

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) External Review Template**

Review of R-PP of: El Salvador

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Standards to be Met by R-PP Components

(From Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 5:)

Summary of Findings and Recommendations

Standard	Summary of attainment of the standard	Comments
Standard 1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements	The standard is partially met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Standard 1b: Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups	The standard is partially met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Standard 1c: Consultation and Participation Process	The standard is partially met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Standard 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Forest Law, Policy, and Governance:	The standard is partially met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Standard 2.b: REDD-plus strategy Options:	The standard is partially met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Standard 2.c: REDD-plus implementation framework:	The standard is partially met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Standard 2.d: Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation:	The standard is not met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Standard 3: Reference Level:	The standard is partially met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Standard 4a: Emissions and Removals:	The standard is partially met	Kindly see the notes in the component

Standard 4b: Other Multiple Benefits, Impacts, and Governance:	The standard is not met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Standard 5: Completeness of information and resource requirements	The standard is met	Kindly see the notes in the component
Component 6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	The standard is partially met	Kindly see the notes in the component

Component 1. Organize and Consult

Standard 1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements:

The cross-cutting nature of the design and workings of the national readiness management arrangements on REDD, in terms of including relevant stakeholders and key government agencies beyond the forestry department, commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD readiness. Capacity building activities are included in the work plan for each component where significant external technical expertise has been used in the R-PP development process.

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

The RPP includes a short description of the structure for the preparation of national readiness, building on existing structures. There is evidence that relevant stakeholders and government departments are involved in readiness management arrangements.

Recommendations from reviewers:

More explanations should be provided on how the strategic level and the operative level are interconnected. If the “unidad coordinadora PREP” is doing this connection, its composition and role should be described in the text.

More details could be provided on the implementing institutions, and what are their respective roles

In addition, political and legal frameworks for REDD+ readiness could be described in this section

The scope for multistakeholder engagement in REDD+ readiness process is weak. The ownership is crucial at REDD+ readiness process to ensure meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders – including but not limited to forest dependent communities, CSOs and NGOs. It would be useful to have more information on the management arrangements, providing additional explanations on how the R-PP formulation was undertaken, including roles played by each of the different stakeholders. We recommend the inclusion of representatives of relevant stakeholders in SINAMA and CCC bodies, to make the process more transparent.

Information on the initial elaboration on “commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD readiness”, which is indicated in component 1b, could be included in this component.

The standard is partially met

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

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

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

The identification of key stakeholders seems to be complete.

Recommendations from reviewers:

The phases of the consultation are structured, but they should be better defined, and the connection between phases should be further explained. It would be necessary to know how the results of phase I (initial dissemination) links with phase II (that is only described in the RPP –component 1.c.- for the national level).

There is no definitive information on the link of this section to the Environmental law and Environmental policy 2012, which ensures full involvement of local communities in Environmental issues.

Since REDD+ intervention has been envisaged to offer an adaptation/mitigation approach, capacity building at various levels is essential to fully capture the logic of this aligned approach. Local level consultations would need to be further enhanced to make this understandable.

Standard partially met.

Standard 1c: Consultation and Participation Process

Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders, and inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, will be assessed by whether proposals and/ or documentation on the following are included in the R-PP (i) the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far³ (ii) the extent of ownership within government and national stakeholder community; (iii) the Consultation and Participation Plan for the R-PP implementation phase (iv) concerns expressed and recommendations of relevant stakeholders, and a process for their consideration, and/or expressions of their support for the R-PP; (v) and mechanisms for addressing grievances regarding consultation and participation in the REDD-plus process, and for conflict resolution and redress of grievances.

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

This section corresponds to phase II of consultation process described in the RPP.

³ Did the R-PP development, in particular the development of the ToR for the strategic environmental and social assessment and the Consultation and Participation Plan, include civil society, including forest dwellers and Indigenous Peoples representation? In this context the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways: (i) self-determined representative(s) meeting the following requirements: (a) selected through a participatory, consultative process; (b) having national coverage or networks; (c) previous experience working with the Government and UN system; (d) demonstrated experience serving as a representative, receiving input from, consulting with, and providing feedback to, a wide scope of civil society including Indigenous Peoples organizations; or (ii) Individual(s) recognized as legitimate representative(s) of a national network of civil society and/or Indigenous Peoples organizations (e.g., the GEF Small Grants National Steering Committee or National Forest Program Steering Committee).

Recommendations from reviewers:

It seems that the local consultation is not described. We consider this is a very important step in the development of the REDD+ strategy, and deserves more consideration in this document.

There seems to be unbalanced allocation of resources for the national level compared to local level consultation. We recommend revising this situation, balancing allocation or justifying the unbalance.

Linkages with component 1.b. should be further reflected in the RPP.

Standard partially met.

Component 2. Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy

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

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

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

Drivers are partially identified and described, and past efforts in the forest sector are included.

Recommendations from reviewers:

Forest tenure/land tenure system would need further development, as it is not clear how land tenure problems could be solved. We recommend elaborating, in this component, on different types of land tenure and their relationship with resources use rights. This could be in addition to the elaboration mentioned in components 1b and 1c.

Drivers have been clearly identified for deforestation, but for forest degradation (except for mangroves) they are not so well identified. They should be better described.

We recommend identifying, in a more direct way, significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD+; which would then set "the stage for development of the country's REDD strategy to directly address key land use change drivers". We would recommend developing an analysis of drivers to prioritize them and help developing the adequate strategy to address them.

Standard is partially met

Standard 2.b: REDD-plus strategy Options:

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

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

We see a positive value in focusing on “mitigation based on adaptation” to address REDD+.

Recommendations from reviewers:

The standard seems to focus on activities for increasing forest area of El Salvador. It is true that this is positive, but the REDD+ strategy should focus on addressing the drivers that lead to deforestation and forest degradation first, rather than increasing forest cover. We recommend considering this prioritization of REDD+ activities.

In this section, measures to address drivers are listed, but the links between the measures and the drivers they address are not included. Detailed ToR with strategy options to address key drivers is important.

In order to promote synergies and consistencies when applying the approach of mitigation based on adaptation, a national adaptation plan could be developed, or integrated in the REDD+ strategy.

Standard is partially met

Standard 2.c: REDD-plus implementation framework:

Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) and a work plan to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD-plus in the country setting. Identifies key issues involved in REDD-plus implementation, and explores potential arrangements to address them; offers a work plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation into the eventual Readiness Package. Key issues are likely to include: assessing land ownership and carbon rights for potential REDD-plus strategy activities and lands; addressing key governance concerns related to REDD-plus; and institutional arrangements needed to engage in and track REDD-plus activities and transactions.

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

This section describes the road map for designing and implementing institutional, legal, governance and economic arrangements for the development of the national REDD+ strategy.

Recommendations from reviewers:

In the first phase of this implementing framework, actions to be developed in pilot areas would need to be explained.

In addition to this, the transition between phase one and phase two, in particular, how the results in pilot areas are assessed and feed the second phase, needs to be further explained.

A description of tenure arrangements for carbon, and governance of benefit sharing mechanism should be explained in the RPP, in this component, or in 2a, as recommended above.

The institutional arrangements for maintaining carbon stocks, forest monitoring data sharing and data management should be made clearer.

Standard partially met.

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

The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence for strategic environmental and social impact assessment in compliance with the World Bank’s or UN-REDD Programme’s safeguard policies, including methods to evaluate how to address those impacts via studies, consultations, and specific mitigation measures aimed at preventing or minimizing adverse effects. For countries receiving funding via the World Bank, a simple work plan is presented for how the SESA process will be followed, and for preparation of the ESMF.

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

According to the RPP, SESA will be applied before, during and after the process.

Recommendations from reviewers:

The participation of indigenous peoples and local communities should be considered during all the process of elaboration and application of the REDD+ strategy. This fact should be reflected in the document.

In table 16, we suggest that the identification of SESA objectives should be the first step in the methodology.

Basic elements for SESA development are listed, but more detail is needed on how SESA would be developed, including how SESA will be linked to the MRV system to be developed in the framework of the REDD+ strategy.

This section does not include either an identification of adverse effects of the REDD+ strategy, or a description of actions to mitigate the risk of the application of a REDD+ strategy, and they are not considered either in the methodology for SESA. We strongly recommend considering this aspects, including, at least, an identification of possible future adverse effects and how they would be addressed.

Standard is not met

Component 3. Develop a Reference Level

Standard 3: Reference Level:

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

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

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

In this section, gaps have been identified, and a process to fill these gaps has been included.

Recommendations from reviewers:

In our view, the definition of forest at national level is the first step for the establishment of the reference level. It is not possible to know what this reference level could be without having an idea of what is included in it. It is also difficult to assess what available data would be useful if the definition is not fixed.

Regarding existing data, the differences, compatibilities and incompatibilities between existing cartographies aren’t clear. It is difficult to assess the adequacy of these sources of data without knowing what is behind.

It is mentioned that data used for the establishment of RL would be the land use maps (2002/2011) but when analyzing the forest cover loss in component 2 (table 6) the ecosystem maps (2000 and 2010) are used. The comparability/differences between these two cartographies could be described, and compatibilities between them should be further explored to make the better use of the data available.

Information on how stakeholders are going to be involved in the establishment of the RL should be provided.

In this section, the increase in the forest carbon stocks is prioritized instead of focusing in reducing the emissions. This is not appropriate taking into account that the loss of carbon is relevant, specially in deciduous broadleaf forests

In table 22: activities for the development of RL, the definition of forest should be identified in the first place. How is the country going to assess the sink in the country if the forests to be included in calculations are not

yet defined?

Standard partially met.

Component 4. Design a Monitoring System

Standard 4a: Emissions and Removals:

The R-PP provides a proposal and workplan for the initial design, on a stepwise basis, of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation, and forest enhancement activities. The system design should include early ideas on enhancing country capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor emissions reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and to assess the impacts of the REDD-plus strategy in the forest sector.

The R-PP should describe major data requirements, capacity requirements, how transparency of the monitoring system and data will be addressed, early ideas on which methods to use, and how the system would engage participatory approaches to monitoring by forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers. It should also address independent monitoring and review, involving civil society and other stakeholders, and how findings would be fed back to improve REDD-plus implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could evolve into a mature REDD-plus monitoring system with the full set of capabilities.

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

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

Recommendations from reviewers:

The MRV system should be built on existing information systems. We recommend undertaking an assessment on how the information from existing sources could feed the MRV system.

The tier that El Salvador will use for measuring and reporting emissions and removals should be specified.

Links with SESA should be clearly described in the RPP, here or in standard 4b.

The activities needed for the MRV system are well described, nevertheless, the differences in the scale of the different products to be developed could difficult the harmonization of the data sources. We recommend considering using the same scale for all data sources to the extent possible.

Budget for sampling plots seems to be low. We recommend revising this figure.

Standard partially met.

Standard 4b: Other Multiple Benefits, Impacts, and Governance:

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

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

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

Recommendations from reviewers:

El Salvador has focused here on environmental co-benefits, and there is no description on how to take into account other co-benefits, in particular, social and economic ones.

Watershed degradation due to accelerated soil erosion is red flagged as environmental degradation in

mountains of El Salvador, therefore, livelihood improvements and watershed services could be considered as an additional co-benefit of REDD+ strategy, along with biodiversity conservation.

Standard not met.

Component 5. Schedule and Budget

Standard 5: Completeness of information and resource requirements

The R-PP proposes a full suite of activities to achieve REDD readiness, and identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish these activities. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF and/or UN-REDD, as well as from other international sources (e.g., bilateral assistance), are summarized by year and by potential donor. The information presented reflects the priorities in the R-PP, and is sufficient to meet the costs associated with REDD-plus readiness activities identified in the R-PP. Any gaps in funding, or sources of funding, are clearly noted.

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

Funds seem to be available for all the activities to be included in the RPP.

Standard is met.

Component 6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Standard 6: The R-PP adequately describes the indicators that will be used to monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities, and to identify in a timely manner any shortfalls in performance timing or quality. The R-PP demonstrates that the framework will assist in transparent management of financial and other resources, to meet the activity schedule.

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

Recommendations from reviewers:

The inclusion of quantitative indicators would help when evaluating the results of the works in the RPP. We strongly recommend the consideration of quantitative indicators in this component.

Standard partially met.