

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) External Review Template**
(interim, December 13, 2012, from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6)

Guidelines for Reviewers:

- 1) *FCPF REDD Country Participant R-PPs will be reviewed and assessed by the FCPF Participants Committee, the FCPF's governing body, taking TAP comments into account. External (Technical Advisory Panel or other) and Bank reviewers may provide recommendations on how a draft R-PP could be enhanced, using this template on a pilot basis until a process is approved by the PC.*
- 2) *One set of criteria should be used for review: specific standards each of the current 6 components of an R-PP should be met.*
- 3) *Your comments will be merged with other reviewer comments (without individual attribution) into a synthesis document that will be made public, in general, so bear this in mind when commenting.*
- 4) *Please provide thoughtful, fair assessment of the draft R-PP, in the form of actionable recommendations for the potential enhancement of the R-PP by the submitting country. A REDD Country Participant would be allowed three submissions of an R-PP to the PC for consideration.*

Objectives of a Readiness Preparation Proposal (condensed directly from Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 3)

The purpose of the R-PP is to build and elaborate on the previous Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) or a country's relevant comparable work, to assist a country in laying out and organizing the steps needed to achieve 'Readiness' to undertake activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), in the specific country context. The R-PP provides a framework for a country to set a clear roadmap, budget, and schedule to achieve REDD Readiness. The FCPF does not expect that the activities identified in the R-PP and its Terms of Reference (ToR) would actually occur at the R-PP stage, although countries may decide to begin pilot activities for which they have capacity and stakeholder support. Instead, the R-PP consists of a summary of the current policy and governance context, what study and other preparatory activities would occur under each major R-PP component, how they would be undertaken in the R-PP execution phase, and then a ToR or work plan for each component. The activities would generally be performed in the next, R-PP execution phase, not as part of the R-PP formulation process.

Review of R-PP of Belize		
Reviewer: CSO Observer (Bank Information Center) and El Salvador (LEAD)		
Date of review: November 26, 2013		
Standard	November 28, 2013	
1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements	Standard Largely Met	
1b: Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups	Standard Largely Met	
1c: Consultation and Participation Process	Standard Largely Met	

2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy, and Governance	Standard Largely Met	
2.b: REDD-plus strategy Options	Standard partially Met	
2.c: REDD-plus implementation framework	Standard Met	
2.d: Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation	Standard Largely Met	
3: National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level	Standard Met	
4a: National Forest Monitoring System	Standard Met	
4b: Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Standard Largely Met	
5. Schedule and Budget	Standard Largely Met	
6. Program Monitoring & Evaluation Framework	Standard Largely Met	

Standards to be Met by R-PP Components

(From Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6:)

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, 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:

The R-PP presents a good institutional structure proposal to coordinate and guide the REDD Readiness process, with the Mitigation Sub-Committee of National Climate Change Committee as responsible for high level institutional coordination, as well as responsible for overseeing the preparation activities. Two operatives bodies have been established, a REDD+ Coordination Unit (R+CU) within the Forest Department and a Technical Expert Group (TEG) under Mitigation Sub-Committee, to provide technical advice. Also the document proposes to include in this component a Feedback and Grievance Redressal Mechanism (FGRM) to effectively address conflicts and grievances arising from REDD+ Readiness activities including consultation processes and REDD+ implementation.

Recommendations:

1. Provide additional information on composition and function of Mitigation Sub Committee, including decision making mechanism.
2. Consider to include capacity building activities on REDD+ to different bodies related with REDD Readiness process.
3. Provide additional information on participation of Indigenous Peoples, including financial resources to strengthen their national representation and capacity building. The specific

budget seems rather low, and needs to be increased to adequately meet these activities.

4. Regarding with FGRM:

- a) The description of the proposed FGRM is generic, add some discussion or consider how such a mechanism can be built in Belize given existing institutional capacity, including likely bodies to assume these functions, indicate when (approximately) a FGRM could be functional, what ongoing budget needs are.
- b) The category of “ineligible” complainant is referred to because of a “lack of standing”, this is unclear—why would a stakeholder “lack standing”?
- c) Consider not including the IAHR as part of the national FGRM as this is unlikely to be feasible and is probably not appropriate.
- d) Add a budget for review/assessment of existing FGRM’s, including customary ones, and establishment of national and field level FGRM’s.

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 R-PP presents evidence that the Belize government has carried out an exercise to exchange of information at national level through an awareness campaign to key stakeholders for REDD-plus. This section has improved and better captures one of Belize’s main comparative advantages for REDD—the long history of community and civil society co-management of protected areas. The TNC consultancy initiated a wider process of stakeholder early dialogue, which adds some important coverage of the work in this section. This process should provide the basis for consultation process to be carried during preparation phase.

Recommendations:

1. Provide additional information on dialogue process and results of the TNC consultancy.
2. In this section the Government of Belize commits to implementing FPIC, later however the R-PP refers to Free, Prior, Informed Consultation. Which standard will be used should be clarified.
3. The document refers to a protocol established with the TAA, it would be helpful if this were provided in the annex along with minutes, summaries or other records from the various workshops and events.

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.

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

The document presents properly a plan with objectives and methodologies for the consultation and participation process. This Plan could be strengthened by including:

1. Review the budget to cover all activities and full consultation process.
2. Consider integrates activities under various streams (SESA, FRGM, MRV, RL, etc.) into a coherent set of local and national discussions.
3. Should be included in the consultation and participation plan various issues that were identified in the early dialogue with stakeholders.
4. Consider establish consultative platforms to achieve full participation, does not limited to representatives in the national steering committee.
5. Should be describe, summarize or annex the protocol with the Toledo Alcaldes Association.

Component 2. Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy

Standard 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, 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:

The R-PP presents clearly land use trends in Belize and identifies the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation with ranking exercise. Also includes an annex with information on deforestation hotspots and sampling settlements. The document includes an analysis on past efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

Recommendations:

The R-PP should include a discussion of data and information from other sources on Illegal logging, including mahogany harvesting impact; border logging controls in the south and west of country;

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).

issue of oil exploration; and status of Indian Reserves recognition.

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:

In general terms, the R-PP document presents a broad framework with different strategic options to implement REDD+. However, some key issues and drivers are not included.

Recommendations:

The National Strategy should include and address land tenure insecurity, and recognition land rights, titling and demarcation, as appropriate; address Illegal logging; incentives program reforms; Strengthening the protected area co-management system; promote community forestry; policy harmonization (energy, agriculture, natural resources management)

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:

R-PP presents a good implementation framework proposal that includes identification of institutional roles and responsibilities, institutional coordination arrangements, current capabilities and institutional needs. Also identify new policy, and legislation requirements regarding to land tenure and carbon rights, and benefit sharing mechanism.

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

The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence in the form of an assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts as part of the SESA process. It also provides a description of safeguard issues that are relevant to the country’s readiness preparation efforts. For FCPF countries, a simple work plan is presented for conducting the SESA process, cross referencing other components of the R-PP as appropriate, , and for preparing the ESMF.

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

The section provides an adequate description of SESA steps. The SESA section refers appropriately to other sections of the R-PP, such that links are made, which is good. However these issues are not well represented in specific activities and budget line items in other sections, so this weakens the SESA proposal. Review the budget and include funding, inter alia, to develop specialized studies, assessment and identification legal and policy “necessary measures” on IP rights, and to increase number of inter-sectoral meetings and workshops.

Outstanding recommendations:

1. The process of negotiating/dialoging on IP and natural resource governance mentioned in 2a is not mentioned in this section, and that process seemed to not start until 2015, risking a disconnect where negotiations and dialogue do not feed into the SESA and ESMF.
2. In component 1c A total of \$40k was allocated to developing a C&P plan; an additional \$15k to socializing that plan; and \$20k for stakeholder travel, all at the national level. In this section an additional \$30k is sought; still these overall resources are low given the number of issues which need to be discussed, consulted, prioritized, etc. if there is to be a participatory process in developing a REDD strategy.
3. This section notes the short comings of several pieces of legislation (EPA, EIA), especially with reference to indigenous peoples, and requests \$10k to identify legal, policy and institutional “necessary measures” (p.77); but these are not identified as part of the REDD strategy options in the previous component.

Component 3. Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level

Standard 3: a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest 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 (monitoring 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:

The R-PP describes clearly relevant steps, including technical proposal, for the development of the Reference Level. Also the document presents data available on forest cover trends over the period 1980 to 2013, and forest inventory data that has been collected for over 1000 forest inventory plots over the period 2007 to 2013. The R-PP presents current capacity in government agencies, capacity requirements, and data needs as all historical forest type maps.

Component 4. Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

Standard 4a: National Forest Monitoring System:

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:

The document presents clearly the activities needed for the development of a MRV system as well as its main characteristics. Includes information on capacity needs, institutional and participatory arrangements, and three tiers of monitoring program: quantifying forest cover and changes in forest cover; quantifying carbon stocks and emissions; and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Also R-PP includes an annex with detailed work plan.

Standard 4b: Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards :

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:

The section is clear and well organized and appears to be a reasonable plan to establish a safeguard information system and an ongoing monitoring effort around safeguards, forest tenure, and governance issues. The use of the REDD+ SES standards and the WRI’s GFI framework would be highly beneficial for Belize.

Outstanding concerns/recommendations:

1. R-PP should identify environmental and socio-economic potential benefits, and to provide preliminary indicators to carry out the Monitoring for REDD+ co-benefits. In this process, special attention should be given to benefits for vulnerable groups that depend to some extent of forest ecosystems.
2. Consider establish community monitoring system for co-benefits, and reflect this into budget for this component.
3. R-PP should include more information on REDD+ SES standards application; on SIS inclusion into the National Forest Monitoring System; institutional capacities of Forest Department to collect information on rights, governance, gender, livelihoods; and to gather information on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
4. Consider placing the SIS under another government body such as the Ombudsman, or an independent agency such as the Human Rights Commission, might be more appropriate if they were given budget to expand their monitoring capacity.

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.

Recommendations:

The budget - summary table - in component 5 of the R-PP document identifies financial resources from FCPF, however funding from other sources/donors are not integrated yet, as government contribution and GIZ REDD Regional Program. It is necessary to review the Tables of different components.

Also, this section has an overall budget, but not broken down by activity, so the corresponding schedule (of years 2014-17) doesn’t tell us much about the sequencing of activities.

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:

The Document presents clearly the logical framework with products, and means of verification for each of the components. Once the recommendations for different components are met, will be possible to incorporate other performance criteria.

Recommendations:

Scheduling should be checked to obtain better activities adjustment. In addition some of the activities (such as SESA/ESMF) are all projected to be completed in the first year, which is probably unrealistic given experiences in other countries.