in Colombia.

The following table compiles the results of the final self-assessment carried out in the regional workshops and validated in the national workshop.

Component	Subcomponent			Criteria	
1 Readiness organization and consultation	1a	National REDD+ management arrangements	1	*Accountability and transparency*	
			2	*Operating mandate and budget*	
			3	*Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration*	
			4	*Technical supervision capacity*	
			5	*Funds management capacity*	
			6	*Feedback and grievance redress mechanism*	
	1b	Consultation, participation and outreach	7	*Participation and engagement of key stakeholders*	
			8	*Consultation processes*	

Component	Subcomponent		#	Criteria	Status
			9	Information sharing and accessibility of information	🟨 Yellow
			10	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	🟧 Orange
2 — REDD+ strategy preparation	2a	Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance	11	Assessment and analysis	🟩 Green
			12	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	🟩 Green
			13	Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+	🟩 Green
			14	Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance	🟨 Yellow
			15	Implications for forest law and policy	🟩 Green
	2b	REDD+ strategy options	16	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options	🟨 Yellow
			17	Feasibility assessment	🟨 Yellow
			18	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	🟨 Yellow
	2c	Implementation framework	19	Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations	🟨 Yellow
			20	Guidelines for implementation	🟧 Orange
			21	Benefit sharing mechanism	🟧 Orange
			22	National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities	🟧 Orange
	2d	Social and environmental impacts	23	Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues	🟩 Green
			24	REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts	🟩 Green
			25	Environmental and Social Management Framework	🟩 Green
3		Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	26	Demonstration of methodology	🟨 Yellow
			27	Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances	🟩 Green
			28	Technical viability of the approach and alignment with the UNFCCC's/IPCC's orientation and guidelines	🟩 Green
4 — Monitoring systems for forests, and safeguards	4a	National forest monitoring system	29	Documentation of monitoring approach	🟨 Yellow
			30	Demonstration of early system implementation	🟨 Yellow
			31	Institutional arrangements and capacities	🟨 Yellow
	4b	Information system for multiple	32	Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues	🟨 Yellow

Component	Subcomponent	Criteria	
		33	Monitoring, reporting and information exchanges	
		34	Institutional arrangements and capacities	

Comments and/or recommendations

Below are the general recommendations given by stakeholders who participated in the national workshop:

- Strengthen the articulation between national, regional and local institutions to complement processes.
- Strengthen forest boards with climate change hubs.
- Strengthen the EICGDB through regulatory means.
- Assign REDD+ responsibilities to officials of national, regional and local institutions.
- Establish and implement clear benefit-sharing mechanisms.
- Implement a mechanism to monitor safeguards compliance.
- Strengthen collaborative management between the components of the SINA.
- Update the REDD+ strategy so that it is dynamic and adaptable to the reality of the country.
- Update the map of stakeholders and involve the private sector in the EICDGB.
- Decentralize technical and financial resources.
- Strengthen the capacities of communities so that projects are sustainable.
- Improve the resolution of the information generated for the application of methodologies for forest monitoring systems.
- Effective and coordinated outreach mechanism between national, regional, local institutions and the community.
- Consolidate a single technological platform for all information generated within the EICGDB framework.
- Encourage national, regional, local institutions and the community to take ownership of the EICGDB.
- Strengthen further community monitoring systems.
- Further involvement of the academy so that information from projects serves as input for initiatives or processes underway.

Photographic record of the national workshop

8.4.2   Record of REDD+ experts' interviews

- Cesar Garay, responsible for the interview
- Carolina Urquijo – Alejandra Rubio, moderators.

<u>Methodology</u>

The main objective of this virtual space was to carry out the self-assessment survey for the 34 criteria of the REDD+ readiness process for Colombia. It was developed in two moments.

The first consisted of presenting the context of the R-Package, the components and subcomponents to be evaluated and the way in which the progress or development of each criterion would be qualified.

The second moment of the interview was about presenting each criterion and asking guiding questions so that the experts, based on their experience, argued his point of view and gave his assessment.

The interviewed experts were Elizabeth Valenzuela Camacho, Diana Vargas, Adriana Lagos and Cesar Rey; who have participated in the REDD+ readiness process in different capacities.

Next, a summary of the interviews carried out is presented randomly without linking the answers to any particular expert.

Expert 1

Regarding subcomponent 1a, in general, the national REDD+ management arrangements are progressing well but need to be further developed. The mechanisms of accountability and transparency and the capacity for technical supervision should be strengthened. In addition, the expert considers that the information exchange and claims compensation mechanisms have not yet been developed, although the expert clarifies that the system has made progress in the design to operate with the same mechanism for complaints and queries used by the ministry.

In subcomponent 1b, the expert considers that, in general, further development is required. It was also emphasized that the consultation process was highly active in the strategy preparation phase but has lost momentum and impact at present. The possibility of resuming the effort made during eleven years was mentioned, in order to advance in the implementation of the strategy. In addition, the expert thinks it is important to improve the consultation results dissemination processes.

For subcomponent 2a, the expert's assessment was quite positive in terms of development, giving the highest score to four of the five criteria and underlining that efforts must be made to improve action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance.

Regarding subcomponent 2b, the expert says further development is required, mainly in terms of cost analysis at the level of local actions, however, progress of the strategy options implications on current sectoral policies was mentioned.

For subcomponent 2c, the interviewee believes that there is still no development in the guidelines for implementation and emphasizes the great gaps around the benefit sharing mechanism, but mentioned the great efforts made by the country regarding the adoption and implementation of legislation.

For subcomponent 2d, on the issue of the development of safeguards within the preparation phase of the EICDGB, significant progress was mentioned, but the expert declares insufficient knowledge to rate the other two criteria of this subcomponent.

In the third component on reference levels, in general, it is considered that further development is required, mainly in relation to the compilation and analysis of data.

In component 4, on the national forest monitoring system, there is significant progress, but it requires further development and especially regarding actions related to the demonstration of the system's early implementation. Regarding the information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards, further progress is required in all criteria.

Expert 2

For subcomponent 1a, unlike the previous expert, this one considered that there is significant development, highlighting the operating mandate and budget criteria, but considers that it is necessary to continue working on the information exchange and claims compensation mechanism.

In subcomponent 1b, both the consultation process criteria and the information sharing and accessibility of information criteria consider significant progress, in terms of the participation and intervention of the main stakeholders, although if there is significant progress, it is necessary to continue advancing and in the execution and public disclosure of the results, further development was lacking.

In subcomponent 2a, the expert considers that a great effort was made in general terms, achieving significant progress in relation to evaluation actions on land use, drivers of changes in land use and the policies. In general, it considers that a broad and deep analysis has been carried out, which considers historical changes in land use and drivers of deforestation. Moreover, the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System has been strengthened in the last ten years, providing more detailed information to guide decision-making on deforestation control.

For subcomponent 2b, as in the previous subcomponent, evaluation is quite positive, giving the highest score to the criteria that evaluate REDD+ strategy options. The expert explains this score saying that the strategy options were widely discussed from the early stages of dialogue and stakeholder engagement, and, as it matured, began to integrate the best knowledge available about the causes and drivers of deforestation and successful experiences that could be replicated. The EICDGB's lines of action and measures recognize the multiple ways of understanding and using the land and forests and the higher purpose of obtaining the environmental services necessary for life and production. Finally, the creation of inter-institutional coordination instances, such as CONALDEF, makes it possible to share aspects or initiatives where the visions of territorial development are not aligned; however, this is outside the scope of REDD+, since it is due to mental structures regarding the development of the country.

On the other hand, subcomponent 2c shows a lower rating, especially the REDD+ National Registry criteria and activities of the REDD+ monitoring system that still have not shown any progress. The expert believes that it is necessary to strengthen the complaint and grievance mechanisms, integrate information on projects under development (who leads them, where, total amount invested, estimates of GHG reductions); further discussion on benefit sharing mechanisms for communities to make informed decisions.

In subcomponent 2d, two of the three criteria were considered to have made significant progress and the third criterion required more effort. The SESA provided a comprehensive analysis in terms of time and coverage. The results were discussed in an organized way with regional actors and integrated as the basis for defining the lines of action, but the ESMF has not been developed for the country.

Regarding component 3, reference levels, progress is significant, the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System has been strengthened in recent years; it generates reliable, robust information and reports used by different types of stakeholders. The demonstration of the methodology should be improved, especially in terms of dissemination and level of detail.

Subcomponent 4a shows great progress. The SMByC has been strengthened with participatory community monitoring schemes, which allow gathering information at the local level and generating capacities, in addition to integrating other methodologies.

Finally, for subcomponent 4b, one criterion was rated with the lowest rating since the National Monitoring System for safeguards implementation needs to be developed. It is necessary to monitor compliance with the safeguards at different levels of REDD+ implementation, both national and subnational (programs) and local (projects).

Expert 3

In general, for this expert, the REDD+ readiness process in Colombia has been quite successful and has shown great results, in such a way that 23 of the 34 criteria were given the highest score considering significant progress, no criterion was given the lowest score, which means that, for the expert, all criteria showed progress and only subcomponent 2c, implementation framework, required further development.

As in the final result of the evaluation of the 34 criteria, the expert considers that progress has been significant for subcomponents 2a and 2d, in addition to subcomponent 2c in general, although there is progress, it is necessary to continue working on improving the guidelines for implementation at the subnational and local levels. Regarding the national REDD+ registry and follow-up activities, it is necessary

to review which documents and information need to be published and ensure access for everyone. In addition, a great amount of relevant information for donors is not currently available.

Regarding subcomponent 4a, the expert, like most participants in the assessment process, considers that it is necessary to join efforts to improve institutional arrangements and capacities, especially in ensuring a greater number of trained professionals working for longer periods of time.

For subcomponent 4b, according to the interviewed expert, actions were generally well evaluated and are progressing well, but further development is required, mainly in terms of the Information System for multiple benefits. There are no indicators to evaluate benefits such as number of people participating in non-carbon initiatives, income by economic activity, improvements children's nutrition, improvements in living conditions, among others.

Expert 4

With Adriana L., the evaluation was developed in two stages, the first was an online meeting where she was the only participant, the second was carried out during the national workshop, where she had a highly active participation.

The summary of the evaluation of the first component is presented below.

Regarding subcomponent 1a, in general, there is significant progress, although further development is required, however, for the criterion of technical supervision capacity further development is required. Emphasis has been placed on the fact that there is no continuity in the hiring of the professionals in charge of technical processes, which leads to loss of knowledge and disruption in programs.

For subcomponent 1b, the expert rates the consultation process criterion in the readiness phase as successful, highlights the great participation at the national workshop as well as the significant number of workshops carried out in total and how they achieved a successful design of the EICDGB, mainly the strategic lines designed to respond to the suggestions and needs expressed by the different participants and inhabitants of the Colombian territory.

8.5 Annex 5: Resources and actions financed for REDD+ readiness

Flujo de recursos por fuente y año para el proceso de preparacion REDD+

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
FCPF	200.000					3.600.000			4.930.000	
Alemania - BMZ	8.808.000									
ONU-REDD						4.000.000				
Noruega - Alemania - Reino Unido							87.337.171			22.000.000
Alemania – IKI BMUB								3.413.056	5.725.028	1.321.200
Total Acumulado	9.008.000	9.008.000	9.008.000	9.008.000	9.008.000	16.608.000	103.945.171	107.358.227	118.013.255	141.334.455

8.5.1   FCPF Readiness Fund

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) has supported Colombia in the preparation of its REDD+ strategy through resources granted to the country through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD or World Bank) and administered by Fondo Acción, a Colombian organization selected for this purpose in a competitive process carried out by the Government of Colombia.

In the context of this cooperation, three grant agreements have been signed. The first agreement (TFAO7024) for the development of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) executed between 2010 and 2013. The second agreement, TF-018501, supported the development of the National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+), in a participatory and inclusive process with the main stakeholders, carried out between 2015 and 2019. The third additional financing agreement, TFAO7032, is currently under execution and is aimed at strengthening implementation capacities, the management framework and enabling environments to create conditions that allow effective and urgent reduction of deforestation. In the second and third grants, Fondo Acción has acted as administrator of the resources and implementing entity.

As a result of the readiness process, the country has advanced in the formulation of the four pillars required for REDD+ by the UNFCCC: (i) formulation of the National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+), (ii) construction of the Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL), (iii) the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC) and (iv) the National Safeguards Information System (SNIS). Additionally, national and regional governance structures have been strengthened, which have allowed the development of a dialogue for the participatory construction of the national strategy. Similarly, sectoral agreements have been promoted, such as the Intersectoral Pact for Legal Timber (PIML), progress has been made in the implementation of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Program (FLEGT) and in the consolidation of zero deforestation agreements with the productive sector of meat, milk, palm oil and timber, within the framework of the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA).

The Comprehensive Strategy for Deforestation Control and Forest Management (EICDGB) is the name given by Colombia to its ENREDD+. It is a cross-sectoral policy instrument that involves the co-responsibility of different sectors of the Colombian State, with the purpose of curbing deforestation and forest degradation, addressing the complexity of their drivers, based on recognizing the strategic significance of these ecosystems for the country, due to their sociocultural, economic and environmental importance, and their potential as a development option within the framework of the peacebuilding process, and their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

With this public policy document, the strategies required to reduce deforestation, forest degradation and associated GHG emissions were established, with a comprehensive vision of the forest and its role in the country's development. Thus, a positive impact is projected for environmental sustainability, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and economic growth supported by natural forests, once these resources are recognized, valued and productive and contribute to comprehensive rural development and the improvement of livelihoods in Colombia.

On the other hand, as a public policy document of fundamental importance for the execution of this cooperation, it is necessary to include the 2018-2022 National Development Plan (PND) ("Pacto por Colombia, Pacto por la Equidad"), which establishes the objective of consolidating the processes that facilitate a balance between the conservation of natural capital, its sustainable use and national

production, in such a way that the natural wealth of the country is used as a strategic asset of the Nation. The Pact will promote comprehensive and coordinated actions between the private sector, the territories, public institutions, international cooperation agencies and civil society to adopt sustainable practices. Similarly, the PND defines strategic actions to enhance the conservation of biodiversity through its sustainable use. The foregoing allows leveraging opportunities to develop the forestry economy and implement sustainable productive alternatives that are inclusive and based on natural capital, defined in the three lines of the Colombian Government's deforestation control strategy, that is, legality, development of the forest economy and permanent monitoring.

Agreement TFAO7032 for the additional FCPF grant, signed on May 7, 2018, and with notification of effectiveness on September 10, 2018, aims to strengthen the enabling conditions for the implementation of the EICDGB. The expected results of Agreement TFAO7032 are:

- Strengthening of the institutional capacity of MinAmbiente to carry out a participatory and inclusive process for the EICDGB implementation.
- An accessible feedback and grievance resolution mechanism for REDD+ designed and ready to be implemented.
- Participatory platforms of the stakeholders involved in REDD+ established at the regional and national levels, for the implementation of the EICDGB.
- Development of an action and financing plan that includes a baseline of territorial conflicts for the consolidation of the rights of collective territories.
- The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) is completed at the national level the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is prepared.
- Definition of intervention models for deforestation hotspots and agricultural frontier areas, proposed within the framework of the EICDGB.
- Development of monitoring systems in community forestry as pilots in three deforestation hotspots.
- Incorporation of the SIS in the Colombian Environmental Information System (SIAC).

8.5.2 GIZ's REDD+ Forest and Climate Protection Program

The program supported MinAmbiente in the coordinated and participatory development and implementation of the national REDD+ strategy, as well as in the establishment of the REDD+ mechanism, named EICDGB in Colombia. It promotes communication and cooperation between stakeholders responsible for the sustainable use of the forest and the reduction of deforestation. In the northern part of the Andes and in the Amazon region, the program analyzed the causes of deforestation. As a result of these analyses, specific recommendations were included in public strategies and policies. In addition, program advisors promoted coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy with regional and local level stakeholders and strengthen their capacities in relation to mechanisms and instruments for the reduction of deforestation.

Pilot projects demonstrated how the sustainable use of forests affected or threatened by deforestation and/or degradation can contribute to the reduction of emissions. Pilot projects combine technical and methodological aspects of REDD+ with practical implementation activities. Together with MinAmbiente and stakeholders from civil society and the Regional Environmental Corporations (CARs), the program

developed safeguards guidelines, which were applied by the program's target group in REDD+ projects and coordination mechanisms.

Impacts

The program monitored the dialogue process between the Ministry of Environment and relevant REDD+ stakeholders in the Amazon and the Pacific coast, in which the key contents for the national safeguards were collectively defined. Representatives of Indigenous peoples, peasants, African-Colombians and regional institutions gave their opinions and proposals regarding REDD+.

Important ministries and private sector representatives joined the "Intersectoral Pact for Legal Timber", such as the Ministry of Defense and forestry producer associations.

In addition, the Forest Boards, as forums for dialogue and decision-making at the regional level, have been strengthened with the focus on the use and protection of the forest. This dialogue has become a continuous and systematic process that allows these stakeholders to make decisions collectively to control deforestation. As a result of the studies on the drivers of deforestation carried out in six departments, regional stakeholders integrated measures to reduce deforestation in their development plans in Santander, Norte de Santander, Guaviare, Caquetá, Putumayo and Meta.

8.5.3 Strengthening of REDD+ national capacities in Colombia

Impacts

- **Consolidation of the national approach for REDD+ implementation.** The program accompanied the National Government in the process of building its own vision about REDD+ implementation in the country, which led, after several years to several collaborators developing the EICDGB together, incorporating an integrating and comprehensive vision on forest conservation and management, which goes beyond reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation. In parallel with the strategy, the program, together with the Ministry of Environment and IDEAM, generated an input document for the Policy Against Deforestation, which is in the adjustment phase to be adopted through a CONPES. The preparation of these inputs accounts for compliance with requirements established by the UNFCCC regarding REDD+ implementation as well as two milestones within the framework of the current National Development Plan (2014-2018), and several of the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between Colombia and the governments of Germany, the United Kingdom and Norway.
- **Generation of inputs for the fulfillment of Colombia's international commitments before the UNFCCC and multilateral agreements related to REDD+ and the implementation of payments for results (REM, Joint Declaration of Intent - JDI).** Within the framework of the requirements established by the UNFCCC's Warsaw REDD+ Framework, the program developed fundamental inputs for its fulfillment, such as: generation of information for the construction of the Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL), the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (INGEI) and the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC), which has the function of performing monitoring/measurement, reporting and verification (M/MRV).

- **Consolidation of the National Forest Monitoring System (SNMB). Together with MinAmbiente and IDEAM**, the Program led the development of inputs and technical and legal documents, which allowed the issuance and publication of Decree 1655 of October 2017, through which the organization and operation of the National Forest Information System was established (SNIF), the National Forest Inventory (IFN) and the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC). These instruments are part of the Colombian Environmental Information System (SIAC) and together constitute the SNMB required by the UNFCCC as one of the REDD+ pillars.

- **Definition of the country approach, consolidation of the National Safeguards System (SNS), design of the Safeguards Information System (SIS) and delivery of the First Safeguards Information Summary to the UNFCCC.** The program led, together with the Ministry of Environment, the consolidation of the approach and the national interpretation of safeguards, collecting views from multiple stakeholders, as well as the definition of a monitoring mechanism on how the safeguards are approached in the Safeguards Information System (SIS). In addition, the program accompanied the Ministry of Environment in the review and adjustment of the First Safeguards Information Summary submitted to the UNFCCC in the framework of the Third National Communication on Climate Change (TCNCC), and in the consolidation of the Second Safeguards Information Summary submitted to public consultation in October 2017.

- **Strengthening of institutional and stakeholder capacities for the implementation of REDD+.** The program contributed to the improvement of the knowledge and capacities of institutional and social stakeholders regarding climate change and REDD+, which improved decision-making processes for the EICDGB construction.

- **Organizational Strengthening and Coordination Spaces between civil society and the National Government around the issue of Climate Change and REDD+.** The program contributed to the creation and strengthening of coordination and dialogue spaces on this issue, such as the National REDD+ Board and specific working groups for each of the key stakeholders involved in REDD+ readiness and implementation.

- **Development of instruments for the implementation of measures and actions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation**. The program worked in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC) of IDEAM in the identification, design and construction of proposals for measures and actions that contribute to the formulation of the *Bosques Territorios de Vida* Strategy, as well as the development of proposals for instruments that provide guidelines for the implementation of the strategy at a territorial level, mainly in the Pacific region. The generation of conditions and financial mechanisms for the implementation of the strategy at the territorial level is highlighted**.** Additionally, work was carried out together with IDEAM in developing a methodological proposal, and an analysis of the environmental and social benefits delivered to the Pacific region.

- **Development of publications and communication tools for decision-making.** The program developed 30 publications that provide technical and analytical information for the improvement of information and decision-making in the country regarding climate change and REDD+ and the role of forests in this context.

Other results

- **Inputs for the fulfillment of the country's commitments within the framework of the Joint Declaration with the governments of Germany and the United Kingdom.** The program contributed to the fulfillment of 15 milestones (out of 63) established in the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI), on the following issues associated with MRV, participation and ethnic groups, and consolidation of instruments for the implementation of REDD+.

- **Development of inputs and conditions for the implementation of REDD+ in the Colombian Pacific region.** Given that the Pacific region concentrates the second highest forest cover in Colombia (after the Amazon), the program sought to generate input contributions for the implementation of REDD+ in this region. The actions of the program in the region focused on: i) strengthening the capacities of local stakeholders, ii) social and environmental safeguards for REDD+, iii) participatory community monitoring, iv) drivers and agents of deforestation, v) measures and actions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the Pacific region, and vi) the consolidation of a set of measures, regional programs and local initiatives for their implementation, accompanied by a financing strategy.

- **Communications and knowledge management:** The program provided constant support to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in the formulation and implementation of the communications strategy of the ENREDD+ (2015-2016), and *Bosques Territorios de Vida* - EICDGB (2017-2018). Also, it supported the consolidation of the knowledge management route and the editorial line of the UN-REDD Program with educational, ethnic, scientific, analytical, financial and process systematization publications.

8.5.4 Joint cooperation resources from the governments of Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom

The aim of the joint cooperation is:

1. Contribute to achieving significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Colombia;
2. Contribute to the achievement of the national objectives of:
    i. Reducing annual deforestation in Colombia to 90,000 hectares or less by 2018;
    ii. Reaching zero net deforestation in the Colombian Amazon by 2020;
    iii. Restoring an additional 210,000 hectares between 2015 and 2018, with the aim of establishing restoration processes in an additional 200,080 hectares by 2020;
    iv. Striving to end natural forest loss by 2030.
3. Contribute to the sustainable development of rural sectors and communities in Colombia in the context of the aforementioned objectives, support a transition to low-carbon and resilient rural development, and promote zero deforestation in key commodity supply chains, all of which Colombia sees as essential for the achievement of lasting peace;
4. Work together to advance the goals of the New York Declaration on Forests and support the progress of global efforts related to climate change and sustainable development in general, and REDD+ in particular.

8.5.5 Cooperation of the German government – IKI – BMUB.

8.5.5.1 Implementing sustainable production systems to contribute to forest conservation, climate protection (REDD+) and the peacebuilding process in Colombia

Forests are important for biodiversity and also have an important role to play as carbon sinks. However, ecosystems are often threatened by expanding land use. Therefore, the project promotes sustainable land use systems, focusing on the agricultural sector (e.g. livestock farming). It is aimed at farmers in areas that have been identified as priority areas for carbon storage and landscape restoration and that are also affected or threatened by armed conflict. The project contributes to reducing CO_2, preserving forests, restoring degraded landscapes and improving quality of life. In this way, it advances in the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), while at the same time strengthening peacekeeping activities. Systems are adapted to local conditions. The next step will be to develop scaling strategies, which will promote the most promising approaches.

Implementation status/results

- The project focuses on the departments of Caquetá and Cesar as the two regional hubs to pilot Sustainable Productive Systems (SLUS).
- CIAT led the Multiplatform Stakeholder Secretariat on the Zero Deforestation Value Chain Agreement for the dairy and meat sectors in Colombia.
- Five dairy companies, as well as a project that promotes peacebuilding and sustainability in the Amazon region, signed the zero-deforestation agreement with the dairy value chain (Alpina, Asoleche and others). CIPAV, together with the regional government of Caquetá, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Departmental Committee for Livestock Farmers established the Dairy and Meat Value Chain Committee, which is the official regional body recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture for matters related to this productive activity.
- The agreement with FEDECACAO was extended to support pilot works for organic cocoa agroforestry. The project works with cocoa actors in Caquetá and Cesar for the formalization of the cocoa value chain committee.
- CIPAV has signed agreements that include the reduction of deforestation in regions of the meat and dairy supply chains in Colombia and is contributing to the development of the NAMA for livestock production by assisting in the development of the baseline and improving the scenarios with a special focus on the SLUS projects.
- In Cesar, CIPAV and the Ministry of Agriculture established the Dairy Value Chain Committee with representatives of the dairy industry, local government, and academic and research institutions.

8.5.5.2 Enabling conditions to reduce deforestation in the Colombian Amazon (Caquetá) through sustainable agroforestry in the context of integrated land use

The Amazon basin is one of the most species-rich ecosystems in the world, but it is threatened, above all, by deforestation. The project helps to reduce deforestation and preserve biodiversity in the Colombian region. To achieve these goals, it supports local land users and Indigenous communities in introducing sustainable production systems such as agroforestry. In addition to providing technical advice, the project also develops business models and financing mechanisms to enable broad-based implementation. Green

corridors are promoted through the development of an integrated landscape model that links Indigenous territories, protected areas and sustainable farming systems. The impacts of the project make it possible for the region to receive funds for REDD+ measures - and to use them successfully. The project also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and increases the adaptability of both ecosystems and the food security of the population.

Implementation status/results

The implementation of the project with farmers and Indigenous communities of the foothills and the Amazonian plain of Caquetá has generated valuable learnings to achieve sustainable agroforestry in the region. These learnings were compiled into a Conservation Agroforestry Toolkit specially designed for local institutions, agricultural technicians, farmers and communities. This is an instrument that allows them to strengthen their capacities to plan, implement and monitor agroforestry systems, contributing to the consolidation of a Sustainable Amazonian landscape.

13 tools were developed:

- Real Estate Planning Guide
- Technical assistance practical guide
- Guide for the reconversion of livestock systems
- Guide for the implementation of meliponiculture in the Colombian Amazon
- Agroforestry systems in the Fragua Churumbelos and Bajo Caguán corridors
- Practical guide for participatory planning
- Concepts, guidelines and criteria for the participatory integration of the environmental aspects of territorial management
- Guide for the construction of dialogues and intercultural agreements in the territory
- Land Cover Monitoring Protocol
- Biodiversity Monitoring Protocol
- Carbon monitoring protocol in forest and non-forest areas in Colombia
- Guide for the declaration of civil society reservations
- Agroforestry models

8.6   Annex 6: List of participants

TALLER PARA LA AUTOEVALUACIÓN DE LOS PROGRESOS Y LA CAPACIDAD NACIONAL PARA LA PREPARACIÓN DE LA ESTRATEGIA NACIONAL REDD+ EN COLOMBIA (PAQUETE-R)

REGION ANDINA

Hotel Inter Bogotá Cra. 3 #20-17, 8 de febrero de 2022

No	NOMBRE	ENTIDAD /INSTITUCIÓN	CARGO	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO	FIRMA
11	Lady Paz Quijano	ORC/ Mesa Forestal Cauca Andina	Contratista			
12	Mónica S Mcasmo	Corporación Autonoma Regional Santander	Prof. espe.			
13	Mónica (micungara)	Corporación de Desarrollo Sostenible del Sur MASHIRAMO.	Rep legal.			
14	Oscar A. Ducuara	CAR	Contratista			
15	Holman A Gutie	CAC	P. Prof.			
16	Amparo Carillo I	Gob de Cundinamarca	Profesional			
17	Elizabett Zuluaga	Coinare	PR - ByB			
18	Silvia Gómez G	Gob. Antioquia	Dir sub			Silvia Gómez G
19	Lanna Duarte	Fondo Acción	Asistente ejecutiva			
20	Jainson Higuera	Gob Cund	Contratista			

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TALLER PARA LA AUTOEVALUACIÓN DE LOS PROGRESOS Y LA CAPACIDAD NACIONAL PARA LA PREPARACIÓN DE LA ESTRATEGIA NACIONAL REDD+ EN COLOMBIA (PAQUETE-R)

REGION ANDINA

Hotel Inter Bogotá Cra. 3 #20-17, 8 de febrero de 2022

No	NOMBRE	ENTIDAD /INSTITUCIÓN	CARGO	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO	FIRMA
1	Guillermo Rosales	Dgroscorreia	Rep Leg			
2	Adriana Pin Lazm.	Paclos Boyu antioqui	Sustenia Te			
3	Hermes Carreras	Fumopomes	2 L			
4	JA Dory Yepes	FA	A. técnio			
5	Jua E. Andrea Cubillos	Fondo Acción	Asistente Técnico			
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TALLER PARA LA AUTOEVALUACIÓN DE LOS PROGRESOS Y LA CAPACIDAD NACIONAL PARA LA PREPARACIÓN DE LA ESTRATEGIA NACIONAL REDD+ EN COLOMBIA (PAQUETE-R)

REGION PACÍFICA

Hotel Casa Santa Mónica Cali - Sede Norte Calle 23N #8N-24, 10 de febrero de 2022

No	NOMBRE	ENTIDAD /INSTITUCIÓN	CARGO	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO	FIRMA
11	Hilton Juvan Palma Cubizas	ARIT - AISO	Autoridad indigena			
12	Helver Daniel Vargas Corredor	OPIAC - Territorio	Abogado			
13	Victor E. Mena	Universidad del Choco	Ingeniero			
14	Angel E. Mena A	Mesa Forestal del Chocó	Ingeniero			
15	Paula Andrea Cubillos	Fondo Acción	Asistente Técnica			.org Redundel.
16	Paula Andrea Gilenes	DAGMA	Profesional			
17	Hector Fabio Gómez C.	PCN				
18	Ivonne Ahumada	Fondo Acción	Apoyo Operativo			
19	Tatiana López P.	IIAP	Contratista			
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TALLER PARA LA AUTOEVALUACIÓN DE LOS PROGRESOS Y LA CAPACIDAD NACIONAL PARA LA PREPARACIÓN DE LA ESTRATEGIA NACIONAL REDD+ EN COLOMBIA (PAQUETE-R)

REGION PACÍFICA

Hotel Casa Santa Mónica Cali - Sede Norte Calle 23N #8N-24, 10 de febrero de 2022

No	NOMBRE	ENTIDAD /INSTITUCIÓN	CARGO	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO	FIRMA
1	Gil Milena Grueso	Mesa Forestal Cauca Pacifico IIAP	Presidente Adm.Tec.Res			Gil Milena G
2	Leonor J Cortes	Mesa forestal Nariño Sociocull	As Tecnico			
3	Luis A. austo	CODECHOCO	Prof. ISP			
4	Pedro Victor Everado	Corp. Mac y Cac	Prof Agrop			
5	José Absalón Suarez	RCN	equip Formacion			
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TALLER PARA LA AUTOEVALUACIÓN DE LOS PROGRESOS Y LA CAPACIDAD NACIONAL PARA LA PREPARACIÓN DE LA ESTRATEGIA NACIONAL REDD+ EN COLOMBIA (PAQUETE-R)

REGION AMAZONICA Y ORINOQUIA

15 de febrero de 2022

Fondo Acción

FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP

No	NOMBRE	ENTIDAD /INSTITUCIÓN	CARGO	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO	FIRMA
1	Gigui Gugal Val	Corpoamguaric	Auditora AT-POT			
2	Lilia Java T.	Resguardo Ind. Ticoya	Apoyo Gestion			Lilia Java T.
3	Jose Gregorio Super	Regu. Ticoya	GIAHEIENM Cord. Guardia			
4	Juan Carlos Bernal	cormacarena	Prof. Estrategia			
5	Noemi Lucero Naruno	Pueblo Yagua	Líder Indigena			KWD
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No	NOMBRE	ENTIDAD /INSTITUCIÓN	CARGO	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO	FIRMA
21	Jimenes Silva	Mesa Forest Mote aspiratica vissectory	cualinaba. Gerenk.			
22	Alexander Meneses J	UNAB	Director centro EBQ Unab Amb		qu. cu	
23	Daniel maurecos	CIAT	Profesional Campo			
24	Raul Gomez Peño	FCDS/burana	Coordinador Forestura comunitaria		con	
25	Jhan Jairo Arbelaez	M.A.D.S.	Sent.			
26	Luis Fdo Coontreros	Corposmazonia	DIRECCR JIA		ro	aieu
27	Mario Alexander Jonda	GOB CAQUETA	Prof. Universi		an	
28	Dumiun Hise	Saa faciona	Juim Ind.			
29	Diewel Cou	M PA	Delegado			
30						

TALLER PARA LA AUTOEVALUACIÓN DE LOS PROGRESOS Y LA CAPACIDAD NACIONAL PARA LA PREPARACIÓN DE LA ESTRATEGIA NACIONAL REDD+ EN COLOMBIA (PAQUETE-R)

Nacional

Hilton Garden Inn Bogotá Airport Carrera 82 N.º 25G 54, Bogotá, Colombia, 2 de marzo de 2022

No	NOMBRE	ENTIDAD /INSTITUCIÓN	CARGO	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO	FIRMA
1	Natali Velasco Alvarez	Acc Pacha Mama	Delegade			
2	Luis Guillermo Izquierdo	CIT	Delegado CI			
3	Jordy Panchira	Acro	Delegad			
4	Maria Juan	uut	ep CC			
5	Alexandra Bandna	Onic	Comunica		onroe@gmail.com	
6	Ivonne Zambrano	Onic	Ing Ambiental		Ivonne Z	
7	Marco Ehrlich	SINCHI	Subdirector Cientifico		El Lillard	
8	Angela Duque	Biocarbon Registry	Directora			
9						
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TALLER PARA LA AUTOEVALUACIÓN DE LOS PROGRESOS Y LA CAPACIDAD NACIONAL PARA LA
PREPARACIÓN DE LA ESTRATEGIA NACIONAL REDD+ EN COLOMBIA (PAQUETE-R)

Nacional

Hilton Garden Inn Bogotá Airport Carrera 82 N.ª 25G 84, Bogotá, Colombia, 2 de marzo de 2022

No	NOMBRE	ENTIDAD /INSTITUCIÓN	CARGO	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO	FIRMA
11	Chtdsfritentnéa	Fondo Accion	Drtthin Trenca			EA
12	Luz Stella Pulido P	Minambiente	Prof ESP			lueSP
13	Jose Luis Ranges	PCN	Scireonder			
14	Jose Fernando Ortiz	MinAmbiente	Consultor DODSE			
15	Luz Dary Yepes R	FA	Apoyo técnico FCPF			
16	Paola Andrea Cubillos	Fondo Accion	Asistente Técnico			Paulandré
17	Julia Palacios C	IIAP	Enlace Bogota			
18	Nho Cibayo	Emb Niveg y	Asson			
19	Natalia Naran	Humboldt	Investgador			
20	Adriana Lagos	PNUD.	ARCORA			

8.7   Annex 7: Projects (PJ) and Programs (PR) registered in RENARE as of February 2022

No.	Intermediary	Type	Name	Phase
1	WEACT Colombia SAS	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ conservation of Ethno sustainable Afro-Colombian community in the Tropical Rain Forest of Colombia	Feasibility
2	WEACT Colombia SAS	REDD+ PJ	Protection of Mangroves and community developmental activities in the biodiversity hotspot of Colombia	Feasibility
3	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	PALAMEKU KUWEI REDD+ Conservation Project	Feasibility (approval request)
4	AMAZON CARBON BONDS SAS	REDD+ PJ	KUWAI MAKARO WIDI REDD+ CARURU	Feasibility
5	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Mitigación Forestal Resguardo Indígena Tikuna, Cocama y Yagua (TICOYA)	Feasibility (Approval Rejected)
6	AMAZON CARBON BONDS SAS	REDD+ PJ	FEPAITE MATSIDALI WAWAPAODA REDD+ PUERTO COLOMBIA	Feasibility
7	AMAZON CARBON BONDS SAS	REDD+ PJ	DEIYIABENA REDD+ NUKAK	Feasibility
8	Wildlife Works Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Origen Atrato - Baudó_	Feasibility
9	Wildlife Works Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ del Bajo Atrato	Feasibility
10	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	CO2Bio Proyecto 2	Feasibility (approval request)
11	Terra Global Capital, LLC	REDD+ PJ	PROYECTO COMUNITARIO COCOMACIA REDD+ CHOCO / ANTIOQUIA COLOMBIA	Elaboration
12	CARBO Sostenible SAS	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ Puerto Zábalo-Los Monos	Feasibility (approval request)
13	CARBO Sostenible SAS	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ Monochoa	Feasibility (approval request)
14	Terra Commodities S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Crima Predio Putumayo-Andoque de Aduche REDD+	Feasibility (approval request)
15	Terra Commodities S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Pedeguita-Mancilla REDD+	Feasibility (approval request)
16	Wildlife Works Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Maloca Vaupes	Feasibility
17	CORPORACION AUTONOMA REGIONAL DEL GUAVIO CORPOGUAVIO	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ Corpoguavio	Feasibility
18	CO2CERO S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ PAZcífico	Elaboration
19	VARAS COLOMBIA SAS BIC Basic data	REDD+ PJ	VALORIZACION DE RESIDUOS AGROINDUSTRIALES	Feasibility

No.	Intermediary	Type	Name	Phase
20	Corporation for the sustainable management of forests (MASBOSQUES)	REDD+ PJ	Manejo Sostenible de los Bosques Aplicado al predio Santa Ana, vereda El Popal, Municipio de Sonsón, bajo el esquema BancO2.	Feasibility
21	Corporation for the sustainable management of forests (MASBOSQUES)	REDD+ PJ	Manejo Sostenible de los Bosques Aplicado en el Oriente Antioqueño bajo el esquema BancO2®	Elaboration
22	Corporation for the sustainable management of forests (MASBOSQUES)	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Rio Guaviare	Feasibility
23	Corporation for the sustainable management of forests (MASBOSQUES)	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Miraflores	Feasibility
24	Corporation for the sustainable management of forests (MASBOSQUES)	REDD+ PJ	Guainía River REDD+ Project	Feasibility
25	Corporation for the sustainable management of forests (MASBOSQUES)	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Azirpa	Feasibility
26	Corporation for the sustainable management of forests (MASBOSQUES)	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Baka Rokarire ~ia tir+~dito	Feasibility
27	Wildlife Works Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Origen Atrato - Baudó	Feasibility
28	Wildlife Works Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ del Bajo Atrato_	Feasibility
29	Wildlife Works Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ ACILAPP	Feasibility
30	Corporation for the sustainable management of forests (MASBOSQUES)	REDD+ PJ	Makaro Ap+ro	Feasibility
31	Leroy Alexis	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ Tarapacá	Feasibility
32	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ resguardo indígena Bachaco Buenavista	Feasibility
33	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ resguardo indígena Cumaral Guamuco	Feasibility
34	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ resguardo indígena Laguna niñal	Feasibility
35	Terra Commodities S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	El Alivio-Nare REDD+	Feasibility
36	BIOFIX Consultoria S.A.S BIOFIX	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Conservación COCOMAN FRONTERA REDD+	Elaboration
37	BIOFIX Consultoria S.A.S BIOFIX	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Conservación BANAKALE ISIMALI REDD+	Elaboration
38	BIOFIX Consultoria S.A.S BIOFIX	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Conservación NAYA REDD+	Elaboration

No.	Intermediary	Type	Name	Phase
39	Fundación Ecotropics Colombia	REDD+ PJ	Infraestructuras Ecosistémicas REDD+ para los campesinos de Antioquia Colombia	Feasibility
40	Cormagdalena	REDD+ PJ	PROYECTO AGRUPADO PARA REDUCIR LAS EMISIONES POR DEFORESTACIÓN Y DEGRADACIÓN FORESTAL - REDD EN EL PARQUE NATURAL REGIONAL: CORREDOR BIOLÓGICO PNN PURACÉ - PNN CUEVA DE LOS GUÁCHAROS.	Elaboration
41	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Conservación PALAMEKU KUWEI REDD+	Feasibility (Approval Rejected)
42	BIOFIX Consultoria S.A.S BIOFIX	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Conservación ARLEQUÍN REDD+	Elaboration
43	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Conservación DELFINES CUPICA REDD+	Elaboration
44	Leroy Alexis	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta	Feasibility
45	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	CO2BIO FEDECACAO	Feasibility
46	Allan David SOUTH POLE CARBON ASSET MANAGEMENT SAS	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Resguardo Arhuaco, Cesar	Feasibility
47	Compensation International Progress S.A	REDD+ PJ	CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS ECOSISTEMAS Y EL ALMACÉN DE CARBONO REGIÓN DE TRANSICIÓN GUAYANO AMAZÓNICA 'FLOR DE INÍRIDA'	Feasibility
48	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	DABUCURY REDD+	Elaboration
49	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	El Tigre REDD+	Elaboration
50	Forero Dueñas Plinio Rolando	REDD+ PJ	Pago por servicios ambientales del esquema de manejo forestal y conservación de los recursos hídricos en la Jurisdicción de Corpochivor (ERSA)	Elaboration
51	Allan David SOUTH POLE CARBON ASSET MANAGEMENT SAS	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ Kogui Malayo Arhuaco	Feasibility
52	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	CO2BIO FASE I	Elaboration
53	Fondo Acción	REDD+ PJ	ACAPA - BAJO MIRA Y FRONTERA REDD+ PROJECT	Elaboration
54	Fondo Acción	REDD+ PJ	CAJAMBRE REDD+ PROJECT	Elaboration
55	Fondo Acción	REDD+ PJ	BAJO CALIMA Y BAHÍA MÁLAGA (BCBM) REDD+ PROJECT	Elaboration
56	Fondo Acción	REDD+ PJ	CONCOSTA REDD+ PROJECT	Elaboration
57	Fondo Acción	REDD+ PJ	SIVIRÚ-USARAGÁ-PIZARRO-PILIZÁ (SUPP) REDD+ PROJECT	Elaboration
58	Fondo Acción	REDD+ PJ	RIO PEPE Y ACABA REDD+ PROJECT	Elaboration
59	Fondo Acción	REDD+ PJ	MUTATÁ REDD+ PROJECT	Elaboration
60	Leroy Alexis	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto Naturamazonas - Piedemonte Amazónico	Feasibility
61	Fondo Acción	REDD+ PJ	Corredor de Conservación Chocó-Darién	Elaboration

No.	Intermediary	Type	Name	Phase
62	Fondo Acción	REDD+ PJ	Carmen del Darién (CDD) REDD+ Project	Elaboration
63	CARBO Sostenible SAS	REDD+ PJ	Condoto REDD+	Elaboration
64	CARBO Sostenible SAS	REDD+ PJ	Jaimacurú REDD+	Elaboration
65	Leroy Alexis	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ Resguardo Indígena Huitorá	Feasibility
66	Leroy Alexis	REDD+ PJ	REDD+ Alto Putumayo	Feasibility
67	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Conservación YAAWI IIPANA REDD+	Elaboration
68	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Conservación KALIAWIRI REDD+	Feasibility (Approval Rejected)
69	Corporation for the sustainable management of forests (MASBOSQUES)	REDD+ PJ	+BOSQUES: Proyecto para la Conservación de la Amazonía	Feasibility
70	CARBO Sostenible SAS	REDD+ PJ	UNUMA-VICHADA REDD+	Elaboration
71	Permian Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	COPANGUA III - ZONA FUTURO CHIRIBIQUETE Y PARQUES NACIONALES ALEDAÑOS	Feasibility
72	Permian Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	COPANGUA II - ZONA FUTURO CHIRIBIQUETE Y PARQUES NACIONALES ALEDAÑOS	Feasibility
73	Permian Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	AMEMREDD II - ZONA FUTURO CHIRIBIQUETE Y PARQUES NACIONALES ALEDAÑOS	Feasibility
74	Allan David SOUTH POLE CARBON ASSET MANAGEMENT SAS	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Magnolios de Yarumal	Elaboration
75	CO2CERO S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	PELIWAISI REDD+ ALTO UNUMA VICHADA	Elaboration
76	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Conservación TANGARA REDD+	Elaboration
77	Permian Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	SIAREREDD	Feasibility
78	Leroy Alexis	REDD+ PJ	Conservación REDD+ Sur del Meta "Bosques de paz, Sustento de vida"	Feasibility
79	Allan David SOUTH POLE CARBON ASSET MANAGEMENT SAS	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ en los Bosques de la cuenca del Rio Otún	Elaboration
80	Conservation International Foundation	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de Carbono Azul Golfo de Morrosquillo "Vida Manglar"	Elaboration
81	Permian Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	AMEMREDD I - ZONA FUTURO CHIRIBIQUETE Y PARQUES NACIONALES ALEDAÑOS	Feasibility
82	Permian Colombia S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	COPANGUA I - ZONA FUTURO CHIRIBIQUETE Y PARQUES NACIONALES ALEDAÑOS	Feasibility
83	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Asociación ASOCAUNIGUVI	Feasibility

No.	Intermediary	Type	Name	Phase
84	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Planeta agradecido con el Gran resguardo indígena del Vaupés, proyecto 1	Elaboration
85	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Resguardo Indígena Corocoro	Feasibility
86	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Resguardo Indígena Nukak	Feasibility
87	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Planeta agradecido con el Gran resguardo indígena del Vaupés, proyecto 3	Elaboration
88	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Resguardo Indígena Carrizal	Feasibility
89	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ resguardo indígena Mirití Paraná	Feasibility
90	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Planeta agradecido con el Gran resguardo indígena del Vaupés, proyecto 2	Elaboration
91	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Planeta agradecido con el resguardo indígena CMARI	Elaboration
92	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ resguardo indígena Unido U'wa	Feasibility
93	WALDRATTUNG S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Planeta agradecido con el resguardo indígena Bajo Río Guainía y Río Negro	Elaboration
94	Saving the Amazon	REDD+ PJ	ACAZUNIP, territorios indígenas de adaptabilidad climática y desarrollo agroforestal	Feasibility
95	BioCarbon Registry	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto de compensación de emisiones Conservación del Bosque Galilea-Amé	Elaboration
96	Allan David SOUTH POLE CARBON ASSET MANAGEMENT SAS	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ de los pueblos indígenas del Vaupés YUTUCU y Otros	Elaboration
97	Allan David SOUTH POLE CARBON ASSET MANAGEMENT SAS	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ pueblos indígenas resguardando la selva	Elaboration
98	MEDIAMOS F&M S.A.S	REDD+ PJ	Proyecto REDD+ Resguardo Indígena Unificado – Selva de Matavén (RIU-SM)	Feasibility
99	INFI-MANIZALES	PG REDD+	Proyecto forestal para la cuenca del Río chinchiná, una alternativa ambiental para la ciudad y la región	Feasibility
100	MinAmbiente	PG REDD+	Programa Visión Amazonia	Implementation